

Think, think...



Freedom of Expression Weekly Newsletter (Issue 35/21 - September 10, 2021)

What happened last week?

- The Democracy and Progress (DEVA) Party's Deputy Chairman in charge of Law and Justice Policies and Istanbul Parliament Member Mustafa Yeneroğlu launched the 6-month report card of the "Human Rights Action Plan", which President Erdoğan announced to the public with a big ceremony on March 2, 2021. According to the grade report, none of the 6 targets predicted to be completed in one month in the Action Plan were realized. 16 out of 40 3-month targets and only 20 out of 84 6-month targets were achieved so far. In total, only 36 of the 130 targets were implemented. In other words, while Erdogan's Human Rights action plan failed, the government extended the authorities of the State of Emergency for another year, and now a new censorship against social media is on the way...
- The Directorate of Religious Affairs supported the "social media interventions" of the government. The Directorate of Religious Affairs Chairman Ali Erbaş [said](#), *"The establishment of a legal mechanism that will determine the legal framework regarding the use of social media and building a strong awareness on the matter is an irrevocable necessity!"* Erbaş prayed at the opening ceremony of the Supreme Court of Appeals for the new judicial year between the President of the Court of Cassation and Erdoğan. Speaking about the issue, the Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey Mustafa Şentop said, *"One of the biggest threats we face is digital fascism."*
- The Media Research Association has prepared a [report](#) on how the Social Media Law, which came into force in October 2020, affected the freedom of the press. According to the data shared by the association upon examining 658 censored news stories, "corruption and irregularity" was in first place with 336 content, and "abuse of office" was in second place with 308 content. Those who demanded censorship the most were people carrying the title 'businesspeople', ministers and high-level bureaucrats...
- The police officer who killed 7-year-old Miraç Miroğlu by running over the child with an armored vehicle, was released. Miroğlu was cycling on the street in Şırnak İdil on the evening of September 3 before being killed. According to the data of the Human Rights Associations, 42 civilians, including 20 children, have [died under armored police vehicles](#) since 2008. Law enforcement officers continue to be protected by the armour of impunity in the investigations and prosecutions.
- Making a statement after the cabinet meeting, Erdoğan claimed that Turkey is loyal to the 2023 aims and that it is the second economy that has grown the most after the United Kingdom. Turkey's food inflation is currently at the peak of the last 28 months, while [inflation exceeded the interest rates](#).

- Konya Chief Public Prosecutor's Office [asked](#) the Ministry of Justice whether the security camera footage of the event in which 7 people from the same family were murdered in the Meram district would be shown to the family lawyer!
 - According to the news [Bianet](#) compiled from local and national newspapers, men killed at least 34 women and six children in August. At least 61 women were subjected to male violence.
 - The Turkish Statistical Institute announced the workforce statistics for the July 2021 period. According to the official data, the number of employees increased by 506 thousand and became 3 million 902 thousand.
 - [The Contemporary Journalists Association](#) (ÇGD) has published the "Media Monitoring Report", which evaluated the prominent developments of August regarding censorship, threats, violence, detainments and prosecutions against journalists. According to the data of the report, 6 journalists were detained last month, 8 journalists were beaten, 1 journalist was attacked with guns, and 1 journalist was targeted. Access to 4 news websites and 208 news articles were banned. In the lawsuits filed against journalists, 1 journalist faced an imprisonment sentence for up to three years, while 2 journalists faced to pay a compensation of 100 thousand liras due to their news coverage. 3 journalists testified within the scope of 3 new investigations. 2 journalists were sentenced to a total of 10 years and 5 months of imprisonment.
 - The Hate Speech Digital Archive, which consists of reports and news clippings produced within the scope of the "[Monitoring Hate Speech in the Media](#)" project carried out by the Hrant Dink Foundation between 2009-2019, has been launched.
-



Our weekly video programme, "[COGITO ERGO SUM](#)," in which we track Turkey's freedom of expression and thought agenda, is on our [YouTube channel](#) every Friday...

[Please click here](#) for all video newsletters...



Intervention against September 1 demonstration

After the September 1 World Peace Day rally organised in Istanbul was banned by the Interior Ministry, the police intervened in the press statement attempted to be made by the Labor, Peace and Democracy Forces at Taksim Square. At least 57 people were detained and

the People's Democratic Party (HDP) Istanbul Parliament Member Musa Piroğlu was surrounded with police shields for about two hours. The application made for the September 1 rally was previously accepted by the Istanbul Governorate but the rally was later banned by the Interior Ministry.



Another imprisonment sentence against Barbaros Şansal

Fashion designer Barbaros Şansal was sentenced to 3 months and 22 days in prison at the Istanbul 52nd Criminal Court of First Instance on the charge of "denigrating the state" upon the complaint of President Erdoğan; and the court did not delay the

execution of the sentence. Şansal was prosecuted due to the words he used in a video he shared on his Twitter account. Şansal was previously deported from Northern Cyprus after Turkey's pressure due to another video he shared in 2017, was attacked at the airport and detained for two months.



Lawsuit against journalist Baransel Ağca

A lawsuit was filed against journalist Baransel Ağca due to "insulting the President" through a social media post in 2016. The journalist will be prosecuted at the Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance. Ağca stated that the lawsuit was opened to punish journalism, using his news coverage on the suspicious death of Yeldana Kaharman. On the other hand, a new investigation was opened against the journalist due to his news about Kaharman's death. Ağca

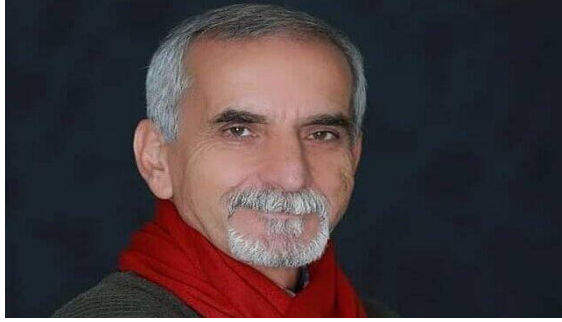
announced that the investigation was initiated upon the complaint of Justice and Development Party (AKP) Parliament Member Tolga Ağar.



Lawsuit against Emine Şenyaşar after seeking justice

A lawsuit was filed against Emine Şenyaşar, whose husband and two sons were killed in the attack of the Justice and Development Party (AKP) Parliament Member İbrahim Halil Yıldız's bodyguards and relatives in 2018. In the indictment accepted by the Urfa 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance, it was claimed that Şenyaşar had "insulted a public official"

with her words on the 86th day of the justice watch she started in front of the Urfa Courthouse. The first hearing of the case was scheduled for November 12. The Şenyaşar family's justice watch in front of the Urfa Courthouse has been ongoing for 186 days.



Lawsuit against Erdal Yıldırım

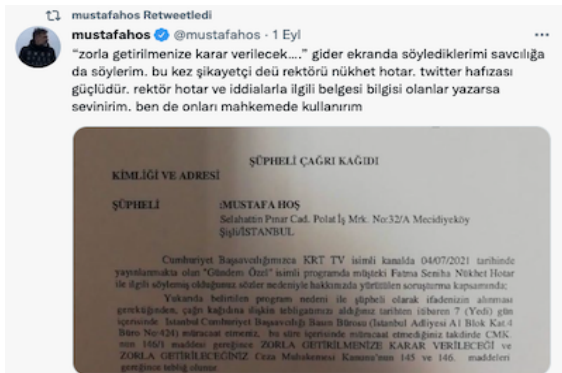
The first hearing of the lawsuit filed against the former director of the Pir Sultan Abdal Cultural Association and writer Erdal Yıldırım was held at Istanbul 14th Assize Court due to "making terrorist organisation propaganda" through his social media posts between 2015 and 2018. Yıldırım is accused of commemorating İbrahim Kaypakkaya at his grave in Çorum, with his

posts in which he reacted to the massacres of ISIS in Afrin and Kobani and the display of the body of a woman killed in Varto district of Muş on the street. The next hearing of the case was scheduled for November 4.



Lawsuit against Pride March

A lawsuit was filed against 8 people, who were detained during the Istanbul Pride Parade, which was held on June 27 and banned by the Beyoğlu District Governor's Office, on the charge of "violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations". The first hearing of the case will be held on November 2 at the Istanbul 16th Criminal Court of First Instance.



Investigation against journalist Mustafa Hoş

The Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor's Office launched an investigation against journalist Mustafa Hoş for his remarks in a program on KRT TV on July 4, 2021. Hoş was summoned to testify within the scope of the investigation

launched upon the complaint of Fatma Seniha N khet Hotar, Rector of Dokuz Eyl l University in Izmir.



Citizen attacked over criticising Erdoğan during street interview

Mehmet Ali Sancaktutan, who was detained last June for criticizing President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and the economy during a street interview in Rize, was attacked by people who were stated to be Justice and Development Party (AKP) members. Sancaktutan filed a complaint against the attackers on the charge of

"willful injury" by receiving a battering report.



RTUK penalties

The Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTUK) issued an administrative fine against Halk TV due to the criticism of show producer Ismail Saymaz against a woman reacting to the visit of Republican People's Party (CHP) leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu in Çorum, using the words, "disgraceful, shameless." Criticising the

decision, Saymaz reminded that the Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTUK) had previously considered it a "criticism" when Republican People's Party (CHP) Parliament Member Ali Şeker was referred to as a "pimp" on Channel 24.



Yavuz Ekinci case adjourned

The first hearing of the lawsuit filed against writer Yavuz Ekinci, who was prosecuted on charges of "propagandizing for a terrorist organization" for the Newroz and Kobani themed messages he shared on his social media account, was held at the Istanbul 34th High Criminal Court. The case was adjourned to

January 11, 2022.



Access ban against news article on municipality

Kocaeli Koz Daily Editor-In-Chief G khan Karabulut announced that his news articles on the investigation opened regarding the corruption allegations of the Kandıra Municipality, were banned from access with a

decree issued by the Criminal Judicature of Peace.



Özge Akman
@OzgeAkman

Solda kadın cinayeti protestosuna karşı #Ankara polisi

Sağda göçmenleri linç etmeye gidenlere karşı #Ankara polisi

Hadi iki muamele arasındaki farkı bulun 🙄



violence.”

Investigation against EHP spokesperson Akman

Labourist Movement Party (EHP) spokesperson Özge Akman announced that an investigation was started against her due to “public incitement towards resentment and hostility” through a social media post she made, in which she drew attention to “police



Fine over participation in demonstration

Two women, who participated in the demonstration organized on March 27 by Hatay Women's Strong Together Platform to protest Turkey's withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention, were fined 427 Turkish Liras each for "not following orders".



Heartstopper considered “inappropriate” publication

The translated comic book, “Heartstopper,” written by English writer Alice Oseman, was declared “inappropriate” by the Council to Protect Children from Obscene Publications. The book is about a character named Charlie, who was bullied at school because of his sexual

orientation, and his experiences after meeting another young character named Nick.



Lawsuit against journalist Onur Öncü due to “insulting Soylu”

A lawsuit was filed against journalist Onur Öncü due to his broadcast on Özgürüz Youtube Channel dated May 3, 2021. The journalist was charged with insulting Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu and is prosecuted with simple procedure at Küçükçekmece 22nd Criminal

Court of First Instance.



TRIALS OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Dindar Karataş Case

The lawsuit filed against journalist Dindar Karataş due to "terrorist organization membership" through his journalistic activities...

Court: Erzurum 3rd Assize Court

Verdict: The trial was adjourned to November 16.

İdris Yayla Case

The lawsuit filed against 28 people, including Jiyan News Owner İdris Yayla, due to "violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations" through the press statement made in Batman against trustee operations in 2016...

Court: Batman 1st Criminal Court of First Instance

Verdict: The trial was adjourned to November 9.

Selman Keleş Case

The lawsuit filed against Dihaber reporter Selman Keleş due to "illegal organisation membership" after having been detained and arrested in 2017 over following news information and was released in the first hearing held eight months later...

Court: Van 5th Assize Court

Verdict: The trial was adjourned to January 11, 2022.

Seval Gülmez Case

The lawsuit filed against Democratic Regions Party (DBP) Provincial Co-Chair Seval Gülmez, who was detained and arrested in Diyarbakır last April during the operations conducted, due to "illegal organisation membership" through the protests and demonstrations she participated in...

Court: Diyarbakır 11th Assize Court

Verdict: The court issued the release of Gülmez and the trial was adjourned to December 6.

TV10 Workers' Case

The lawsuit filed against previously shut-down TV10 cameraman Kemal Demir and his employee Kemal Karagöz due to "illegal organisation membership"...

Court: İstanbul 28th Assize Court

Verdict: The next hearing of the lawsuit will be held on October 28.

Ralph Dekkers Case

The lawsuit filed against Dutch journalist Ralph Dekkers, who came to Turkey in 2015 to follow the arrival of people fleeing the intensifying conflict in Syria and was detained in the Yayladağı district of Hatay on the grounds of "taking pictures in military areas", due to "violating the Law on Military Forbidden Zones and Security Zones No. 2565"...

Court: Yayladağı (Hatay) Criminal Court of First Instance

Verdict: The journalist was acquitted.

Newspaper Distributors Case

The lawsuit filed against newspaper distributors Mikail Tunçdemir and Ferhat Duman due to “willfully aiding and abetting a terrorist organisation” and “making illegal organisation propaganda”...

Court: Van 5th Assize Court

Verdict: The trial was adjourned to December 2.

Ahmet Sever Case

The lawsuit filed against 11th President Abdullah Gül’s former Chief Press Consultant Ahmet Sever due to “insulting the President” and “insulting a public officer” through his book...

Court: Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance

Verdict: The trial was adjourned to December 23.

Journalist Deniz Yücel Case

The second hearing of the lawsuit filed against Die Welt Daily reporter Deniz Yücel due to “publicly insulting a public officer” through a tweet he shared on February 20, 2019 regarding the “Gezi Park Indictment”...

Court: Istanbul 24th Criminal Court of First Instance

Verdict: The trial was adjourned to November 30.

Zaman Daily Case

The retrial of Mümtazer Türköne, Şahin Alpay, Ali Bulaç and Mehmet Özdemir after the decrees issued for them in the Zaman Daily Case was reversed by the Court of Cassation...

Court: Istanbul 13th Assize Court

Verdict: The trial was adjourned to January 11, 2022.

Ayla Akat Ata Case

The lawsuit filed against former Peace and Democracy Party (BDP) MP Ayla Akat Ata due to “illegal organisation membership” and “making illegal organisation propaganda” within the investigation started against the Rosa Women’s Association...

Court: Diyarbakır 5th Assize Court

Verdict: The court decided for the file to be merged with the Kobani Case file at Ankara 22nd Assize Court, within which Ata is arrested in remand.

HEARINGS NEXT WEEK

Ali Ekber Barmağıc Case

The lawsuit filed against environmental activist and Munzur Environment, Culture and Solidarity Association Chairman Ali Ekber Barmağıc due to “making illegal organisation propaganda” through his social media posts and the publications found in his home...

September 14, Tuesday at Tekirdağ 2nd Assize Court

Buse Söğütlü Case

The lawsuit filed against Gazete Yolculuk news website reporter Buse Söğütlü due to “targeting those tracking part in the battle against terrorism” through a Twitter post on March 18, 2019 regarding the judge of the court responsible for the Contemporary Journalists Association (ÇHD) Case...

September 14, Tuesday at Istanbul 23rd Assize Court

<p><u>Ferhat Tunç Case</u> The lawsuit filed against artist Ferhat Tunç due to “insulting the President” through ten tweets he posted in 2016...</p> <p>September 14, Tuesday at Büyükçekmece 14th Criminal Court of First Instance</p>
<p><u>Roza Metina Case</u> The lawsuit filed against journalist Roza Metina due to “illegal organisation membership” through her activities at the Democratic Society congress, Kurdish Writers Association membership and her possession of banned publications in her home...</p> <p>September 14, Tuesday at Diyarbakır 5th Assize Court</p>
<p><u>Adil Demirci Case</u> The lawsuit filed against Etkin News Agency (ETHA) reporter Adil Demirci and 22 others, including Socialist Party of the Oppressed (ESP) and the Federation of Socialist Youth Association members, due to “making terrorist organisation propaganda” and “illegal organisation membership”...</p> <p>September 15, Wednesday at Istanbul 25th Assize Court</p>
<p><u>Contemporary Lawyers Association (ÇHD) Case</u> The retrial of Contemporary Lawyers Association Chairman Selçuk Kozağaçlı and Contemporary Lawyers Association member Barkın Timtik due to “terrorist organisation membership” after their conviction was reversed by the Court of Cassation...</p> <p>September 15, Wednesday at Istanbul 18th Assize Court</p>
<p><u>Meşale Tolu Case</u> The lawsuit filed against 18 people, including Etkin News Agency reporter and translator Meşale Tolu, due to “illegal organisation membership” and “making illegal organisation propaganda”...</p> <p>September 16, Thursday at Istanbul 29th Assize Court</p>

You may find all news of the week on www.dusun-think.net; and the pdf format of the newsletter on www.dusun-think.net/bultenler.