

Think, think...



Freedom of Expression Weekly Newsletter (Issue 12/22 - March 25, 2022)

What happened last week?

- President Erdoğan inaugurated the March 18 Çanakkale Bridge, which was built with a vehicle pass guarantee. Announcing the bridge toll as “200 TLs”, Erdoğan also heralded that if the promised number of vehicle passes cannot be met, the loss will be paid “from the treasury”! While the Osmangazi Bridge - which was thought to be a busier line - could not meet the daily pass guarantee of 40 thousand vehicles, the burden placed on the treasury was discussed, a daily pass guarantee of 45 thousand vehicles was given for the March 18 Bridge.
- The economic crisis is deepening. The Meat and Dairy Institution increased the prices of meat products by more than 45%. The General Manager of the institution joined the caravan of those who made fun of our common sense with the words "There are a lot of queues because we sell cheap, we made a raise to reduce the queue".
- President Erdoğan acknowledged the high cost of living in the country, whereas he said, "But we live in a country where people have access to any product they want, even if they can buy it in slightly smaller quantities than yesterday." Minister of Treasury and Finance Nureddin Nebati also relieved the citizens with the words, "The value of the Turkish lira is at its lowest, there is nowhere else to go, citizens can be at peace."
- According to the statistics announced by the Turkish Statistical Institute (TUIK), unemployment in 2021 decreased by 121 thousand people compared to the previous year and became 12%. The number of people employed increased by 2 million 102 thousand and rose to 28 million 797 thousand. But the country's realities speak a different language; 17 thousand 86 people applied for the cleaning staff, which only had a quota of 19 people, opened by the Ministry of Health in Adiyaman.
- A middle school principal in Bursa warned the teachers not to let the male and female students sit together. He was dismissed from his duty as the principal after public reactions.
- The 15-clause election and political parties law proposal, prepared by the Justice and Development Party (AKP) with the approval of the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP), was [accepted](#) at the Parliamentary Constitutional Commission.
- Osman Kavala, who was tried on charges of "attempting to overthrow the government" related to the Gezi Park protests and has been under arrest for 1066 days, has not been released yet again. The next hearing will be held on April 22.
- An arrest warrant has been issued for Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Diyarbakır MP Semra Güzel, whose immunity has been lifted, on the charge of "terrorist organization membership".
- The Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TIHV) has announced the table of torture and ill-treatment between the years 2018-2021. According to the data of the foundation, at least 13,965 people have been detained for torture and other ill-treatment in the last 4 years.

- A year has passed since Turkey's decision to withdraw from the Istanbul Convention, at least 86 women were murdered by men in 2022 alone.



Our weekly video program "["COGITO ERGO SUM"](#)", in which we follow the agenda of freedom of thought and expression, is on our [YouTube channel](#) every week...

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Another lawsuit filed against Emine Şenyaşar

A new lawsuit has been filed against Emine Şenyaşar, whose husband and two sons were murdered by the bodyguard and relatives of Justice and Development Party (AKP) Parliament Member İbrahim Halil Yıldız, and who has been demanding "justice" in front of the Urfa Courthouse for over a year. In the

indictment accepted by the Urfa 4th Criminal Court of First Instance, the grieving mother was accused of "insulting" İbrahim Halil Yıldız. During the "Justice Watch" that he has been carrying out in front of the courthouse since March 9, 2021, 14 separate investigations and 4 separate lawsuits were filed against Şenyaşar.



Police attack against Furkan Foundation members

The police attacked the protest organised by the Furkan Foundation in Adana for the eight arrested foundation members. In the footage shared by the Furkan Foundation, it was seen that the activists were attacked with sticks, tear gas and rubber bullets, children were affected by the gas, and some people were injured. The images of the violence applied by the police

against the participants started spreading on social media, many users, especially politicians, reacted against what happened. Following the reactions, a statement on the subject came from the Adana Governorate. The governorate, which targeted the foundation, defended the intervention, arguing that the protests disrupted public order. Despite the images in the press,

the Governorate determined that only two police officers used disproportionate force and announced that an investigation was launched against them.



Journalist Hayri Tunç detained

Journalist Hayri Tunç, who was in Yenikapı to watch the Newroz celebrations in Istanbul, was among those detained. The journalist, who was detained due to his social media posts and the protests he followed, made a statement after his release and announced that he was accused of "inciting the people to hatred and anger" for his post about the mother who lost her son in the

Maraş Massacre, and of "terrorist organization membership" for following the Suruç Massacre protest. It was learned that the journalist's post about a femicide in Kâğıthane was also subject to investigation.



Citizen arrested over sharing Sedef Kabaş's words on social media

After the release of journalist Sedef Kabaş, who was arrested on charges of "insulting Erdoğan", a citizen named Ali Yılmaz, who said "get well soon" to the journalist on social media and shared the words that led to the arrest of the journalist, was arrested on charges of "insulting the president". The 70-year-old

citizen, who was detained and released after judicial control due to his post, "Yes, it's a Circassian Proverb: When an ox enters the palace, he does not become a king, but the palace becomes a barn."



First hearing held in lawsuit filed against actor İlyas Salman

The lawsuit filed against actor İlyas Salman, who shared the video of his statement criticizing the Presidential Culture and Arts Awards on social media on a TV program he participated in, started on charges of "denigrating the state" in accordance with Article 301 of the Turkish Criminal Code. The second hearing of the case at the Istanbul

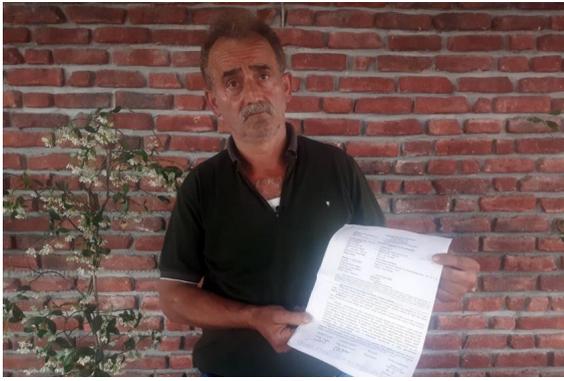
Anatolian 54th Criminal Court of First Instance will be held on September 13.



Teacher Fırat Akdeniz convicted

Human Rights Association (IHD) and Education and Science Workers' Union (Eğitim-Sen) member Fırat Akdeniz was sentenced to 6 years and three months of imprisonment at the Diyarbakır 11th Assize Court on the charge of "terrorist organisation membership" due to the press statements he participated in. The lawsuit had been filed right after Akdeniz filed a criminal complaint against

the police officers due to being tortured under detainment in 2019.



Citizen acquitted of street interview

Citizen Mehmet Ali Sancaktutan, who was detained in Rize for criticizing the government due to the bad course of the economy, price increases and double-paid bureaucrats during a street interview published on social media in June last year, and was accused of "insulting the President", was acquitted in the first hearing held at the Rize 4th Criminal Court of First Instance.



Women acquitted after detainment in protest for Istanbul Convention

The lawsuit filed against 33 women, who were detained in the protest organised by the Ankara Women's Platform on August 12, 2020 against the Presidential decree to withdraw from the Istanbul Convention, concluded with acquittal of the charge of "violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations No. 2911" at the Ankara 28th Criminal Court of First Instance.



Lawsuit against musician Erdal Bayrakoğlu

A lawsuit was filed against musician Erdal Bayrakoğlu on the charge of "making propaganda for a terrorist organisation" due to concert posters, news on the songs he sang together with Grup Yorum as well as his social media posts that contained event announcements. The first hearing of the case will be held on June 8 at Ankara 25th Assize

Court.

Makale Yazısı - 16 Mar 2022 - 13:37

Güngör Aslan cinayeti de



Gökhan Karabulut

Makaleyi Sesli Dinle / Tüm Yazıları / Mesaj Gönder



KOCAELİ 1. SULH CEZA HAKİMLİĞİ'nin 18.03.2022 Tarih ve 2022/1954 D. İş sayılı kararı uyarınca erişim engeli kararı verilmiştir.

Access ban against column on killed journalist

Kocaeli 1st Criminal Court of Peace issued an access ban against a column written by online newspaper Kocaeli Koz Editor-In-Chief Gökhan Karabulut, published on March 16, regarding the murdered journalist Güngör Aslan.



Istanbul Convention.

11 women activists detained

11 out of 25 women, including politicians and representatives of non-governmental organizations, were arrested after having been detained last week during the Diyarbakır-based operation and were asked, at the Prosecutor's Office, why they participated in the March 8 rally, the November 25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and the protests against the abolition of the



Newroz detainments

This year's Newroz was celebrated in more than 60 city centers with the slogan "Now is the Time to Win", and rights violations during the celebrations did not slow down. In addition to the prevention of participation in Newroz in many cities, at least 488 people were detained. After the Newroz rally held in Yenikapı district of Istanbul, 83 people were detained on the grounds of "violating the Law on Meetings and

Demonstrations". During the Newroz celebrations in Diyarbakır, 298 people were detained. After the Newroz rally in İzmir, an arrest warrant was issued for 59 people on charges of "making propaganda for a terrorist organisation".



Üçpınar Villagers acquitted

The lawsuit filed against 15 of the villagers, who protested the drilling work of the mining company in the Üçpınar Mahallesi of the Ünye District in Ordu on the allegation of "damaging property and resisting to prevent duty", resulted in acquittal.



Imprisonment sentence against HDP MP Murat Sarisaç

Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Van Parliament Member Murat Sarisaç was sentenced to 1 year and 6 months in prison on the charge of "making propaganda for a terrorist organization" due to his social media posts. Van 5th Assize Court deferred the

announcement of the verdict.



Imprisonment sentence against newspaper distributors

Newspaper distributors Veysi Altın and Ercan Yeltaş, who were tried and acquitted on the charge of "making propaganda for a terrorist organization", were sentenced to 7 months and 15 days in prison each, in the retrial after the reversal decree of the court of appeals.

Diyarbakır 5th Assize Court deferred the announcement of the verdict.



Investigation against transportation fee protest

An investigation has been launched against around 100 citizens who participated in the protest in Eskişehir to protest the increase in transportation fees, on charges of "violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations". The police have attacked the protest that was

planned to be held on February 12, and many people have been detained.



Investigation against citizens saying they "can't survive"

An investigation was launched against 21 citizens due to the march organized by the Tarsus Labor and Democracy Components in Mersin on March 5 to demand the reimbursement of the exorbitant price increases in electricity, fuel, natural gas and basic food, which was already prevented by the police.



Police attack against HDP district building

Police raided the Istanbul Kartal district building of the Peoples' Democratic Party as part of an investigation carried out by the Istanbul Anatolian Chief Public Prosecutor's Office with the allegation of "praising the crime and the criminal". During the search that lasted for hours, the photographs of Deniz Gezmiş and İbrahim Kaypakkaya, and the magazines Democratic Modernity and Jineloji were seized by the police.



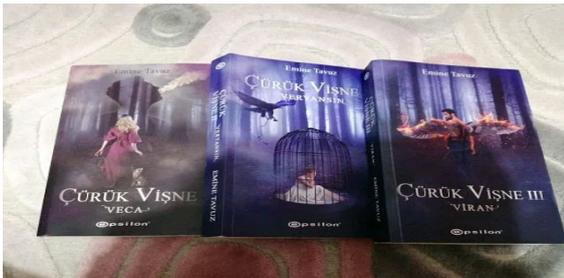
Artists detained after performing at Newroz

7 artists, who took the stage at the Newroz celebration in Aydın's Efeler district were detained on the grounds of the songs they sang.



Newroz speech investigation

Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Eskişehir Provincial Co-Chair Şükriye Ercan, who was summoned to testify at the Eskişehir Newroz celebrations on February 12, was released after testifying at the police station.



Another book declared "obscene"

The Ministry of Family and Social Services Board for the Protection of Minors from Malicious Publications declared Emine Tavuz's book 'Rotten Cherry III Viran' as "obscene". The book was exposed for allegedly having harmful content on children's morality and its sale was restricted.



Lawsuit filed against social media post concludes with acquittal

Zilan Özçan was acquitted at the Mardin 2nd Assize Court on the charge of "making propaganda for a terrorist organization" due to a photo and a drawing she shared on social media. In the photograph, which is the subject of the accusation, a Yazidi woman appears with a gun on her back and a child in her arms,

while in the drawing, a Mexican native woman is depicted with a gun on her back and a Molotov cocktail in her hand. The prosecutor's office claimed that both of the posts "represented PKK militant women".



Impunity for police officer after killing Kemal Kurkut

In the first hearing of the lawsuit, which started again in the case of 23-year-old university student Kemal Kurkut, who was shot dead during the Newroz celebration in Diyarbakır in 2017, the arrest claim against the accused police officer was once again denied. The Appeal Court has previously stated that no crime would be charged to the accused police

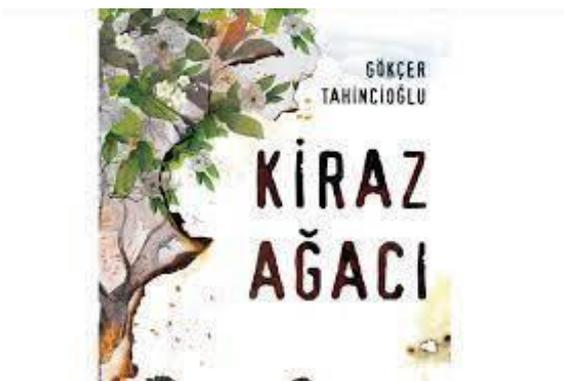
officer and claimed that the murder was committed "within a legal framework". The next hearing will be held on September 15.



Imprisonment sentence against municipal council member

Diyarbakır Metropolitan Municipality Council member, Şehirban Zuğurlu, was sentenced to 7 years, 9 months and 22 days in prison in the court case in which she was tried on the grounds of "terrorist organization membership" and "resisting to prevent duty". In the final hearing held at the Diyarbakır 10th Assize

Court, the Prosecutor presented their opinion and claimed that Zuğurlu had participated in press statements and resisted against the police officers preventing protests during the time when a trustee was appointed to Diyarbakır Metropolitan Municipality.



“Cherry Tree” book censored in prison over “terrorist organisation propaganda”

Prisoner Talat Şanlı wrote a letter to Evrensel Daily, telling about the rights violations happening in Van High Security Prison, and said that newspapers, magazines and books were censored. Şanlı stated that many books other than those in the prison library were allowed in the prison for various reason. He stated that lately, Gökçer Tahincioğlu's book

"The Cherry Tree" was added to this practice, and stated that the prison administration cited "terrorist organization propaganda" as the reason for the prevention.



Constitutional Court rules “freedom of expression violation”

The Constitutional Court (AYM) examined 1,809 applications collectively and issued violation decrees for not giving the detainees various copies of the newspapers or magazines, including Evrensel Daily, Özgürlükçü Demokrasi, Yeni Yaşam, Yeni Asya, Aydınlık, Ortadoğu, Birgün, Milli Gazete, Cumhuriyet, Karar and Özgür Gelecek between the years

2017-2020. In the Constitutional Court decree, it was emphasized that not giving the said periodicals to the detainees by the prison administration was a "violation of freedom of expression".



Appeal court: Disproportionate force “not duty crime” of police

The ban on the investigation of the police officers, who have beaten the students as they were protesting the appointment of a trustee rector at Boğaziçi University, was lifted. Istanbul Regional Administrative Court’s First Administrative Trial Chamber emphasized that the acts of assault, disproportionate violence

and deprivation of liberty were not due to the duty of the police officers, and that the investigation of these crimes did not require the permission of the civil administration, deciding for an investigation to be opened against a police commander and two police officers who were not previously given permission for an investigation by the Sarıyer District Governorate. The file was sent to the Prosecutor's Office.



TRIALS OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Boğaziçi University Case

The lawsuit filed against 4 students, who were detained due to “carrying a rainbow flag” while protesting for their arrested friends as well as 8 other students, who were detained as they were protesting the situation, on the charge of “violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations”...

Court: Istanbul 22nd Criminal Court of First Instance

Gezi Park Case

The lawsuit filed against 17 people, including arrested businessman Osman Kavala, on charges of “attempting to overthrow the government” and “aiding coup attempt” in relation to the Gezi Park protests...

Court: Istanbul 13th Assize Court
Verdict: The court decided for Osman Kavala to remain arrested. The case was adjourned to April 22.

<p>Verdict: Upon the objections of the defendant lawyers that there was a procedural error in the file, the judge wanted to dismiss the students' lawyer Ömer Kavili from the hall. The court delegation called the police and left the courtroom. The hearing was adjourned without being held.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Saturday Mothers Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against 46 people, who were detained during the police attack against the 700th week protest of the Saturday Mothers on August 25, 2020 on the charge of “violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations”...</p> <p>Court: Istanbul 21st Criminal Court of First Instance</p> <p>Verdict: The case was adjourned to September 21.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Musa Anter-JITEM Case</u></p> <p>The 30th hearing of the lawsuit filed on the killing of Musa Anter, which was combined with the JITEM Main Case...</p> <p>Court: Ankara 6th Assize Court</p> <p>Verdict: The case, which is under the threat of statute of limitations in April, was adjourned to June 20.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Özgür Gündem Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against previously shut-down Özgür Gündem Daily's Managing Editor İnan Kızılkaya and journalist Can Dündar, who joined the Substitute Editing-In-chief campaign for solidarity with the newspaper, on the charge of “insulting a public official” due to the news article published in the newspaper with the headline, “The most useful judge of the palace regime”...</p> <p>Court: Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance</p> <p>Verdict: The defendant lawyers were excused from the hearing, therefore the case was adjourned without being held.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Boğaziçi University Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against 4 students, who were detained due to “carrying a rainbow flag” while protesting for their arrested friends as well as 8 other students, who were detained as they were protesting the situation, on the charge of “violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations”...</p> <p>Court: Istanbul 24th Criminal Court of First Instance</p> <p>Verdict: The case was adjourned to June 21.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Özgürlükçü Demokrasi Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalists Aziz Oruç and Ersin Çaksu on the charge of “denigrating the state” in accordance with Article 301 of the Turkish Criminal Code due to the news articles and columns published in previously shut-down Özgürlükçü Demokrasi Daily between the dates October 21 and November 1, 2016...</p> <p>Court: Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance</p> <p>Verdict: The case was adjourned to October 27.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Semiha Şahin and Pınar Gayıp Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against 4 people, including ETHA editor Semiha Şahin and reporter Pınar Gayıp on charges of “terrorist organisation membership” and “making terrorist organisation propaganda”...</p> <p>Court: Istanbul 23rd Assize Court</p> <p>Verdict: The case was adjourned to May 26.</p>
<p><u>Serife Oruç Case</u></p>	

The lawsuit filed against previously shut-down Dicle News Agency (DIHA) reporter Şerife Oruç on the charge of “terrorist organisation membership”...

Court: Batman 2nd Assize Court
Verdict: The case was adjourned to June 23.

HEARINGS NEXT WEEK

<p><u>Muharrem İnce Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against Homeland Party’s Chairman Muharrem İnce on the charge of “insulting the President” due to the speech he made at the Republican People’s Party (CHP) Uşak Provincial Chairmanship as he was a CHP MP in 2016...</p> <p>March 28, Monday at Uşak 3rd Criminal Court of First Instance</p>	<p><u>İsmail Saymaz Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist İsmail Saymaz on the charge of “confiscating personal data” because he brought up a Prosecutor’s unannounced and threatening visit to a hospital in Kayseri with an article on Hürriyet Daily in March 2020...</p> <p>March 29, Tuesday at Niğde 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance</p>
<p><u>Rüstem Batum Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist Rüstem Batum on charges of “insulting the President” and “public incitement towards resentment and hostility” due to 20 Twitter posts he made in 2016 and 2018...</p> <p>March 29, Tuesday at Istanbul 5th Criminal Court of First Instance</p>	<p><u>Case Against Boğaziçi Protests</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against 7 students on the charge of “public incitement towards resentment and hostility” due to a Qaaba image and the LGBT+ flags taking place in an exhibition organised within the protests against Boğaziçi University’s appointed rector Melih Bulu...</p> <p>March 30, Wednesday at Istanbul 21st Criminal Court of First Instance</p>
<p><u>Selahattin Demirtaş Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against former Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP) Co-Chair Selahattin Demirtaş on the charge of “insulting” former Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu because of the speeches he gave during the curfew declared in Cizre in 2015...</p> <p>March 30, Wednesday at Istanbul 47th Criminal Court of First Instance</p>	<p><u>Abdurrahman Gök Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against Mesopotamia Agency editor Abdurrahman Gök on charges of “terrorist organisation membership” and “making terrorist organisation propaganda” due to the news he reported, his phone calls with news resources as well as social media posts...</p> <p>March 31, Thursday at Diyarbakır 5th Assize Court</p>
<p><u>Case Against Las Tesis Demonstration</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against 24 women on the charge of “violating the Law on Meetings and</p>	<p><u>Case Against News on Illegal Construction at Bosphorus</u></p>

<p>Demonstrations No. 2911” in accordance with Article 301 of the Turkish Criminal Code due to the “Las Tesis” demonstration organised in Izmir on December 15, 2019...</p> <p>March 31, Thursday at Izmir 7th Criminal Court of First Instance</p>	<p>The lawsuit filed against Cumhuriyet Daily reporter Hazal Ocak, Managing Editor Olcay Büyüktaş, Managing Editor İpek Özbey and photoreporter Vedat Arık following the complaint of Presidential Communications Director Fahrettin Altun on charges of “targeting those having taken part in the fight against terrorism” and “violation of privacy” due to the news article published in the newspaper on the illegal construction at the Bosphorus...</p> <p>March 31, Thursday at Istanbul 25th Assize Court</p>
<p><u>Yavuz Ekinci Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against writer Yavuz Ekinci on the charge of “making propaganda for a terrorist organisation” due to his social media posts with messages themed around Newroz and Kobani...</p> <p>March 31, Thursday at Istanbul 34th Assize Court</p>	<p><u>Case Against Workers’ Protest</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against 40 people, including 2 journalists who were following the protest, after they were detained during the statement made by fired workers in front of the SML Factory in Avcılar district of Istanbul, on the charge of “violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations No. 2911”...</p> <p>March 31, Thursday at Istanbul Büyükçekmece 10th Criminal Court of First Instance</p>
<p><u>Engin Eren Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against previously shut-down Dicle News Agency (DIHA) Batman reporter Engin Eren and 75 others on charges of “terrorist organisation membership,” “aiding a terrorist organisation,” “participating in unlawful meetings and demonstrations,” “violating the Law on Military Forbidden Zones and Security Areas”, “use of force or violence against a public official in order to prevent him from performing their duty” due to the “human shield protest” organised in a rural area in Kelhasan Village of Sason district in Batman on September 18, 2015 in order to end clashes in the region...</p> <p>April 1, Friday at Batman 2nd Assize Court</p>	