



# Think, think...

## Freedom of Expression Weekly Newsletter

(Issue 45/21, November 19, 2021)

### What happened last week?

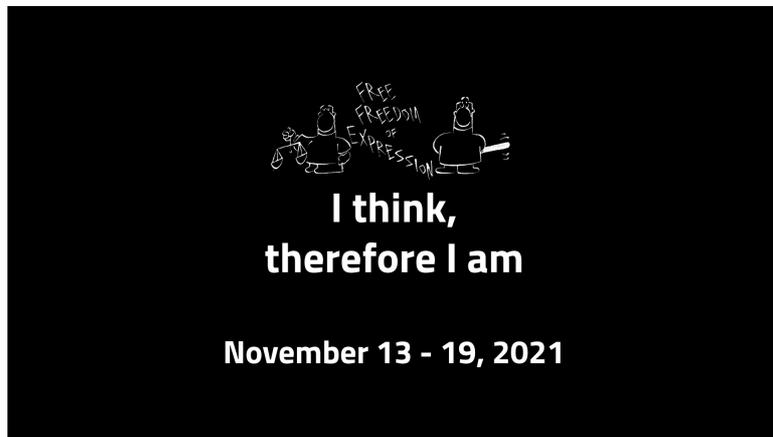
- After the statements of Erdoğan, who said at the group meeting, "I will not walk together with those who support interest rates," the increase in the depreciation of the Turkish Lira gained momentum. Foreign currencies broke a record after the Central Bank cut the policy rate by 100 basis points. The case against 38 people, including economy reporters, who were accused of violating the Capital Markets Law for saying "a dollar can be worth 10 liras" was adjourned.
- Despite the Constitutional Court decrees on "rights violations", Justice and Development Party (AKP) Afyonkarahisar Parliament Member Ali Özkaya spoke at a session during the discussion of the Parliamentary State of Emergency Investigation Committee's refusal of the Peace Academics' reinstatement applications and [said](#), "*The decrees of the Constitutional Court do not have any consequences in terms of civil servants and administrative law.*"
- It turned out that three of the police officers, who have prevented journalist Sibel Hürtaş from following the protest of Bar Association presidents and detained by beating her, received a medical report for assault.
- After the 10th Chamber of the Council of State denied the request for a stay of execution against the decree to withdraw from the Istanbul Convention, the Administrative Litigation Chambers, which is the highest decision body of the Council of State, denied the objection to the rejection decree.
- Israeli couple Natalie and Mordi Oknin, who were arrested on charges of "espionage" for allegedly photographing Erdoğan's house, were released after the intervention of the Israeli state and their meeting with government officials. The couple departed to their country on a private plane accompanied by Israeli officials.
- Felicity Party Leader Temel Karamollaoğlu said that President Erdoğan stated that "the 50+1 formula is wrong" during their meeting. Although sources from the Justice and Development Party (AKP) and the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) gave messages to the public that "they have no problem with it", the requirement of receiving a minimum 50% of the votes sought in the Presidential elections cannot be met with the combined votes of the Justice and Development Party (AKP) and the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP), according to public opinion polls! The Republican People's Party (CHP) and IYI Party leaders called for an "urgent election" after their meetings.
- While the call of Republican People's Party (CHP) leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu for "saying goodbye" continues to be discussed, Kılıçdaroğlu [announced](#) a list of "who they will say goodbye to" at the Parliamentary group meeting. The list involves the victims of February 28, as well as the Kurdish villagers murdered in Roboski... While there are those who find the statement constructive, the objections focus on "whether

goodbyes will be said to those involved in the crimes as well, using the means of the government”.

- Minister of National Defense Hulusi Akar said, "There is no such place called Kurdistan". Akar has previously met with Masud Barzani, the former President of the Iraqi Kurdish Regional Government, in January, and they have [made a joint statement](#) in front of the historical Kurdistan flag.

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*Our weekly video program, “[COGITO ERGO SUM,](#)” in which we track Turkey’s*



*freedom of expression and thought agenda, is on our [YouTube channel](#) every Friday...*

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### **Detainment during olive festival under coal sponsorship**

Deniz Gümüsel protested the "Olive Festival" organized by Milas Municipality and District Governorate under the sponsorship of Yeniköy-Kemerköy thermal power plant, by opening a banner with the words "coal is the killer of olives" and shouting slogans. Gümüsel was detained by the police.



### **Kurdish show banned “without reason”**

Istanbul Fatih District Governorate banned the Kurdish standup show “Dawiya Dawiya”, which was planned to be staged in the organization of the People’s Democratic Party (HDP) Youth Assembly. The District Governorate did not explain the reason for banning the performance to be staged at the Water Performing Arts Center.



### **Shopkeeper detained in Van over reacting against price increases**

A shopkeeper, Abdullah Onar, spoke on Beşyol Street in Van with a microphone in his hand and said, “Where is the state, where is the minister? I bought roasted chickpeas for 9 Turkish Liras only three days ago, now it’s 15 Turkish Liras!” Afterwards, Onar was detained on charges of violating the Governorate ban against protests and demonstrations.



### **Show cancelled due to “Kurdish” song**

Ankara Keçiören Municipality of the Justice and Development Party (AKP) first allocated the hall for Mem Ararat's concert at the Neşet Ertaş Art and Performance Center affiliated to the municipality, then canceled the hall allocation on the grounds that the artist sang in “Kurdish”.



### **Journalist Dindar Karataş acquitted**

Journalist Dindar Karataş was acquitted in the fourth hearing of the lawsuit filed against him on the charge of "terrorist organization membership" based on the lack of sufficient evidence to prove that he had committed the alleged crime.

### **Journalist Selda Manduz to stand trial again**



The acquittal verdict issued for journalist Selda Manduz in the lawsuit filed against her on the charge of “making propaganda for a terrorist organisation” was overturned upon the objection of the Prosecutor’s Office. Manduz will stand trial once again on February 8, 2022.

### **Youth Associations Federation member Polat arrested**



Federation of Socialist Youth Associations Central Executive Board member Berfin Polat was arrested on the grounds of her social media posts. Polat was sent to the Criminal Court of Peace on charges of "terrorist organization membership" and "making propaganda for a terrorist organization".

### **Artist Omar Souleyman detained**



Arab singer Omar Souleyman from Serêkaniye was detained on charges of "terrorist organization membership" in a house raid organised by soldiers in the central Karaköprü district of Urfa. The artist was later released and is expected to be deported.

### **Journalist Oktay Candemir acquitted**



Journalist Oktay Candemir was acquitted in the lawsuit filed against him at the Van 5th Assize Court on charges of "making propaganda for a terrorist organization" due to 4 Facebook posts he made between the years 2014-2015 as well as due to the slogans heard in the news video he recorded 16 years ago.



## Mesopotamia Agency reporter Acar detained

As part of an investigation carried out by the Malatya Public Prosecutor's Office for "terrorist organization membership", Mesopotamia Agency reporter Emrullah Acar was detained during the raid organised against his house. Acar's computer and memory card of his camera were confiscated.



## Social media post considered evidence for "President assassination"

A lawsuit was filed against a citizen due to an evaluation he made from his social media account. The lawsuit was filed in accordance with Article 310 of the Turkish Criminal Code, which includes the crime of "Assassination of and Active Assault Against the President". The citizen has posted the

following statement on social media in March 2020: "Mahir Sayın wrote: Tayyip Erdoğan hopes that he will be able to get out of the deadlock he has been dragged into, thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic; but this account looks like a boomerang and will inevitably turn around and hit his head. It seems that there will be no pain that the people of Turkey have not experienced before his head is broken." The citizen stood trial at the Ankara 20th Assize Court and the case was adjourned to December 16.



## Journalist Yakup Önal acquitted

Şarköy's Voice Daily's Editor-In-Chief Yakup Önal was acquitted of the charge of "spreading personal information" due to his coverage on the stones laid in front of the site where Republican People's Party (CHP) member and Deputy Mayor Adnan Sevim resides, sharing it on social media.



## ECtHR: Prohibition against newspaper is violation of freedom of expression

The European Court of Human Rights issued a decree of violation of freedom of expression in the application of Mehmet Çiftçi, who was not handed "Atılım Daily" newspaper at Edirne Prison, where he is kept.



### **Dr Şeyhmus Gökalg acquitted**

Turkish Medical Association (TTB) High Honorary Council member Dr Şeyhmus Gökalg was acquitted in the lawsuit filed against him on the charge of “terrorist organisation membership” within the investigation conducted by the Diyarbakır Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office against the Democratic Society Congress (DTK).



## **TRIALS OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION**

<p><b><u>Ali Ekber Barmağıc Case</u></b> The lawsuit filed against environmental activist and Munzur Environment Culture and Solidarity Association Chairman Ali Ekber Barmağıc on the charge of “making propaganda for a terrorist organisation”...</p> <p><b>Court:</b> Tekirdağ 2nd Assize Court <b>Verdict:</b> Information could not be attained.</p>	<p><b><u>Rüstem Batum Case</u></b> The lawsuit filed against journalist Rüstem Batum on the charge of “publicly denigrating the military and security organisations of the state” due to his speech during the show, “Agenda Debate with Ayşegül Doğan” on IMC TV Channel on September 10, 2015...</p> <p><b>Court:</b> Istanbul 43rd Criminal Court of First Instance <b>Verdict:</b> The court decided to wait for the execution of the warrant issued against Batum and adjourned the case to March 4, 2022.</p>
<p><b><u>Özgür Gündem Case</u></b> The lawsuit filed against previously shut-down Özgür Gündem Daily Co-Editors-In-Chief Hüseyin Aykol and Zana Kaya, Managing Editor İnan Kızılkaya and Kurdish politician Hatip Dicle...</p> <p><b>Court:</b> Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance <b>Verdict:</b> The case was adjourned to March 3, 2022.</p>	<p><b><u>Selçuk Kozağaçlı Case</u></b> The lawsuit filed against Contemporary Lawyers Association Chairman and lawyer Selçuk Kozağaçlı on the charge of “terrorist organisation membership”...</p> <p><b>Court:</b> Istanbul 18th Assize Court <b>Verdict:</b> The court decided for Selçuk Kozağaçlı and Barkın Timtik to remain under arrest. The case was adjourned to January 5-6-7, 2022.</p>

<p align="center"><b><u>Case Against Diyarbakır Bar Association Executives</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against 11 former Diyarbakır Bar Association Executive Council members with the allegation of “public incitement towards resentment and hostility” as well as charges in accordance with Article 301 of the Turkish Criminal Code due to their statements for April 24, launched in 2017 and 2018...</p> <p><b>Court:</b> Diyarbakır 13th Assize Court  <b>Verdict:</b> The case was adjourned to February 21.</p>	<p align="center"><b><u>Case Against Boğaziçi Protests</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against 7 students with the allegation of "public incitement towards hatred and hostility" on the grounds of the Kaaba image and LGBTQI+ flags taking place together in an exhibition held within the scope of the protests against Melih Bulu, the appointed rector of Boğaziçi University...</p> <p><b>Court:</b> Istanbul 21st Criminal Court of First Instance  <b>Verdict:</b> The case was adjourned to February 9, 2022.</p>
<p align="center"><b><u>Ahmet Altan Case</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist-writer Ahmet Altan on charges of "insulting a public official"...</p> <p><b>Court:</b> Anatolian 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance  <b>Verdict:</b> The case was adjourned to April 19, 2022.</p>	<p align="center"><b><u>MA Reporters Case</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against Mesopotamia Agency reporters and journalists Sadiye Eser and Sadık Topaloğlu on the charge of "terrorist organization membership"...</p> <p><b>Court:</b> Istanbul 22nd Assize Court  <b>Verdict:</b> The court decided to forcefully summon the case witness and for the judicial measures against the journalists to remain. The case was adjourned to January 11, 2022.</p>
<p align="center"><b><u>Engin Eren Case</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against previously shut-down Dicle News Agency Batman reporter Engin Eren and 75 others on charges of "terrorist organization membership", "aiding a terrorist organization", "participating in unlawful meetings or demonstrations", "violating the Law on Restricted Military Zones and Security Zones" and "using force or threat to prevent a public official from performing his duty"...</p> <p><b>Court:</b> Batman 2nd Assize Court  <b>Verdict:</b> The case was adjourned to January 21, 2022.</p>	

## HEARINGS NEXT WEEK

<p><b><u>Journalist Nurcan Yalçın Case</u></b> The lawsuit filed against journalist Nurcan Yalçın on charges of “terrorist organisation membership” and “making propaganda for a terrorist organisation” within the investigation conducted against the Rosa Women’s Association...</p> <p><b>November 22, Monday at Diyarbakır 9th Assize Court</b></p>	<p><b><u>Video-protester/documentary-maker Oktay İnce Case</u></b> The lawsuit filed against video-protester and documentary-maker Oktay İnce on the charge of “insulting the President” in accordance with Article 299 of the Turkish Criminal Code...</p> <p><b>November 23, Tuesday at İzmir Kemalpaşa 1st Criminal Court of First Instance</b></p>
<p><b><u>KCK Press Case</u></b> The KCK Press Case with 46 journalists and media workers as defendants, charged with “terrorist organisation membership” since 2012...</p> <p><b>November 23, Tuesday at Istanbul 3rd Assize Court</b></p>	<p><b><u>Ceren Sözeri Case</u></b> The 200-thousand-TL compensation case filed by Turkuvaz Media Group Executive Board Deputy Chairman Serhat Albayrak against Evrensel Daily writer Ceren Sözeri...</p> <p><b>November 24, Wednesday at Istanbul 2nd Commercial Court of First Instance</b></p>
<p><b><u>Cumartesi Anneleri Case</u></b> The lawsuit filed against the Saturday Mothers on the charge of “violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations”...</p> <p><b>November 24, Wednesday at Istanbul 21st Criminal Court of First Instance</b></p>	<p><b><u>Journalist Fatih Gönül Case</u></b> The lawsuit filed against journalist Fatih Gönül on charges of “armed terrorist organisation membership” and “making terrorist organisation propaganda”...</p> <p><b>November 25, Thursday at Ankara 25th Assize Court</b></p>
<p><b><u>Zeynep Altıok Case</u></b> The lawsuit filed against former Republican People’s Party (CHP) Deputy Chair Zeynep Altıok on the charge of “insulting the President” due to her social media posts...</p> <p><b>November 25, Thursday at Urla 1st Criminal Court of First Instance</b></p>	<p><b><u>Gezi Park Case</u></b> The prosecution after the decree to combine the case against the Gezi Park protests with 16 defendants, including Osman Kavala, at the Istanbul 30th Assize Court, with the case against 35 people from the Çarşı fan group, who participated in the Gezi Park protests...</p> <p><b>November 26, Friday at Istanbul 13th Assize Court</b></p>

*You may find all news of the week on [www.dusun-think.net](http://www.dusun-think.net); and the pdf format of the newsletter on [www.dusun-think.net/bultenler](http://www.dusun-think.net/bultenler).*