

# Think, think...

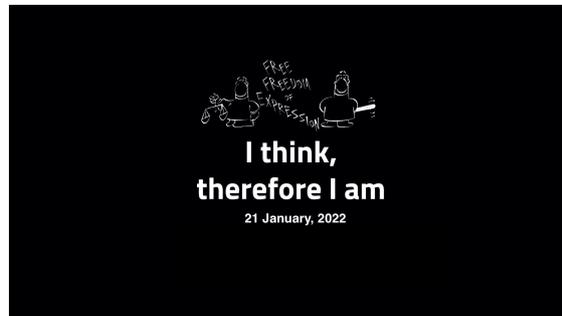


## Freedom of Expression Weekly Newsletter (Issue 3/22 - January 21, 2021)

### What happened last week?

- Speaking at the Hatay EXPO introductory meeting, Republican People's Party (CHP) leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu said that if they come to power, they will send their Syrian brothers off with drums and horns back to their country within two years at the latest, and that they will create the infrastructure for this.
- Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality transportation investments were not included among the 2022 investments of the Erdoğan government. While the purchase of 300 metrobus, financed by the municipality itself due to the disapproval of the Presidency, has not yet been realized, the new metro line investment, which was financed, was not approved. Erdogan continues to do justice to his promise after the local elections, which was, "We will not make you rule Istanbul, you will be a lame duck" (!). In the Presidency's 2022 investment program, the resources allocated for intelligence, security and prison constructions [increased significantly](#).
- Musician Sezen Aksu was targeted on social media on the grounds that she insulted Adam and Eve in her song, 'Şahane Bir Şey Yaşamak', which she released in 2017 with musician Yaşar Gaga. A Turkish-Islamist group called the National Survival Movement called for a gathering in front of her house, claiming to protest Aksu. In addition to the Religious Union and Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) leader Bahçeli, many newspapers and social media accounts known with their close relations to the government joined the caravan of "lynching" the artist.
- Van Court of Execution [ruled](#) that the meetings between journalist Nedim Türfent and his lawyers must be recorded with audio or video for three months.
- Agos Daily's Editor-In-Chief Hrant Dink was commemorated on the 15th anniversary of his death, at the place he was shot. Hrant's friends, especially the Dink family, [reiterated](#) their demand for those who target the journalist and for public officials, whose negligence has been revealed in numerous reports, to be included in the trial process.
- 31 citizens, including Initiative for Freedom of Expression Spokesperson Şanar Yurdatapan, [supported](#) Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) MP Dr Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu after an investigation was launched against him due to his social media posts for Aysel Tuğluk.
- The 16-year-old son of prisoner Nureddin Odabaşı, who was expelled from teaching with a Statutory Decree, committed suicide. The death reminded everyone of the reality of isolation, exclusion and "silent death" experienced by thousands of citizens and their families, it is further thought that there has been an increase in suicides due to the increasing economic depression in the country.

- Çorum Bar Association President Atty. Kenan Yaşar was elected as the new member of the Constitutional Court, after three rounds of elections at the Parliament. Yaşar was the Justice and Development Party's (AKP) Parliamentary [candidate](#).
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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...*

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

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### **18-thousand-TL penalty against banner on survival**

An administrative fine of 18 thousand Turkish Liras was imposed for the banner 'We cannot survive, get the price raises back' hung on Eskişehir Community Centers as part of the 'We can't survive' protests. The banner was taken down at midnight, 45 minutes after it was hung, citing the governor's circular as a reason.



### **Meşale Tolu acquitted**

Aktif News Agency reporter and translator Meşale Tolu, who was tried on charges of "terrorist organization membership" and "making propaganda for a terrorist organization", was acquitted of all charges.



### Campus Witch and Purple Solidarity member women detained

Campus Witch and Purple Solidarity member women, who wanted to march to the Parliament, saying "let menstrual products be free" in Ankara, were detained with a police intervention.



### Attacks against protests for Enes Kara in Istanbul and Ankara

Police attacked the youth protests organised in Istanbul and Ankara for university student Enes Kara, who left behind a video about the pressure and future concerns he suffered in the religious community house where he stayed in Elazığ, before committing suicide. In the protest held in Istanbul on January 14, Friday, 83 young people, and in the protest held in Ankara on January 17, Monday, 15 young people were beaten and detained by the police. The young people were released after testifying.

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### Constitutional Court updates Individual Application Statistics



The Constitutional Court has updated its statistics on individual applications covering the period between 2012 and 2021. In 2021, the court granted a violation decree for 11,882 (45.4%) of the admissible pending. The rule of "violation of the right to a fair trial" was issued in 20,084 applications, which accounted for

76.8% of the violation decrees issued by the court in the relevant period. In 663 applications, it was ruled that "freedom of expression was violated". [Please click here](#) for the full individual application statistics of the Constitutional Court.

### Protest and demonstration ban in Bismil

Diyarbakır Bismil District Governorate announced that all protests and activities were banned for 15 days across the district on the grounds of "national security and epidemic".



## **“Armenian Genocide” censorship by Koç University Press**



Koç University Press requested the removal of the term "Armenian genocide" in the book, "Seeds of Power: Explorations in Ottoman Environmental History" in order to publish the Turkish edition of the book, compiled by Onur İnal and Yavuz Köse. After the editors refused this request, the publishing house

decided not to publish the book.

## **Imprisonment sentence against Ivy Association Chairman**



Mehmet Şerif Çamcı, President of Ivy Association for Combating Poverty and Sustainable Development, which operated in Diyarbakır and was shut-down with a Statutory Decree in 2016, was convicted in the lawsuit filed against him within the scope of the investigation against the Democratic Society

Congress. Diyarbakır 4th Assize Court sentenced Çamcı to 6 years and 3 months in prison on the charge of terrorist organisation membership.

## **Cengiz complains, students summoned to testify**



Student Solidarity members made a statement in front of Cengiz Holding, Kolin Group and Turkish Industry and Business Association (TÜSİAD) on January 9, with a banner reading "We Will Overthrow the Reign of Thieves" to protest the worsening economic conditions with the new year. The members were summoned to testify after Mehmet Cengiz's

application with the allegation of "threat and insult".

## **Protest and demonstration ban extended in Hakkari**



Hakkari Governorate announced that all protests and

demonstrations to be organised throughout the province were banned for 15 days. The governorate put forward the conditions of "national security and epidemic" as the reason for the ban - as is the tradition.



### **Administrative reprimand issued following graduation ceremony**

At the graduation ceremony of Izmir Dokuz Eylul University Faculty of Literature held on September 28, student Rozana Urkun, who wore a mask with the words "Istanbul Convention Keeps People Alive" and took the stage with an LGBTQ+ flag, was given an

administrative reprimand. Private security attacked Urkun at the ceremony and her flag was forcibly taken from her.



### **RTÜK investigation against Tepeli**

The Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK) launched an investigation due to the evaluations of FOX TV Main News program host Selçuk Tepeli on the country's agenda. Radio and Television Supreme Council President Ebubekir Şahin said, "It is unacceptable for a show host to act almost like the

leader of the main opposition party."



### **"Terrorist organisation membership" sentence against environmental activist**

Munzur Environmental Association activist Özkan Arslan, who was banned from entering his village due to the environmental protests he had participated in before, was sentenced to 6 years and 3 months in prison in the trial where he was charged with "terrorist

organization membership". The Tunceli 1st Assize Court evaluated the protests that Özkan participated in, as well as his social media posts and poems as evidence of the crime.



### **Investigation against Twitch streamer due to dancing**

An investigation was launched against Twitch streamer Pelin Baynazoğlu, nicknamed Pqueen, on charges of "inciting the public to resentment and hostility" for a dance she performed with the song "Long Live Our

Race" during the stream. Making a statement on the subject on her Twitter account, Pqueen also said that she was accused of insulting the President during the stream.



## Media blackout against news on Swamp Operation

After being brought to the agenda by organised crime leader Sedat Peker, businessman Nevzat Kaya had been arrested within the "Swamp" Operation and the related investigation. Access to all news,

containing the name of Kaya, were banned and were ruled to be deleted.



## TIHV shares four-month data on 'Information Note'

"Information Note on the Pressure, Barriers and Difficulties Encountered by Human Rights Defenders in Turkey (September 1 – 31 December 31 2021)" prepared by the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TIHV) has been published. According to the briefing,

at least one or more of the interventions of judicial harassment, administrative harassment, threats and retaliation were implemented against 1220 human rights defenders in the last four months of 2021. In the same period, criminal prosecutions were carried out against 519 human rights defenders, and the existing criminal prosecutions against 214 people continued during this period, together with the judicial harassment. 21 people were sentenced to prison terms or a judicial fine, and 15 people were acquitted.

## Imprisonment sentence against Gülistan Doku's sister



Gülistan Doku's older sister Aygül Doku was sentenced to 5 months in prison and an administrative fine of 2,250 TL in the lawsuit opened on the grounds of "damaging property, threatening and insulting" upon the complaint of Engin Yücer, step-father of the

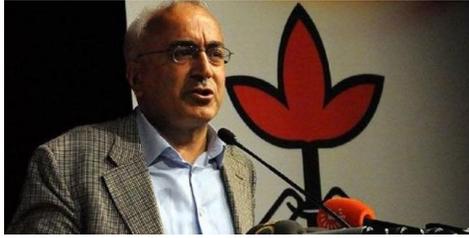
file suspect Zaynal Abakarov.



## **Nol-pros after 4 days under custody and 18 months**

Diyarbakır Chief Public Prosecutor's Office issued a verdict of non-prosecution for Mesopotamia Women Journalists Platform Spokesperson and Jin News editor Ayşe Güney, who was detained for 4 days in July 2020 as part of the "investigation against the Rosa Women's

Association".



## **Lawsuit against Öztürk Türkdoğan due to "terrorist organisation membership"**

The first hearing of the lawsuit filed against Human Rights Association Chairman and lawyer Öztürk Türkdoğan within the investigation initiated by the Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office on the charge of "terrorist organization membership" will be held at the Ankara 19th Assize Court on February 22. Türkdoğan was detained in March 2021 due to the statements made by the association after the unsuccessful "hostage rescue operation" known as Operation Gare. In the prosecution's indictment, the statements made, protests and activities organised by the Human Rights Association's Headquarters are shown as "criminal evidence". There are two more lawsuits filed as a result of the inspections carried out by the Civil Inspectorate at the Human Rights Association Headquarters.



## **Expression Interrupted launches press freedom and freedom of expression report**

Expression Interrupted released its report on freedom of expression and press covering the last three months of 2021. According to the report, 203 journalists were tried in 98 cases in the last quarter, while 18 journalists were sentenced to 24 years, 5 months and 9 days in prison. New lawsuits were filed against 17 journalists and investigations were launched against 16 journalists. [Please click here](#) for the full report.



## DÜŞÜNCE SUÇU DURUŞMALARI

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Gezi Park Case</u></b></p> <p>The consolidated file of the lawsuit against 16 people, including Osman Kavala, at the Istanbul 30th Assize Court, and the file against 35 people from the Çarşı fan group, who participated in the Gezi Park protests...</p> <p><b>Court:</b> Istanbul 13th Assize Court <b>Verdict:</b> The court decided for Osman Kavala to remain arrested and scheduled the next hearing for February 12.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Boğaziçi Case</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against 4 students, who were detained at Boğaziçi University, for "carrying a rainbow flag" and 8 students, who were detained while protesting the detainment of their friends...</p> <p><b>Court:</b> Istanbul 24th Criminal Court of First Instance <b>Verdict:</b> The case was adjourned to March 24 and the file was sent to the expert.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Onur Kocamaz Case</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against folk music artist Onur Kocamaz on the charge of "public incitement to hatred and enmity" on the grounds of a social media post in 2019...</p> <p><b>Court:</b> Ankara 35th Criminal Court of First Instance <b>Verdict:</b> Information can not be reached about the hearing.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Abdullah Kaya Case</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against previously shut-down Dicle News Agency (DIHA) Ağrı reporter Abdullah Kaya on charges of "terrorist organization membership" and "propaganda" on the grounds of his journalistic activities and social media posts...</p> <p><b>Court:</b> Ağrı 2nd Assize Court <b>Verdict:</b> The case was adjourned to April 19.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Abdurrahman Gök Case</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against Mezopotamya Agency editor Abdurrahman Gök on the charge of "terrorist organization membership" and "making propaganda" on the grounds of his phone calls with news sources, social media posts and the news he reported...</p> <p><b>Court:</b> Diyarbakır 5th Assize Court <b>Verdict:</b> The court's criminal complaint with the allegation of "making propaganda for a terrorist organization" in the previous hearing was turned into a lawsuit and the cases were consolidated. The court gave a date to March 31 for the preparation of defense statements for the consolidated files.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Kenan Kırkaya Case</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist Kenan Kırkaya and 8 others on the charge of "terrorist organization membership" for being the moderator of the TV show, "Glance at Ankara" on Med Nuce Television, which broadcasts in Turkish in Belgium...</p> <p><b>Court:</b> Ankara 14th Assize Court <b>Verdict:</b> Information can not be reached about the hearing.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Vedat Öriuc Case</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist Vedat Öriuc, who was detained while following a protest that took place on February 8, 2020, on charges of "violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations No. 2911" and "insulting a public official"...</p> <p><b>Court:</b> Istanbul 18th Criminal Court of First Instance  <b>Verdict:</b> The case was adjourned to July 1 for lawyers to examine the footage from the police.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Rüstem Batum Case</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist Rüstem Batum on charges of "insulting the President" and "public incitement to hatred and enmity" for 20 Twitter posts he made in 2016 and 2018...</p> <p><b>Court:</b> Istanbul 5th Criminal Court of First Instance  <b>Verdict:</b> The court adjourned the case to March 29, deciding to wait for the execution of the arrest warrant issued for Batum.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Engin Eren Case</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against Engin Eren, the Batman reporter of the closed Dicle News Agency, and 75 others following the "human shield protest" held on September 18, 2015 in the rural area of Kelhasan village in Batman's Sason district to end the conflicts in the region, on the charges of "terrorist organisation membership", "aiding a terrorist organization", "participating in unlawful meetings or demonstrations", "violating the Military Restricted Zones and Security Zones Law", "using force or threat against a public official to prevent duty"...</p> <p><b>Court:</b> Batman 2nd Assize Court  <b>Verdict:</b> The court decided to send the case file to the prosecution again to prepare its opinion</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Taraf Daily Case</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against Taraf Daily directors Yasemin Çongar, Ahmet Altan, Yıldırım Oğur, Tuncay Opçin and Mehmet Baransu on charges of "terrorist organization membership" and "disclosing, obtaining and destroying documents that should remain confidential regarding the security of the state" due to the document titled "Sovereign Operation Plan" published in the newspaper...</p> <p><b>Court:</b> Istanbul 13th Assize Court  <b>Verdict:</b> The court adjourned the case to March 4, 2022, deciding to wait for the execution of the arrest warrant issued against Tuncay Opçin.</p>

## HEARINGS NEXT WEEK

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Roboski Commemoration Case</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against 16 people on charges of "making propaganda for a terrorist organization" for commemorating the 34 people who were murdered in Roboski...</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>January 24, Monday at Şırnak 2nd Assize Court</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>2021 Istanbul LGBTQ+ Pride Parade Case</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against 3 people detained in the 2021 Istanbul LGBTQ+ Pride Parade in Cihangir with the allegation of "violating to Law No. 2911"...</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>January 25, Tuesday at Istanbul 14th Criminal Court of First Instance</b></p>
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<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Caner Taşpınar Case</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against OdaTV editor Caner Taşpınar on charges of "insulting" former Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey İsmail Kahraman and AKP deputy Ali İhsan Arslan for his book "The Bridegroom: Fethullahists' Father-in-laws from the AKP"...</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>January 25, Tuesday at Istanbul 11th Criminal Court of First Instance</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Ferhat Tunç Case</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against artist Ferhat Tunç on charges of "insulting the President" based on 10 tweets he posted in 2016...</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>January 25, Tuesday at Büyükçekmece 14th Criminal Court of First Instance</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Ramazan Akoğlu Case</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against Ramazan Akoğlu, a former Dicle News Agency (DIHA) reporter, for following the news of the road blockade in Diyarbakır in 2014...</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>January 25, Tuesday at Diyarbakır 4th Assize Court</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Mehmet Altan Case</u></b></p> <p>The compensation lawsuit filed by academician and writer Mehmet Altan against the judge of the Istanbul 27th Assize Court of the time, who did not implement the Constitutional Court and the European Court of Human Rights decrees...</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>January 25, Tuesday at 4th Civil Chamber of the Court of Cassation</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Derya Okatan Case</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist Derya Okatan with the allegation of "making propaganda for a terrorist organization" on the grounds of the Afrin operation news shared on the social media accounts of Aktif News Agency (ETHA), for which he was the Editor-in-Chief at that time...</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>January 26, Wednesday at Ankara 4th Assize Court</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Hatice Şahin Case</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against Yeni Yaşam Daily writer Hatice Şahin, who was detained and released during the operation in Diyarbakır on October 9, 2018, on the charge of "terrorist organisation membership" on the grounds of her Diyarbakır-Istanbul plane tickets, participating in the Democratic Society Congress (DTK) activities, phone calls she made with her colleagues and news sources, as well as secret witness statements against her...</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>January 26, Wednesday at Diyarbakır 9th Assize Court</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Buse Söğütlü Case</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against the Gazete Yolculuk's online reporter Buse Söğütlü on charges of "targeting those who took part in the fight against terrorism" on the grounds of a Twitter post dated March 18, 2019, against the judge of the court where the Contemporary Lawyers Association (ÇHD) Case was heard...</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>January 27, Thursday at Istanbul 23rd Assize Court</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Case Against Picnic Organised on Pride Week</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against a person who participated in the picnic held in Maçka Park as part of 2021 Istanbul LGBTQ+ Pride Week on the charge of "insulting a public official"...</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>January 27, Thursday at Istanbul 44th Criminal Court of First Instance</b></p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Vartinis Massacre Case</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed regarding the Vartinis Massacre, in which 9 people, including 7 children, were killed on October 3, 1993 in Altınova town of Korkut district of Muş...</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>January 27, Thursday at Kırıkkale 1st Assize Court</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Velat Öztekin Case</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist Velat Öztekin for "insulting the President" due to sharing two cartoons, one of which was drawn by Carlos Latuff, on his social media account...</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>January 27, Thursday at Diyarbakır 7th Criminal Court of First Instance</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Çetin Kurşun Case</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist Çetin Kurşun on the charge of "terrorist organisation membership"...</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>January 27, Thursday at Mardin 2nd 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).*