

May 2022 Report

1. Administrative Bans, Police Interventions

- 01: Istanbul** The police intervened against those wanting to march to Taksim Square to celebrate May 1 - a total of 192 people, including 3 journalists, were detained.
- 01: Mardin** The Governorate banned all kinds of protests and demonstrations throughout the province for 15 days as of May 1. With this decree, the protest and demonstration ban in the province, which has been implemented since October 17, 2019, has been extended to 942 days without interruption.
- 01: Van** The Governorate banned all kinds of protests and demonstrations throughout the province for 15 days as of May 1. With this decree, the protest and demonstration ban, which has been implemented since November 21, 2016, has been extended to 1999 days without interruption.
- 02: Diyarbakır** Those who wanted to visit the cemeteries in the rural neighborhoods of Sîsê and Çemê Elîkan in the Lice district were prevented by the soldiers on the grounds of the ban decree of the Lice District Governorate.
- 02: Şırnak** One person who objected to the ID check of the police while sitting in a park in the Yafes neighborhood of Cizre district was detained with ill-treatment.
- 03: Hakkari** The Governorate banned all kinds of protests and demonstrations throughout the province for 15 days as of May 3. With this decree, the protest and demonstration ban, which has been implemented since January 4, has been extended to 135 days without interruption.
- 05: Ankara** The police intervened in the press statement held in front of the Human Rights Monument on Yüksel Street with the demand of re-employment, removing the protesters from the area.
- 05: Ankara** While a black wreath was laid by a group of 3 people in front of the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Headquarters, the police threatened Women's Assembly Spokesperson and Batman Parliament Member Ayşe Acar Başaran, who was waiting in front of the building. 8 party members and executives were detained.
- 05: Istanbul** The police showed the ban decree of Kağıthane District Governorate to the vigil for ill prisoners in front of the Istanbul Çağlayan Courthouse, beating and detaining 2 people.
- 05: Izmir** The Governorate issued a disciplinary sanction to an X-ray technician of Selçuk State Hospital, who made a speech to express the problems of healthcare professionals at a group meeting held by a party at the Grand National Assembly of Turkey.
- 06: Ankara** The march of Victory Party Chairman Ümit Özdağ and a group of party leaders from the Turkish Grand National Assembly to the Ministry of Interior was prevented by the police.
- 07: Muş** The police intervened in the press statement that was intended to be made by the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) to protest the threat faced by HDP Batman MP Ayşe Acar Başaran from the police. 3 HDP executives were detained with physical violence.

- 08: Aydın** A tourist woman, who allegedly called the Republic of Turkey a ‘terrorist’ and cursed to President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in Kuşadası district, was surrounded by shopkeepers and detained by police teams.
- 09: Adana** The Governorate announced that it banned all kinds of protests and demonstrations throughout the province for 15 days.
- 09: Eskişehir** The Governorate announced that it banned all kinds of protests and demonstrations throughout the province for 15 days.
- 10: Ankara** Police prevented the vigil held in front of the Republican People's Party (CHP) Headquarters by the workers, who were dismissed from their jobs in Şişli Municipality.
- 10: Batman** The Governorate announced that it banned all kinds of protests and demonstrations throughout the province for 15 days, as of May 10.
- 11: Antep** The rally, which was planned to be held in Antep on May 21 by the Democracy and Progress (DEVA) Party, was not permitted by the Governorate.
- 11: Istanbul** The police intervened in the press statement held in front of Çağlayan Courthouse for the acceptance of the demands of Sibel Balaç and Gökhan Yıldırım, who were on a hunger strike - 6 people were detained.
- 12: Rize** The Governorate announced that it banned all kinds of protests and demonstrations throughout the province for 5 days.
- 13: Ankara** The police intervened against those who wanted to make a press statement in front of the Cumhuriyet Daily building regarding the ongoing hunger strikes in prisons - 3 people were detained with physical violence.
- 13: Istanbul** The press statement that was intended to be made before the lawsuit filed against 19 people due to the 2021 Pride Parade was prevented by the police.
- 13: Van** The Governorate banned all kinds of protests and demonstrations throughout the province for 15 days as of May 13. With this decree, the protest and demonstration ban, which has been implemented since November 21, 2016, has been extended to 2014 days without interruption.
- 14: Tunceli** The police prevented the funeral of Aysel Doğan, a member of the Peace Group and politician who lost her life, and used disproportionate force against the crowd. 4 people were detained, 1 person was arrested on charges of 'resisting the police'. Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP) Tunceli MP Alican Önlü, who was injured during the intervention, was not given a report documenting the physical violence he was subjected to, upon the instruction of the chief physician.
- 15: Adana** The march planned by the Communist Party of Turkey (TKP) to Incirlik Air Base was prevented by the police.
- 15: Istanbul** The march that was planned to be held in Kartal district as part of the Kurdish Language Day was prevented by the police.
- 15: Kocaeli** The concert of artist Aynur Doğan was canceled by Derince Municipality, which stated, "as a result of a detailed examination, it was determined that [the concert] was not appropriate".
- 16: Istanbul** The police intervened in the press statement that was planned to be made in Galatasaray for the acceptance of the demands of Sibel Balaç and Gökhan Yıldırım, who were on a hunger strike in prison, and 2 people were detained.

- 16: Kocaeli** The Kurdish play to be performed on May 28 in the Çayirova district of the Amed City Theater was banned by the municipality.
- 16: Muş** The concert planned to be held on May 17 by Metin Kahraman and Kemal Kahraman was banned by the Muş Governorate.
- 17: Balıkesir** Three people, who wanted to participate in the press conference on the occasion of the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia, Biphobia and Interphobia were detained on the grounds that they were carrying a rainbow flag.
- 17: Bitlis** The concert of the Stêrka Karwan music group, which sings Kurdish songs, to be held as part of the Spring Festival at Eren University, was canceled without any justification.
- 17: Diyarbakır** The police intervened in the sit-in protest, which was held before the conference organized by the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), after the police wanted to search those who wanted to attend the conference. HDP Şırnak MP Hüseyin Kaçmaz was injured.
- 17: İstanbul** Hanife Yıldız, one of the Saturday Mothers, was detained after the press statement made in front of the Çağlayan Courthouse as part of the May 17-31 Week of Disappearances.
- 17: İstanbul** Two children were detained by the police coming to the school with the allegation of "insulting the President" through the slogans they chanted during the Feminist Night March. The children were later released.
- 17: Urfa** The gendarmerie intervened against those protesting the dismantling of transformers by DEDAŞ due to the electricity debts in Haliliye district, detaining 5 people with physical violence.
- 18: Diyarbakır** The police prevented the press statement held by Amed Labor and Democracy Platform regarding the economic, social and political problems in Turkey.
- 18: İstanbul** The event held to commemorate İbrahim Kaypakkaya and his friends in Kadıköy district was banned due to the ban decree of the District Governorate. 25 people were beaten and detained.
- 19: Urfa** The Governorate banned all kinds of protests and demonstrations throughout the province for 2 days, as of May 19.
- 20: İstanbul** The police intervened in the Pride Parade organized by the LGBTQI+ Studies Club at Boğaziçi University. 70 people were beaten and detained.
- 20: İstanbul** The police intervened in the protest held by the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Youth Assembly members in Şişli against the detainments in Diyarbakır. 4 people were detained.
- 22: Adana** The police intervened in the press statement made by Furkan Foundation members, who demanded the release of their detained members and executives. The protesters were detained.
- 22: Bitlis** The Governorate declared a curfew in 2 villages of Tatvan district and 5 villages of Hizan district as of 04.00 on May 22 until further notice. The ban was lifted as of 15:30.
- 22: Hatay** The police intervened in the press statement made by Furkan Foundation members in Iskenderun, who demanded the release of their detained members and executives, and detained 11 protesters.
- 22: İstanbul** The police intervened in the march organized by the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) and Peoples' Democratic Congress (HDK) regarding military operations within the borders of Iraqi Kurdistan Regional Government. 25 people were beaten and detained.

- 23: Istanbul** The concert of artist Niyazi Koyuncu in Pendik Square on May 25 was banned by the Municipality.
- 24: Izmir** Students who wanted to dance halay in Kurdish at Dokuz Eylül University were prevented by the Private Security and the police.
- 25: Adana** The police prevented the press statement made by Furkan Foundation members, who demanded the release of their detained members and executives.
- 25: Istanbul** The police intervened in the sit-in protest held in front of Sabancı Center's building in Beşiktaş, demanding the re-employment of Enerji-Sen (Energy Trade Union) workers. 7 people were detained.
- 26: Bursa** Bursa Governorate announced that protests and demonstrations in all open and closed areas throughout the province were prohibited as of May 27.
- 26: Bursa** Artist Aynur Doğan's concert to be held in Bursa on May 31 was canceled by the Municipality.
- 26: Bursa** The concert to be given by the artist Mem Ararat on May 29 in Bursa was banned by the Governorate on the grounds of "public safety".
- 26: Van** The press statement organized by the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TIHV), Human Rights Association (IHD), Lawyers for Freedom Association (ÖHD), Van Bar Association, Turkish Medical Association (TTB) and other non-governmental organisations following the lawsuit filed against the former President of Van-Hakkari Medical Chamber and TIHV Van Representative application physician Dr. Hüseyin Yaviç and TIHV Van Representative Sevim Çiçek was prevented by the police.
- 27: Ankara** The police intervened in the press statement in front of the Ministry of Justice for the acceptance of the demands of Sibel Balaç and Gökhan Yıldırım, who were on a hunger strike in prison, detaining 7 people.
- 27: Tunceli** The police intervened in the press statement held by Munzur University students demanding an autonomous, democratic and free university - detaining 11 people with physical violence.
- 28: Van** The Governorate banned all demonstrations and open-air meetings throughout the province for 15 days.
- 29: Ankara** 16 people were detained in house raids on the grounds that they participated in the Revolution March held at the Middle East Technical University.
- 30: Hatay** The police intervened in the sit-in protest held for the acceptance of the demands of Sibel Balaç and Gökhan Yıldırım, who are on hunger strike in prisons, and detained 2 people.
- 30: Kocaeli** The 3-day youth festival, in which artists such as Melek Mosso, Sagopa Kajmer and Emir Can İğrek would take the stage, has been canceled by the Kocaeli Governorate.
- 31: Istanbul** During the 9th Anniversary events of Gezi Park in Beyoğlu, 170 people were beaten and detained.
- 31: Izmir** The police intervened in the crowd, who wanted to attend the press statement and music concert organized by İzmir Labor and Democracy Forces in Gündoğdu Square on the anniversary of the Gezi Resistance with slogans and banners. 4 people, including a woman, were detained with reverse handcuffs.

- 31: Şırnak** The police intervened with tear gas and rubber bullets in the press statement regarding the Kobanê Case, which is ongoing in Ankara against the members and administrators of the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP). 5 people were detained, 2 people were injured.

2. Investigations and Prosecutions

- 01: Mardin** The Governorate banned all kinds of protests and demonstrations throughout the province for 15 days as of May 1. With this decree, the protest and demonstration ban, which has been implemented since October 17, 2019, has been extended to 942 days without interruption.
- 01: Van** The Governorate banned all kinds of protests and demonstrations throughout the province for 15 days as of May 1. With this decree, the protest and demonstration ban, which has been implemented since November 21, 2016, has been extended to 1999 days without interruption.
- 02: Diyarbakır** Those who wanted to visit the cemeteries in the rural neighborhoods of Sîsê and Çemê Elîkan in the Lice district were prevented by the soldiers on the grounds of the ban decree of the Lice District Governorate.
- 03: Hakkari** The Governorate banned all kinds of protests and demonstrations throughout the province for 15 days as of May 3. With this decree, the protest and demonstration ban, which has been implemented since June 4 has been extended to 135 days without interruption.
- 05: İzmir** Former Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) mayor of Şanlıurfa/Ceylanpınar, İsmail Arslan, was imprisoned in Kırklar Type-F Prison in Buca district for a 7.5-year prison sentence, which was finalized on the charge of "PKK terrorist organization membership".
- 07: Muş** The police intervened in the press statement that was planned to be made by the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) to protest the threat faced by Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Batman Parliament member Ayşe Acar Başaran from the police. 3 HDP executives were detained with physical violence.
- 08: Aydın** A lawsuit was filed against an elderly woman on the charge of 'insult' for liking a social media post about Presidential Communications Director Fahrettin Altun.
- 09: Adana** Furkan Foundation's Founding Chairman Alparslan Kuytul was detained with a raid against his house and was arrested.
- 10: Balıkesir** The lawsuit filed against the Human Rights Association (IHD) Branch Chairperson R. Fahri Semizoğlu at the 2nd Assize Court on the allegation of "violating the Law on the Financing of Terrorism" has been adjourned to September 8.
- 10: Batman** The Governorate banned all kinds of protests and demonstrations throughout the province for 15 days as of May 10.
- 10: İstanbul** 2 children detained at the 2021 Pride Parade were acquitted in the case heard at the 4th Juvenile Court.
- 10: İstanbul** An investigation has been launched against journalist İsmail Saymaz because of the news he covered about the wife of one of the judges in the Gezi Park Case.

- 10: Istanbul** O.T, who was investigated on the grounds that he shared a photo of a dinner table with alcohol on social media during the Night of Qadr, was released on the condition of judicial measures after testifying at the Prosecutor's Office.
- 11: Ankara** Republican People's Party (CHP) Chairman Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu was sentenced to pay President Erdoğan 30 thousand TL in non-pecuniary damages in a lawsuit filed at the 31st Civil Court of First Instance due to his statements at the party group meetings on March 23 and 30, 2021.
- 11: Ankara** The lawsuit filed against Metin Gürcan, one of the founders of the Democracy and Progress (DEVA) Party, continued at the 26th Assize Court. The next hearing was scheduled for October 4.
- 11: Ankara** The lawsuit filed against Human Rights Association (IHD) Co-Chair Öztürk Türkdoğan at the Criminal Court of First Instance due to the article, titled, "Mandatory Statement Regarding the Minister of Interior Süleyman Soylu" published on the IHD website on June 29, 2018 was adjourned to June 27.
- 11: Antep** The rally organized by the Democracy and Progress (DEVA) Party in Antep on May 21 was not permitted by the Governorate.
- 11: Istanbul** In the final hearing of the lawsuit filed against 18 lawyers at the 36th Assize Court, the court acquitted 6 lawyers, separated the files of 11 lawyers and dropped the case against Ebru Timtik.
- 11: Istanbul** The lawsuit filed against journalist Osman Akın and Veysi Sarısözen at the 13th Assize Court was adjourned to September 9.
- 11: Istanbul** Journalist Rojin Altay and 2 children, who were detained during a news follow-up, were acquitted by the Anatolian 1st Juvenile Court.
- 12: Istanbul** In the lawsuit filed against 23 Boğaziçi University protesters at the 38th Criminal Court of First Instance, the court rejected the repeal of judicial measures and adjourned the hearing to September 20.
- 12: Istanbul** The lawsuit filed against journalist Sadık Topaloğlu and Sadiye Eser at the 22nd Assize Court was adjourned to September 8.
- 13: Ankara** The lawsuit filed against former Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Co-Chair Selahattin Demirtaş at the 25th Assize Court for his remarks to the Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor at the time has been adjourned to June 13.
- 13: Istanbul** The lawsuit filed against 19 people due to the 2021 Pride Parade at the 60th Court of First Instance was adjourned to December 23.
- 13: Istanbul** The lawsuit filed against 23 Religious Scholars Solidarity Association members and executives, 4 of whom were arrested, at the 14th Assize Court was adjourned to June 17.
- 13: Van** The Governorate banned all kinds of protests and demonstrations throughout the province for 15 days as of May 13. With this decree, the protest and demonstration ban, which has been implemented since November 21, 2016, has been extended to 2014 days without interruption.
- 14: Tunceli** The police prevented the funeral of Aysel Doğan, a member of the Peace Group and politician who lost her life, and used disproportionate force against the crowd. 4 people were detained, 1 person was arrested on charges of 'resisting the police'. Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Tunceli MP Alican Önlü, who was injured during the intervention,

was not given a report documenting the physical violence he was subjected to, upon the instruction of the chief physician.

- 15: Hakkari** Human Rights Association (IHD) Hakkari Branch Co-Chair Atty. Yusuf Çobanoğlu was threatened by an unidentified person calling him from a secret number, who said, *"We will clean up you and people like you. We will gather all terrorist organisation members like you. They reported you to us from the center, it's almost time."*
- 16: Ankara** A judicial and administrative investigation was launched by the Ankara University Rectorate about the event held as part of the traditional Cow Festival at Ankara University Faculty of Political Sciences.
- 16: Istanbul** The lawsuit filed against journalist Seat Yılmaz and Yeni Yaşam Daily in Bakırköy 14th Civil Court of First Instance with a claim for compensation of 150 thousand TL due to a complaint against the news on "armed unmanned aerial vehicles" was adjourned to June 27.
- 16: Muş** The concert planned to be held on May 17 by Metin Kahraman and Kemal Kahraman was banned by the Muş Governorate.
- 17: Bitlis** The concert of the Stêrka Karwan music group, which sings Kurdish songs, to be held as part of the Spring Festival at Eren University, was canceled without any justification.
- 17: Diyarbakır** The police intervened in the sit-in protest, which was held before the conference organized by the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), after the police wanted to search those who wanted to attend the conference. HDP Şırnak MP Hüseyin Kaçmaz was injured.
- 17: Muğla** Six people who allegedly made PKK/KCK propaganda at the Bodrum Newroz event were detained.
- 17: Urfa** The gendarmerie intervened against those protesting the dismantling of transformers by DEDAŞ due to electricity debts in Haliliye district, detaining 5 people with physical violence.
- 18: Diyarbakır** The police prevented the press statement made by Amed Labor and Democracy Platform regarding the economic, social and political problems in Turkey.
- 18: Istanbul** 17 people, who were detained during a press statement made on May 13, 2019 to draw attention to the hunger strikes in prisons, were acquitted.
- 18: Istanbul** The lawsuit filed against 16 people at the Bakırköy 51st Criminal Court of First Instance due to a protest held for ill prisoners has been adjourned to October 27.
- 18: Istanbul** The annulment lawsuit filed against the Tarlabası Community Support Association at the 18th Court of First Instance on the charge that the activities of the Tarlabası Community Support Association are "contrary to morality and law" has been adjourned to November 2.
- 19: Urfa** The Governorate banned all kinds of protests and demonstrations throughout the province for 2 days as of May 19.
- 22: Bitlis** The Governorate declared a curfew in 2 villages of Tatvan district and 5 villages of Hizan district as of 04.00 on May 22 until further notice. The ban was lifted as of 15:30.
- 24: Rize** The lawsuit filed against journalist Genççağa Karafazlı at the 4th Criminal Court of First Instance due to his news about harassment allegations against an academic working at Recep Tayyip Erdoğan University has been adjourned to September 27.

- 25: Adana** Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Adana Provincial Chairman Mehmet Mustafa Bilgiç, who was previously detained within the scope of the Ankara-based "Kobanê Investigation" and released under judicial measures, was detained and arrested again upon the objection of the Prosecutor's Office.
- 25: Adana** The lawsuit filed against artists İlyas Arzu and Jiyan Savcı on the allegation of "terrorist organization membership" at the 2nd Assize Court has been adjourned to September 3.
- 25: Ankara** In the lawsuit filed against actress Ezgi Mola at the 31st Criminal Court of First Instance on the grounds of her social media posts about expert sergeant Musa Orhan, who was on trial for allegedly sexually assaulting a child, Ezgi Mola was sentenced to a judicial fine of 6,960 TL.
- 25: Istanbul** Journalist Nazan Özcan testified at the police station after the former lawyer of the President complained about a news she reported.
- 26: Van** The press statement organized by the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TIHV), Human Rights Association (IHD), Lawyers for Freedom Association (ÖHD), Van Bar Association, Turkish Medical Association (TTB) and other non-governmental organisations following the lawsuit filed against the former President of Van-Hakkari Medical Chamber and TIHV Van Representative application physician Dr. Hüseyin Yaviç and TIHV Van Representative Sevim Çiçek was prevented by the police.
- 27: Ankara** Leftist Party Keçiören District Chairman Murat Güzel was acquitted in the lawsuit filed against him on charges of "making propaganda for a terrorist organization" at the 27th Assize Court.
- 27: Tunceli** The police intervened against the press statement made by Munzur University students demanding an autonomous, democratic and free university - and detained 11 people with physical violence.
- 28: Van** The Governorate banned demonstrations and open-air meetings throughout the province for 15 days.
- 31: Şırnak** The police intervened with tear gas and rubber bullets in the press statement regarding the Kobanê Case, which is ongoing in Ankara against the members and administrators of the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP). 5 people were detained, 2 people were injured.

3. Other Violations

- 06: Kilis** It was revealed that 7 prisoners in Type-L Prison have been on a hunger strike since April 23 against the rights violations, torture and ill-treatment they have been facing.
- 10: Ankara** Administrative fines were imposed on Halk TV and TELE1, Flash TV, KRT channels by the Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK) for broadcasting the statements of Republican People's Party (CHP) and Turkish Workers Party (TIP) Parliament members, following the convictions in the Gezi Park Case.
- 10: Bursa** A "JITEM" note was left at the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Gürsu district building. The police replied to HDP officials who complained with the words, *"It's a child, this doesn't need much thought."*

10: Mersin	Access to 3 columns on Yenicag and BirGün Daily websites regarding the cocaine seized at Mersin Port was blocked with the decree issued by the 3rd Criminal Judicature of Peace on the grounds of "violation of personal rights".
11: Diyarbakır	With the decree of the 4th Criminal Judicature of Peace, the website of Etkin News Agency was blocked from access on the grounds of "protection of national security and public safety".
13: Istanbul	The press statement that was planned to be held before the lawsuit filed against 19 people due to the 2021 Pride Parade was prevented by the police.
15: Istanbul	The march that was planned to be held in Kartal district as part of the Kurdish Language Day was prevented by the police.
16: Kocaeli	The Kurdish play of the Amed City Theatre, which was planned to be staged on May 28 in the Çayırova district, has been canceled by the municipality.
17: Antep	It was revealed that 7 prisoners, who have been on hunger strike since April 6, demanding an end to the rights violations they have been facing at Islahiye Type-T Prison, ended their hunger strike after their demands were met.
20: Antep	With a decree issued by the 2nd Criminal Judicature of Peace, access to the news on the Cumhuriyet, Birgün Daily and Diken websites regarding an interview published on the social media account of the Freedom of Expression Association was blocked on the grounds of "violation of personal rights".
26: Isparta	The concert to be given by Melek Mosso on June 3 as part of the International Rose Festival was canceled by the Municipality.
27: Ankara	The concert of Armenian musician Ara Malikian on June 11 as part of the festival organized by the Ministry of Culture was canceled without any justification.
30: Ankara	TELE1, KRT, Flash and Halk TV channels were fined by the Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK) for broadcasting the statements of the Republican People's Party (CHP) Chairman.
27: Istanbul	The column written by Cumhuriyet Daily columnist Barış Terkoğlu on the Adnan Oktar Case was blocked from access by the 7th Criminal Judicature of Peace on the grounds of violation of personal rights.
12: Izmir	24 workers at the Bormatek factory in Kemalpaşa were fired because they were members of the United Metal-Labour Trade Union.

4. COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Coşkun Üsterci (TİHV Gen. Sek.)

We can say that May 2022 was the month in which violations of freedom of expression, assembly and association were experienced the most in the first five months of this year. Violations of freedom of expression were more prominent throughout the month.

According to the findings of the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TİHV) Documentation Center, at least 8 journalists were detained during news coverage this month. An investigation was launched against

4 journalists, 1 journalist was sentenced to 1 year 6 months in prison as well as a fine of 12,050 TL. 2 children were detained by the police who came to their school for 'insulting the President'. 1 political party leader was arrested after the Court of Cassation upheld the sentences issued for "publicly insulting the State of the Republic of Turkey" and "insulting the President".

A lawsuit was filed against Republican People's Party (CHP) Istanbul Provincial Chair Canan Kaftancıoğlu on the grounds of her social media posts between 2012 and 2017. The total prison sentence of 4 years and 11 months was upheld by the Court of Cassation in May.

According to the findings of the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TIHV) Documentation Center, cases against at least 8 human rights defenders continued this month. Human Rights Association (IHD) Co-Chair Eren Keskin was fined 12,050 TL in a lawsuit filed against Berkin Elvan when she was the Co-Editor-in-Chief of Özgür Gündem Daily, and her sentence was upheld by the Court of Cassation in May.

Human rights defenders were detained again this month. After the joint press statement by the Saturday Mothers, Human Rights Association (IHD) and Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TIHV) in front of Çağlayan Courthouse in Istanbul on May 17, 2022 as part of the Week for Disappearances, the Saturday Mother named Hanife Yıldız was detained on the grounds that she "insulted a public official" in her speech.

May 3 was World Press Freedom Day. On this occasion, various reports were published expressing violations of rights against the press. According to the report of the Dicle Fırat Journalists Association (DFGD), 62 journalists are still in Turkish prisons. In another report published by the Coalition for Women in Journalism (CFWIJ), it was stated that between January 2022 and April 2022, cases of harassment, assault and threats against 63 women journalists were recorded through the judiciary, 41 women journalists were prosecuted for their social media posts or news they reported, and 5 women journalists were penalised on charges of 'insulting the President' and 'making propaganda for a terrorist organization'.

Again, according to the findings of the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TIHV) Documentation Center, during May, access to the website of 1 news agency was blocked once, and the websites of 4 magazines and 2 newspapers were blocked 7 times in total, with court decrees. Access to at least 14 news and 3 social media posts were blocked.

However, one of the cases where an access block decree was made is very interesting and thought-provoking: The news on some websites is tried to be removed from the broadcast with fake court decrees. Against social media posts, an interview published on the social media account of the Freedom of Expression Association, and news on some websites about this grave situation, the Antep 2nd Criminal Judicature of Peace has blocked access on the grounds of "**violation of personal rights**". It's a truly tragicomic situation. It is also worrying and frightening.

In May, many broadcasting companies were fined by the Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK). The critical statements made by the Republican People's Party (CHP) and Turkish Workers Party (TIP) Parliament members following the convictions in the Gezi Park Case are broadcast by Halk TV and TELE 1, Flash TV and KRT channels. For this reason, RTÜK imposes administrative fines on broadcasting organizations.

In addition to these, May was a month when concerts and artistic events were banned or canceled a lot. Such a situation has not happened recently:

- Concerts of Kurdish singer Aynur Doğan were canceled by Kocaeli and Bursa municipalities.
- The concert to be given by Metin and Kemal Kahraman brothers was banned by the Muş Governorate.
- The concert of Niyazi Koyuncu was canceled by Pendik Municipality.
- The concert of the Stêrka Karwan music group, which sings Kurdish songs, to be held as part of the Spring Festival at Eren University, was canceled without any justification.
- The concert of Apolas Lermi in Denizli has been canceled by Pamukkale Municipality.
- Bursa Governorate banned the concert to be given by Mem Ararat on the grounds of "public safety".
- The concert to be given by Melek Mosso was canceled by Isparta Municipality.
- Spanish citizen and Armenian musician Ara Malikian's concert in Ankara as part of a festival organized by the Ministry of Culture was canceled again without any justification.
- In addition, the Kurdish play "Don Kîxot", which was to be staged by the Amed City Theater in a hall belonging to the municipality in the Çayırova district of Kocaeli, was canceled by the municipality on the grounds that the hall was allocated to another organization.

These bans and cancellations, which stink of racism and discrimination, clearly show the extent of the intolerance of those in power towards freedom of thought and expression.

According to the findings of the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TIHV) Documentation Center, the police intervened in at least 57 peaceful meetings and demonstrations in May. At least 615 people were detained after being subjected to torture and ill-treatment. At least 8 people were injured. 1 person was arrested, and at least 10 people who were released were subject to judicial measures. In addition, the police prevented 8 peaceful meetings and demonstrations before they even started. Interventions and detentions took place intensively at the beginning of the month, during the May 1 celebrations and at the end of the month during the 9th anniversary events of the Gezi Park resistance. Many Parliament members were subjected to verbal and physical violence during the intervention and prevention of peaceful meetings and demonstrations by the police forces, and many Parliament members were injured. In the same way, press members covering news were also exposed to preventions and violence.

On the other hand, civil authority bans against protests and demonstrations continued with all their intensity in May. In this context, all peaceful demonstrations and events were banned twice in Van, once in Mardin, Hakkari, Adana, Eskişehir, Rize, Batman, Tunceli, Urfa and Bursa, making up 12 times in 10 provinces. The situations in two provinces are again extreme examples: In Mardin, the uninterrupted protest and demonstration ban since October 17, 2019 has reached 942 days, while the protest and demonstration ban in Van, which has been implemented since November 21, 2016, has reached 2029 days without interruption.

I observed very concretely what these bans mean during and after a hearing in Van, which I personally attended as an observer. I would like to briefly share this observation: Working as an assistant physician in the Obstetrics and Gynecology Clinic at Ankara City Hospital, Dr. Rûmeysa Şen died on October 23, 2002 after a traffic accident on her way home after a 36-hour shift. Dr. At the call of the Turkish Medical Association (TTB), which evaluated the death of Rûmeysa Şen as a "work murder", press statements

were made all over Turkey criticizing the harsh working conditions of physicians, demanding an improvement. A similar press statement was also planned to be made in Van. However, on the grounds of the Governorate ban, the press statement was intervened against. At that time, Van-Hakkari Medical Chamber President and Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TIHV) Van Representative application physician Dr. Hüseyin Yaviç and TIHV Van Representative Sevim Çiçek were detained. Later, a lawsuit was filed against them on the grounds of “violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations No. 2911”. After the first hearing of this case, held in Van on May 26, 2022, a press statement was planned by the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TIHV), Human Rights Association (IHD), Lawyers for Freedom Association (ÖHD), Van Bar Association, Turkish Medical Association (TTB) and non-governmental organizations to inform the public on what happened during the hearing. However, police officers, citing the Governorate ban against protests and demonstrations, tried to prevent this statement as well. After long and exhausting negotiations, the press statement could unwillingly be allowed.