

1. ADMINISTRATIVE BANS, POLICE INTERVENTIONS

02: Istanbul 9 transsexual women were detained from their homes on Bayram Street in Taksim.

02: Hakkari The Governorate banned all protests and demonstrations to be organised within the province for 15 days.

02: Hakkari 4 citizens were injured after the police intervention with tear gas against the argument between VEDAŞ units and citizens in Orman Neighborhood of Yüksekova district.

03: Osmaniye 45 People's Democratic Party (HDP) members, who participated in the press statement organized to protest the detainment of HDP Provincial Co-Chairs, were sentenced to 139,500 TL administrative fine due to violating "rules of social distance."

04: Bitlis The Governorate announced a curfew until further notice due to a military operation to be organised in 46 villages and neighborhoods.

05: Van The Governorate banned all protests and demonstrations to be organised within the province for 15 days.

07: Batman The Governorate bound all events to be organised within the Law No. 2911 to permission by the local administration for 15 days.

07: Batman The Governorate banned all events to be organised around Batman Type-M Closed Penitentiary Institute for 15 days.

08: Istanbul The police prevented the press statement organised by the People's Democratic Congress (HDK), TJA and People's Democratic Party (HDP) women's assembly regarding the hunger strikes started in prisons against the solitary confinement of PKK leader Abdullah Öcalan. One person was detained following the police intervention against party members in front of Fatih HDP building.

09: Istanbul 80-year-old E.B. was detained from her home following the complaint of the Presidential Communications Director Fahrettin Altun due to a social media post.

10: Istanbul Five people were detained as a result of the police intervention against the press statement organised by BiMEKS workers in front of Boğaziçi University for their salaries and compensation rights.

10: Istanbul The police intervened against the protest organized by Atlas Global workers in front of ETS General Directorate building due to not getting paid. Nine people were detained in the intervention, including Medyascope reporter Ufuk Çeri, who was following the protest to report it in the news.

11: Istanbul The people's meeting organised by the People's Democratic Party (HDP) Provincial Youth Organisation in Beyoğlu and Okmeydanı was prevented by the police.

13: Dersim The Governorate banned all protests and demonstrations to be organised within the province for 15 days.

15: Ankara The police intervened against the press statement organised in front of the courthouse following the hearing of the lawsuit filed against 16 fugitive defendants and Erman Ekinci at the 4th Assize Court on the October 10, Ankara Massacre.

16: Ankara The police prevented the press statement to be organised by farmers, whose farms and tractors were on distraint by the Agriculture and Credit Cooperative, in front of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey.

17: Hakkari The Governorate banned all protests and demonstrations to be organised in the province for 15 days.

17: Istanbul The panel organised at the People's Democratic Party (HDP) Sultangazi district building was prevented by the police. The police detained three people, who wanted to participate in the panel, as well as one other person after the end of the panel, using physical violence.

17: Muş The Governorate banned all protests and demonstrations to be organised in the province for 15 days.

18: Istanbul The police intervened against the press statement organised by the People's Democratic Party (HDP) in Kadıköy due to the anniversary of the "Back to Life" operation as well as due to the ongoing hunger strikes in prisons. Using physical violence and reverse handcuffs, the police detained 6 people.

18: Istanbul The police intervened against the press statement organised by the Revolutionist Anarchists in Kadıköy on the anniversary of the "Back to Life" operation and detained 10 people using physical violence and reverse handcuffs.

18: Istanbul The police intervened against the press statement organised by the Democratic Regions Party in Aksaray in order to protest the arrest of Democratic Society Congress (DTK) Co-Chair Leyla Güven and detained 14 people using physical violence.

20: Van The Governorate banned all protests and demonstrations to be organised within the province for 15 days. With this decree, the protest and demonstration ban ongoing in Van since November 21, 2016 was extended to be 1504 days without break.

21: Siirt The Governorate banned all protests and demonstrations to be organised in the province for 15 days.

22: Balıkesir Four people, including People's Democratic Party (HDP) executives, were detained in house raids.

23: Mardin The Governorate banned all protests and demonstrations to be organised within the province for 30 days.

27: Istanbul Socialist Youth Associations Federation (SDGF) member Taylan Özgür Karatepe was detained with the allegation of insulting the Ministry of the Interior due to writing, "Mosa Orhan is a murderer" on a social media post. Karatepe was released by the court on the condition of judicial measures.

27: Istanbul Revolutionist Party member H. Hüseyin Yeşilova, Revolutionist Anarchist Activities member Abdülmelik Yalçın and People's Democratic Party (HDP) Youth organisation member Erkin Barkın were detained with house raids due to participating in the protest statement to protest the arrest of Leyla Güven.

29: Ankara The police intervened against the press statement organised in front of the Human Rights Monument on Yüksel Street within the re-employment protests that are ongoing for 1512 days and dispersed those participating in the protest from the Human Rights Monument, using physical violence.

29: Ankara Those participating in the press meeting organised at Human Rights Association (IHD) Ankara Branch building regarding two prisoners at Sincan Type-L Prison No.3 being exposed to verbal and physical assault of guardians and being forced for naked search were stopped by the police on Sakarya Street and their criminal records were checked, three people were detained through physical violence.

30: Ankara The police intervened against the press statement organised in front of the Women's Assemblies in front of Çankaya Municipality for the women, who were murdered by men. 7 people were detained through physical violence.

30: Ankara The police intervened against the press statement organised by University Student Women's Collective members in front of the Justice and Development Party (AKP) Provincial building for the women, who were murdered by men. Five people were detained through physical violence.

30: Istanbul Poet Yılmaz Odabaşı was detained as he was at the notary and was arrested by the court he was sent to. Odabaşı was released the next day.

31: Istanbul The police intervened against the press statement organised by BiMEKS workers in front of Boğaziçi University for their salaries and compensation rights, detaining six people.

2. INVESTIGATIONS AND PROSECUTIONS

01: Antalya German citizen Kristian B. was detained at Antalya Airport on November 4, 2020 after the words he spoke during an argument. The detainment was based on "insulting

the President,” “public incitement towards resentment and hostility” and “denigration of government bodies of the Republic of Turkey.” The German citizen was arrested by the court, sentenced to 1 year, 4 months and 20 days of imprisonment in the hearing held on December 8th and was released afterwards.

01: Ankara The prosecution of journalist Hayri Demir continued at the 15th Assize Court with allegations of “illegal organisation membership” and “making illegal organisation propaganda”. The next hearing was scheduled for March 25.

01: Denizli 1 TJA activist, 1 People’s Democratic Party (HDP) Party Assembly member, 3 women, including 1 People’s Democratic Party (HDP) member, were detained in house raids organised early in the morning.

01: Erzurum Tekman Criminal Court of First Instance sentenced People’s Democratic Party (HDP) Provincial Deputy Co-Chair Ömer Cemal Yazıcıoğlu to 11 months and 20 days of imprisonment due to insulting the President.

02: Ankara Journalist Alican uludağ is on trial at the 18th Assize Court due to his social media posts on former Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor Yüksel Kocaman. The next hearing was scheduled for February 3.

02: Ankara 28th Assize Court sentenced Republican People’s Party (CHP) Group Deputy Chairman Özgür Özel to pay 15 thousand TL moral compensation due to insulting Minister of National Defense Hulusi Akar.

02: Balıkesir 3rd Assize Court released Taylan Kulaçoğlu, who was arrested in remand due to the posts made from the social media account “unnamed movement”, on the condition of judicial measures.

02: Diyarbakır 11th Assize Court sentenced Mesopotamia Agency editor and Dicle Fırat Journalists Association Co-Chair Dicle Müftüoğlu to 1 year and three months of imprisonment due to “making illegal organisation propaganda” through her social media posts.

02: İstanbul 6 of the 20 people, who were detained in operations conducted against the People’s Democratic Congress (HDK) and are members of various associations and parties, were arrested by the court they were taken to.

02: İstanbul Evrensel Daily writer Erdal İmrek was acquitted in the lawsuit filed against him due to the article he wrote with the title, “*The Hermes purse was sparkling.*”

02: İstanbul The prosecution of TUHAYDER founding member Sema Altan continued at the 26th Assize Court. The next hearing was scheduled for April 13.

02: İstanbul The lawsuit filed against Ozan Ferhat Tunç due to his social media posts was held at Büyükçekmece 4th Criminal Court of First Instance. The court decided to wait for the warrant to be executed and scheduled the hearing to a later date.

02: Istanbul In the lawsuit filed due to the protests against a group, who distributed Turkish delights at Boğaziçi University to celebrate the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) operations against Afrin, with a banner that said, “There is no delight in massacre,” the court sentenced Roza Kahya to 1 year and Pelin Şahin to 10 months of imprisonment. The sentence against Şahin was deferred and an arrest warrant was issued for Kahya.

02: Izmir 11 women and 1 man were detained based on tapes and pictures from 10 years ago, due to being People’s Democratic Party (HDP) members as well as their participation in certain events.

03: Ankara In the lawsuit filed against 19 people at the 25th Criminal Court of First Instance due to the press statement organised to protest the money transaction of the Red Crescent to Ensar Foundation, the defendants are charged with violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations No. 2911. The next hearing was scheduled for January 22, 2021.

04: Adana Three people were detained with house raids with the allegation that they have made illegal organisation propaganda in their social media posts.

04: Aydın Those resisting against the geothermal energy plant in Köşk district were sentenced to 3150 TL fine each due to not abiding by the rules of social distance.

04: Istanbul Previously shut-down Özgür Gündem Daily Co-Editors-In-Chief Eren Keskin and Hüseyin Aykol, as well as Reyhan Çapan and journalist Hasan Başak are on trial at Istanbul 13th Assize Court.

04: Istanbul Bakırköy 39th Criminal Court of First Instance sentenced Mehtap B to 6 months and 7 days of imprisonment due to her social media posts and deferred the announcement of the verdict.

07: Diyarbakır 9th Assize Court sentenced journalist Ayşegül Doğan to 6 years and three months of imprisonment due to “illegal organisation membership.”

08: Tekirdağ Çorlu 4th Criminal Court of First Instance issued for the acquittal of journalist Rifat Doğan in the lawsuit filed due to taking a photo on the train accident in Çorlu.

09: Ankara The prosecution of public workers, who were previously dismissed with Statutory Decrees within the State of Emergency, started at the 28th Assize Court due to their protests for re-employment. The court issued for the release of Armağan Özbaş and Mahmut Konuk and decided for Acun Karadağ, Nazan Bozkurt, Alev Şahin and Mehmet Dersulu to remain arrested. The next hearing was scheduled for January 27, 2021.

09: Istanbul In the lawsuit filed against Yeni Demokrasi Daily’s Managing Editor Tuğba Apaydın at the 34th Assize Court, the court sentenced Apaydın to 30 months of imprisonment in total and deferred the announcement of the verdict.

10: Ankara The prosecution of former People's Democratic Party (HDP) Co-Chair Figen Yüksekdağ continued at the 16th Assize Court. The next hearing was scheduled for February 24, 2021.

10: Ankara The prosecution of 19 people, who were detained in the police intervention against the 9th Pride March organised at the Middle East Technical University (METU) on May 10, 2019, with the allegation of violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations No. 2911, continued at the 39th Criminal Court of First Instance. The next hearing was scheduled for April 30, 2021.

10: Aydın A lawsuit was filed against villagers and environmental association executives, who reacted against the geothermal energy plant construction in the region, due to using violence against company workers.

10: Istanbul The prosecution of journalists Aziz Oruç and Ersin Çaksu continue at the Çağlayan 2nd Family Court due to the news published on previously shut-down Özgürlükçü Demokrasi Daily. The next hearing was scheduled for March 16, 2021.

14: Diyarbakır 11th Assize Court sentenced Kocaköy Co-Mayor Rojda Nazlier, who was arrested after being replaced by a trustee, to 9 years of imprisonment due to illegal organisation membership.

15: Istanbul The prosecution of Özgür Gündem Editor-In-Chief Hüseyin Aykol, Zana Kaya, İnan Kızılkaya and politician Hatip Dicle continued at Istanbul 22nd Criminal Court of First Instance.

15: Istanbul The prosecution of journalist Can Dünder and Özgür Gündem Daily's Managing Editor İnan Kızılkaya continued at Istanbul 22nd Assize Court due to participating in the "Substitute Editing-In-Chief" campaign to support Özgür Gündem Daily. The next hearing was scheduled for March 4, 2021.

15: Istanbul The latest hearing of the lawsuit filed against Dicle News Agency News Director Ömer Çelik, reporter Metin Yoksus, Diken News Portal's former editor Tunca Öğreten, BirGün Daily worker Mahir Kanaat, Yolculuk Daily reporter Eray Sargın and ETHA News Director Derya Okatan was held at Istanbul 29th Assize Court. The court decided for the travel ban against Mahir Kanaat, Metin Yoksus, Ömer Çelik and Tunca Öğreten to remain and scheduled the next hearing for May 5.

15: İzmir One person was detained by the Provincial Gendarmerie Command units with the allegation of making PKK/KCK-YPG/PYD propaganda and selling drugs.

18: Diyarbakır 4th Assize Court sentenced former MEYADER Co-Chair Ayşe Dicle to a total of 10 years, 7 months and 15 days of imprisonment with the allegation of "illegal organisation membership" and "making illegal organisation propaganda."

21: Diyarbakır 9th Assize Court sentenced MP and Democratic Society Congress (DTK) Co-Chair Leyla Güven to 13 years and 15 months of imprisonment due to illegal organisation

membership and to 8 years of imprisonment due to making illegal organisation propaganda, issuing for her arrest. Güven was arrested.

22: Diyarbakır Chief Public Prosecutor's Office started an investigation against MP Semra Güzel and MP Tayyip Temel due to aiding and abetting the criminal as Leyla Güven was detained at the home of Semra Güzel after the imprisonment sentence and arrest warrant issued against her.

22: İstanbul 36th Assize Court sentenced businessman to 20 years of imprisonment and decided for Kavala to remain arrested.

22: İstanbul The prosecution of four people, including ETHA editor Semiha Şahin and reporter Pinar Gayip, continued at İstanbul 23rd Assize Court. The next hearing was scheduled for February 11.

22: İstanbul The prosecution of Önsöz magazine worker Songül Yücel, Mücadele Birliği Daily worker Süleyman Acar, Labourer Women's Association member Nurten Karahancı, Atılım Daily worker Serpil Ünal as well as two readers, İnci Şahin and Tuğba Acar, continued at the 376th Assize Court due to their social media posts. The next hearing was scheduled for March 9.

23: Antalya Two people were detained with the allegation of making terrorist organisation propaganda on social media.

23: Bitlis Chief Public Prosecutor's Office started an investigation against People's Democratic Party (HDP) Bitlis Provincial Co-Chair Rumet Dursun with the allegation of praising the crime and the criminal based on the press statement organised in Bitlis on the arrest of Leyla Güven.

23: Diyarbakır 9th Assize Court sentenced Rosa Women's Association member Gülistan Nazlıer to 6 years and three months of imprisonment due to illegal organisation membership.

23: Diyarbakır 9th Assize Court sentenced Rosa Women's Association member Sevim Coşkun to 7 years of imprisonment due to illegal organization membership and to 1 year and 6 months of imprisonment due to resisting the police.

23: İstanbul The prosecutions of Sultan Kaya and Hasan Basri Yıldız, who were arrested due to participating in the press statement organised in front of President Erdoğan's house in Üsküdar in order to draw attentions to the indefinite hunger strike conducted by lawyer Ebru Timtik with the demand of fair trial, continued at Çağlayan 29th Assize Court. The court issued for the release of Kaya and Yıldız and scheduled the next hearing for May 27, 2021.

23: İstanbul 14th Assize Court sentenced Cumhuriyet Daily's former Editor-In-Chief Can Dündar to 27 years and six months of imprisonment due to armed terrorist organisation membership as well as political and military espionage through the publication of visuals on the stopping of Turkish National Intelligence (MIT) Trucks in Hatay and Adana.

25: Rize Leftist Party executive U.M. was detained in Trabzon due to his social media posts and was later arrested by the court he was taken to on December 26, 2020.

26: Diyarbakır The indictment prepared against the Turkish Medical Association High Honorary Council member Şeymus Gökalp was accepted by the 10th Assize Court. The first hearing is on February 10.

29: İstanbul The prosecutions of journalist Ferda Yılmazoğlu and People’s Democratic Party (HDP) Women’s Assembly member Seyhan Çiçekli, who are arrested at Silivri Prison, as well as six others continued at the 28th Assize Court. The court decided for Ferda Yılmazoğlu and Seyhan Çiçekli to remain arrested and scheduled the next hearing for March 23.

29: İstanbul 37th Assize Court decided to wait for the execution of the warrant against artist Ferhat Tunç and scheduled the next hearing for April 6.

29: İzmir Provincial Gendarmerie Command detained seven people allegedly making illegal organisation propaganda on social media.

30: İstanbul The prosecution of Gazete Yolculuk reporter Buse Söğütü continued at the 23rd Assize Court with the allegation of “*targeting those taking part in the fight against terrorism.*” The next hearing was scheduled for March 24.

31: İstanbul OdaTV Editor-In-Chief Barış Pehlivan and News Director Barış Terkoğlu testified at the Prosecutor’s Office due to 14 separate investigations based on a book they published. Terkoğlu faces a sentence of imprisonment for up to 95 years and Pehlivan faces a sentence of imprisonment for up to 63 years.

4. OTHER VIOLATIONS

01: İstanbul Anatolian 1st Criminal Judicature of Peace issued an access ban against the websites of TELE1, Cumhuriyet, OdaTV, Yeniçağ and Ekşi Sözlük due to violating personal rights with the news published on the resignation of Berat Albayrak.

02: Ankara Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK) sentenced HaberTürk channel to show blackouts for five times and an administrative fine from the upper limit due to the expressions of Republican People’s Party (CHP) Mersin MP Ali Mahir Başarır on a show on the channel.

03: Ankara Information Technologies and Communications Authority (BTK) sentenced social network providers Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, TikTok, Periscope and Instagram, who have a daily access of more than 1 million users from Turkey, to 30 million TL each due to not complying with their responsibility to assign a representative in Turkey.

03: Ankara 62 summaries prepared against a total of 38 Parliament members from the Republican People’s Party (CHP), Democratic Regions Party (DBP), People’s Democratic Party

(HDP), Good Party, Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) and one independent MP were sent to the Grand National Assembly of Turkey.

04: Antalya 5th Criminal Judicature of Peace issued an access ban against “Gazete Yolculuk” website due to the protection of national security and public order.

04: Artvin Criminal Judicature of Peace issued an access ban against the news on Cumhuriyet, BirGün and Sözcü websites regarding a Turkey Relatives of Martyrs and Veterans Solidarity Foundation Board of Trustees member due to violation of personal rights.

04: Diyarbakır Access bans were brought against Jin News’ website url jinnews12.xyz with different decrees issued by the 2nd Criminal Judicature of Peace, 3rd Criminal Judicature of Peace and the 5th Judicature of Peace. JinNews news agency was thus banned from access for the 27th time with these decrees.

08: İzmir The closed letters written by the women in judicial convict wards at Aliğa Şakran Women’s Closed Prison to the Ministry of Justice were prevented from being sent by the prison administration.

09: Ankara Three summaries prepared against People’s Democratic Party (HDP) Şırnak MP Nuran İmir were sent to the Parliament with a claim for her Parliamentary immunity to be taken off.

09: Ankara 7th Criminal Judicature of Peace issued an access ban against the news published in Cumhuriyet, Sözcü and OdaTV websites regarding a relative of a former Justice and Development Party (AKP) MP due to violation or personal rights.

10: Ankara 8th Criminal Judicature of Peace issued an access ban against the news published on ifade.org website regarding a former executive in a bank that was shut down within the “FETÖ/PDY investigation” was appointed to the Directorate of Religious Affairs as trustee, due to violation of personal rights.

10: İstanbul 4th Criminal Judicature of Peace issued access bans against the news on corruption allegations at the Metropolitan Municipality under Justice and Development Party (AKP) administration published in Sözcü, Cumhuriyet, Evrensel, Gazeteduvar, dokuz8haber, ankahaber and diken.com.tr after the file on the allegations were carried to jurisdiction.

11: İstanbul 5th Criminal Judicature of Peace issued access bans against the social media posts made by independent Parliament member Ahmet Şık regarding a member of the judiciary as well as against the websites of Gazeteduvar, BirGün, sol.org, sendika.org, Evrensel and tele1.com.tr websites due to reporting the news on the posts.

12: Ankara 30 summaries prepared with the claim to take off Parliamentary immunities of 24 MPs from the Republican People’s Party (CHP), Democratic Regions Party (DBP),

People's Democratic Party (HDP) and Good Party, including an independent MP, were sent to the Grand National Assembly of Turkey.

14: Ankara 1st Criminal Judicature of Peace issued access bans against three posts made by @perchem social media account regarding the sexual assault experienced by the poster as well as one news article on Ekşi Sözlük website regarding the posts due to violation of personal rights.

15: Ankara 7th Criminal Judicature of Peace brought access bans against the news published in Yeniçağ, OdaTV, Milli Gazete and sol.org websites regarding corruption allegations at the Turkish Post (PTT) due to violation of personal rights.

16: Ankara 4 Parliamentary summaries prepared against 1 People's Democratic Party (HDP) and 2 Democratic Regions Party (DBP) MPs were sent to the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (GNAT) with the claim for their Parliamentary immunities to be taken off.

16: Antalya Criminal Judicature of Peace issued an access ban against the news on Gerçek Gündem website on the mobbing allegations of a chief physician at Kumluca Public Hospital against a nurse, due to violation of personal rights.

20: Ankara Nine summaries prepared against seven Parliament members from the Democratic Regions Party (DBP), People's Democratic Party (HDP) and Good Party were sent to the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (GNAT) with the claim for their Parliamentary immunities to be taken off.

25: Ankara Access Providers Union issued access bans against 210 online content, including those on Sözcü and Diken websites, regarding the son-in-law and brother of Ahmet Mahmut Ünlü.

25: Gümüşhane Criminal Judicature of Peace issued an access ban against the content on Ekşi Sözlük website regarding the Bottomless Lake, which vanished as a result of the treasure excavation made with the approval of the Governorate.

28: Istanbul Bakırköy 1st Criminal Judicature of Peace issued access bans against Cumhuriyet, Duvar and Sözcü Daily following the news on the high school diploma of former Justice and Development Party (AKP) MP Hamza Yerlikaya being fake.

5. COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

TİHV (Coşkun Üsterci):

The most important development in December on freedom of expression, meeting and organisation was a law that passed the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, entitled, "the Law on the Prevention of the Financing of Spreading Mass Destruction Weapons."

This 44-article law makes amendments in 6 laws and brings restrictions against many basic rights like freedom of expression and organisation. It was suddenly brought on the Parliament's agenda on December 19, passed the commission and quickly passed the Parliament after sessions that lasted all night. The law was enacted on December 27, 2020 by the GNAT General Assembly and was published in the Official Gazette on December 31, 2020.

The law's purpose is indicated to be regulating the principles and bases on the application of sanctions issued by the United Nations (UN) Security Council on the prevention of financing of mass destruction weapons. However, there are only six articles in the law that are related to this purpose. All remaining articles are regulations making changes in the Law of Aid Collecting and Associations that are not directly related to the purpose of the law. With the related regulations, aid collecting of associations and foundations, freedom of organisation, thus freedom of expression are restricted seriously and associations are being put under the political tutelage of the Ministry of the Interior.

According to the regulations in the law, association executives facing investigations or prosecutions due to acts considered terror crimes within the Anti-Terror Law No. 3713 besides international conventions will be able to be instantly dismissed and the Interior Ministry may seize administration of the association. Investigations are opened against more than 300,000 people per year in Turkey, solely due to illegal organisation membership. When the investigations and lawsuits filed recently against thousands of civil rights activists, journalists, politicians and professional union members, especially association executives working on human rights are considered, it is obvious that this law will target all oppositional associations. In short, association activities will be able to be easily prevented due to an investigation/prosecution that will last for years. Furthermore, the President himself will be able to decide whether it is necessary for the assets of associations or foundations to be frozen. With a Presidential decree, the decision will be applied without delay, as soon as it is published on the Official Gazette. The prevention of association activities like this without being bound to any judicial inspection means that all assurances regulated in the Constitution and international conventions are destroyed entirely in terms of freedom of organisation and proprietary rights.

Thanks to the regulations, associations may be able to be inspected at all times by inspectors assigned by the committee established by the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Finance and Treasury, besides public officers authorized to inspect by the Interior Minister when necessary. However, the law does not bring any concrete standards for the qualities of inspectors. The scope of the inspection is vague as well. Such inspections made following complaints will thus be rendered continuous. In short, the close future will be a worrisome process in terms of the freedom of organisation, expression and meeting.

Another interesting incident in December is an investigation against People's Democratic Party (HDP) Diyarbakır MP Semra Güzel and Van MP Tayip Temel with the allegation of "aiding and abetting the criminal." The reason for the investigation is the fact that Leyla Güven, who had a sentence of imprisonment and an arrest warrant against her, was detained as she was at the house of her friend Semra Güzel. It is truly tragicomic.

Another incident that is of equal importance is the announcement of Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office that it started an investigation against those making social media posts on the applications of naked search applied at detainment centers and prisons, which were heavily debated in the public scene recently. It is really a pity that expressing a violation that is of the quality of torture and mistreatment is considered terrorist organisation propaganda.

Lastly, there is the matter of Van Governorate banning all demonstrations and open air meetings across the province, as happened every month. As it will be remembered, all protests and demonstrations are being banned in Van without a break since November 21, 2016. These bans almost mean that there is a continuous State of Emergency and with the Governorate decision in Van, the ban was extended to be 1489 days in total. I would like to underline once again that 1 million 300 thousand citizens residing in Van are not able to use their freedoms of meeting and demonstration guaranteed by the Constitution.

ANKARA (*Osman İşçi*):

Violations in this period are seen to be intensified around access bans, prosecutions and the taking off of immunities. We observe that there were many claims against Parliament members, especially against oppositional Parliament members, as a result of the reflections of the shrinking social sphere on the Grand National Assembly of Turkey. On the other hand, we observe that the applications of prosecution and access bans have increased in this period. It would be beneficial for human rights organisations and advocates conducting activities of documentation and advocacy specific to these fields.

IZMIR (*Ahmet Çiçek*):

1. House raids made early in the morning are violating children's rights. Children with Kurdish names are being humiliated, denigrated.
2. Those tested Covid-19 positive are being detained and kept in the same place as others despite informing officials about their state.
3. The prisoners' claims for newspapers and books are banned, their letters are prevented from being sent and are lost, therefore continue as serious rights violations.
4. Another violation is the attacks and attempts of silencing of those expressing the issue of naked search.