

Think, think...



Freedom of Expression Weekly Newsletter (Issue 22/22 - June 3, 2022)

What happened last week?

- President Erdoğan took his operation signal to northern Syria to the next level by giving the targets this time; *"We are entering a new phase... We are clearing Manbij and Tel Rifat,"* he said.
- Reacting to the criticisms regarding the economic crisis, Erdoğan said, *"Now, someone comes out and says 'we are starving'. There is no one who is starving!"* A few days later, he admitted people's hunger. This time, he targeted alcohol consumers, saying, *"One is hungry, wandering miserably, but he does not hold back from buying cigarettes, raki, and beer."*
- According to official data, inflation was 73.50% in May. According to the data of the Inflation Research Group (ENAG), formed by a group of academics, annual inflation increased by 160.7%. According to the data of the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce, inflation in Istanbul reached the peak of 24 years and reached 90%. According to the Treasury and Finance Minister **Nureddin Nebati**, *"inflation has entered a downward trend"*.
- On the 9th anniversary of the Gezi Park protests, Taksim was again under a police blockade. The police attacked commemorations in Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir. Targeting the Gezi Park protests, Erdoğan repeated his lie that "people drank beer in the mosque", and did not hesitate to hurl insults; calling protesters terms like *"slut", "rotten", "bandit", "terrorist"...*
- Tens of thousands of citizens are prosecuted and convicted due to criticisms and objections against Erdoğan, whereas Erdoğan himself continues to use his "freedom to insult"(!); "Minister of propaganda" Fahrettin Altun emphasized that "freedom of the press and expression is wider and more secure than ever before"! Claiming that a part of the press paved the way for coups, Altun said, *"We see that they are engaged in 5th column activities, in reputation assassination."*
- Known for his verdicts in many controversial cases filed against opposition politicians, rights defenders and journalists, and as the head of the court who did not recognize the Constitutional Court decree, Akın Gürlek was appointed Deputy Minister of Justice by Erdoğan. Gürlek has signed the decision to confiscate Can Dündar's real estates by declaring him a fugitive, and has his sign in the sentences issued against Selahattin Demirtaş, Canan Kaftancıoğlu, Şebnem Korur Fincancı, lawyers from the Contemporary Journalists Association (ÇHD) and Sözcü Daily writers. He has also previously resisted the Supreme Court by not implementing the right violation decision.
- Republican People's Party (CHP) Istanbul Provincial Chair Canan Kaftancıoğlu, whose prison sentence was upheld by the Supreme Court of Appeals for her social media posts, was sent to Silivri Prison for the execution of her sentence. Kaftancıoğlu was released under probation after the procedures in Silivri Prison.

- According to the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change, which admits that Erdoğan's crazy project, Kanal Istanbul, was built in an ecologically unique and sensitive area, there is a "public interest" in the non-agricultural use of agricultural lands!



The 13th "Istanbul Gathering for Freedom of Expression", organized biennially by the Initiative for Freedom of Expression, will be held online on June 4-5.

On the first day, the theme will be the world with the participation of international guests, and on the second day, the theme will be freedom of expression violations and developments in Turkey, with the participation of rights organizations. In addition to the panels that will be broadcast live on YouTube, there will also be testimonies of the victims of violations.

You may follow the live broadcasts on YouTube from the links below:

On June 4, Saturday starting at 16:00:

***[Here](#) in Turkish,
[Here](#) in English.***

On June 5, Sunday starting at 13:00:

***[Here](#) in Turkish,
[Here](#) in English.***

[Please click here](#) for the programme of the 13th Istanbul Gathering for Freedom of Expression.



Closure Case against We Will Stop Femicides Platform starts

The trial of the closure case against the We Will Stop Femicides Platform Association has started at the Istanbul 13th Criminal Court of First Instance on the grounds of "conducting an immoral activity". The next hearing will be held on October 5.



Imprisonment sentence against journalist Uğur Dündar over ‘insulting’ Binali Yıldırım

Journalist Uğur Dündar was sentenced to 11 months and 20 days of imprisonment in the lawsuit filed against him on the charge of “insulting” Binali Yıldırım with his words, “Thank god his name if Binali [Bin: Thousand in Turkish]! It could also be Millionali!” The

sentence was commuted to a judicial fine of 10,500 TL.



Imprisonment sentence against stage actor Orhan Aydın

Stage actor Orhan Aydın was sentenced to 1 year in prison over "insulting" District Governor Cuma Atilla, who was appointed as a trustee to Diyarbakır Metropolitan Municipality in 2016, with a column he wrote. The sentence was deferred for 1 year.



Investigation against journalist Rabia Çetin

An investigation has been launched against journalist Rabia Çetin on the charge of "targeting people who took part in the fight against terrorism" for her tweet announcing that the father of Deniz Poyraz, who was killed in the attack against the Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP) İzmir Provincial Building, was prosecuted.



Investigation against journalist Berivan Altan

An investigation has been launched against Mesopotamia Agency’s Ankara correspondent Berivan Altan for her article titled "Racist attack on Kurdish family in Ankara: Women and children removed from the neighborhood". The journalist is accused of "public incitement to hatred and hostility or humiliating" because

of her news.



Case against lawyer reacting against torture concludes with acquittal

Lawyer Nevzat Ercan was acquitted in the lawsuit filed against him at Iskenderun 1st Assize Court on charges of "resistance to fail to fulfill his duty" and "abuse of office" because he opposed his client being beaten by the police in Iskenderun.



Police attack against Justice Watch

The police intervened against the relatives of the detainees, who held a Justice Watch in front of the Istanbul Courthouse for ill prisoners. Citing the ban decision of the Kağıthane District Governorate, the police battered 6 people and detained them.



RTÜK penalty against channels broadcasting Kılıçdaroğlu's statements

The Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK) imposed administrative fines from the upper limit on KRT TV, TELE1, Halk TV and Flash TV, which broadcast the statement of Republican People's Party (CHP) leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu regarding the transfer of money to America via TÜRGEV and Ensar.



TELE1 reporter detained

TELE1 reporter Engin Açar, who wanted to report on the destruction in Hagia Sophia, was detained. It was stated that the police, who prevented Açar and detained him on the grounds that he was recording the incident with a mobile phone, did not intervene against the tourists who were recording the incident.



Police intervention against protest by EnerjiSA workers

The police intervened in the statement that EnerjiSA workers wanted to make in front of Sabancı Holding in Istanbul, following their unlawful dismissal. More than 30 workers, including trade union members, were detained.



Dicle Fırat Journalists Association Co-Chair Dicle Müftüoğlu detained

Dicle Fırat Journalists Association Co-Chair and Mesopotamia Agency Editor Dicle Müftüoğlu was detained as part of an investigation conducted by the Van Chief Public Prosecutor's Office.



Lawsuit against interview

The first hearing of the lawsuit filed against the father of Deniz Poyraz, who was killed in the attack against the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) İzmir Provincial Building, was held at the İzmir 15th Assize Court due to the interview he gave to the Mesopotamia Agency. The trial of father Poyraz, who was charged

with "making propaganda for a terrorist organization", will continue on June 23.



Police attack against "Gezi" commemoration in Istanbul

The police responded with tear gas to the citizens who gathered at the call of Taksim Solidarity on the ninth anniversary of the Gezi Park protests. Many journalists who followed the commemoration were attacked and 6

journalists were detained. In the statement made by the Governorate, it was announced that 170 people were detained.



Police attack against commemoration for Ethem Sarısülük

The commemoration for Ethem Sarısülük, who was shot with a police bullet during the Gezi Park protests in Ankara, was prevented by the police. Attacking those who wanted to leave carnations in the area where Sarısülük was

shot, the police battered 46 people and detained them.



Canan Kaftancıoğlu acquitted

The first hearing of the lawsuit filed against Republican People's Party (CHP) Istanbul Provincial Chair Canan Kaftancıoğlu on charges of "insulting the President" based on her social media post in which she shared the "SaBıKa Holding leaflet" published by her

party, was held at the Istanbul 35th Criminal Court of First Instance. Kaftancıoğlu was acquitted of all charges.



Students participating in Revolution March at METU detained

16 people, who participated in the "Revolution March" traditionally organized as part of the spring festival at the Middle East Technical University (METU), were detained. Students who were detained in house raids in Ankara in the morning were charged with "making propaganda for a terrorist organization" with the slogans they chanted during the march.



Protest bans continue in Van

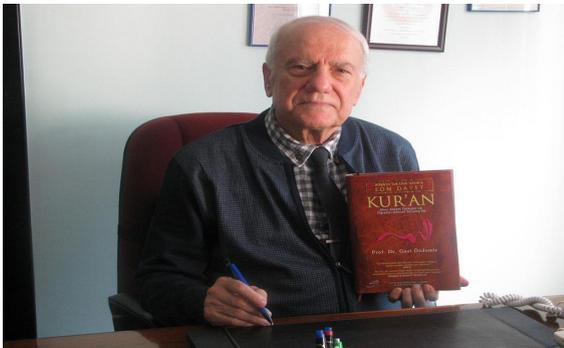
The Van Governorate continues the protest and demonstration bans that it put into effect in 2016 under the State of Emergency. The Governorate extended the ban decree it had previously declared on the pretext of "providing national security" and banned demonstration marches and open-air meetings

for another 15 days. In addition, all kinds of activities such as press statements and distribution of leaflets were also bound to permission of the civil administration.



Journalist Derya Okatan acquitted

Journalist Derya Okatan, who was charged with "public insult" at the Istanbul 30th Criminal Court of First Instance due to the news, titled, "Mersin Women's Platform: We are exposing the abusive lawyer Onur Kale", which was published in 2016 when she was the Editor-in-Chief of Etkin News Agency (ETHA), was acquitted.



Religious Affairs Presidency bans Quran interpretation

Having carried out important studies in the field of neurology and having written works in the field's research - examination, Prof. Dr. Gazi Özdemir's book titled "The Last Invitation to Allah's Only Religion Islam - The Quran with its Fluent Interpretation in Turkish and Instructional Current Interpretations" was confiscated by the Istanbul 5th Criminal Court

of Peace upon the request of the Presidency of Religious Affairs.



Police prevention against press statement by HDP MP

After visiting Van Çaldıran State Hospital, Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) MP Muazzez Orhan wanted to make a press statement in front of the hospital about the health problems experienced. The police prevented the statement of Orhan, citing the Governorate ban on protests and demonstrations



Journalist Zelal Tunç convicted due to news reporting

The first hearing of the lawsuit filed against JinNews' Van reporter Zelal Tunç upon the complaint of the then Muradiye Municipality trustee Erkan Savar was held at the Muradiye Criminal Court of First Instance. The journalist, who was charged with "insulting a public official" due to her news, titled, "Muradiye

Waterfall, which was given away for 4 million 500 thousand TL, was abandoned to its fate" published on May 13, 2019, was sentenced to 8 months and 22 days in prison. The court deferred the announcement of the verdict.



Citizen acquitted of "insulting Erdoğan"

The citizen accused of "insulting the President" was acquitted for protesting President Erdoğan's use of the phrase "white meat" for animals that died in the fire after the forest fires in 2021, by carrying a sign reading "white meat without you". Çanakkale 1st Criminal Court of First Instance issued a verdict of acquittal by stating that the banner carried "does not reach

the level of insult, does not exceed the limits of criticism and freedom of expression, is not a hurtful, humiliating expression and does not harm the dignity of the participant in the society".



ECtHR rules violation in arrest of Amnesty International's Honorary President Taner Kılıç

The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) ruled that the arrest of Amnesty International Honorary President Taner Kılıç between 2017 and 2018 was a violation of freedom and security rights as well as a violation of freedom

of expression. Kılıç has been sentenced to 6 years and 3 months in prison by the Istanbul 35th Assize Court in 2020.



Tatvan District Governorate cancels Kurdish theater play

The Kurdish theater play “Hay Lo Dîsa Tevlihev Bû” (“Alas! Confused again”), to be staged by the Theater Mencil in the Tatvan district of Bitlis, was canceled by the Tatvan District Governorate. Perinaz Delazy, one of the actors in the play, which was canceled by

the District Governor due to "technical issues", said that "there were no technical issues on the day the play was banned, other programs were held".



Police intervention against MPs hanging “Gezi Park” banner on bridge

On the anniversary of the Gezi Park protests, the police intervened in the Turkish Workers' Party (TIP) MPs who wanted to hang a banner reading "Everywhere Is Taksim, Everywhere Is Resistance" on the Bosphorus Bridge. The Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor's Office

launched an investigation against 5 people, including 3 MPs, and Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu said that he would reward the police officers who batter the MPs.



Security guards prevent women from practicing yoga at park

Women practicing yoga in a park in Eskişehir were intervened by the security guards, citing the complaints of some citizens to CIMER. In the statement made on the social media account of the Turkish World Foundation, which built the park, it was stated that collective events are subject to prior permission, and it was said, "*In*

line with the complaints from our visitors, prior permission must be obtained for collective events in the park." The statement of the Turkish World Foundation on the subject was shared on the social media account of the Eskişehir Governorate.



TIHV launches 2021 Treatment and Rehabilitation Centers Report

The Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TIHV) “Report on Treatment and Rehabilitation Centers for 2021” has been published. According to the report, 616 of 984 people who applied to the foundation last year because they or a relative had been tortured or

subjected to other ill-treatment reported that they had been tortured during the year. It was pointed out that this number is the highest number of torture applications filed in the year since the founding of the TIHV. In addition, after Turkey's withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention, an increase in violations against women was detected.



Access blocks

The news of the Freedom of Expression Association, which announced the access block brought in October against news about bribery allegations against Istanbul Police Chief Zafer Aktaş and many police chiefs, was blocked from access with a decree issued by the Bakırköy 3rd Criminal Judicature of Peace.

Some news regarding the allegations that Özgür Taşdemir, former Director of the Intelligence Branch of the Istanbul Police Department, received a bribe from Çalık Real Estate's Executive Board Chairman, were blocked from access with a decree by the Access Providers Union on the grounds that they were of similar content to the news that was blocked from access in 2020 with a decree issued by the Bakırköy 1st Criminal Judicature of Peace.



Police operation against HDK, HDP and GÖÇİZDER

As part of the investigation carried out by the Tekirdağ Chief Public Prosecutor's Office, many houses in 10 provinces and the Headquarters of the Peoples' Democratic Congress (HDK) in Istanbul's Beyoğlu district were raided. Within the scope of another investigation carried out by the Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor's Office, police operations

were carried out in 5 provinces. The building of the Migration Monitoring Association (GÖÇİZDER) in Şirinevler, Istanbul was also raided by the police. It was learned that 70 people, including Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) and Migration Monitoring Association (GÖÇİZDER) executives, were detained within the scope of both investigations.



Protest ban in Hakkari

Hakkari Governorate continues to ban protests. All kinds of protests and demonstrations other than those that the civil administration "deems appropriate" (!) were banned throughout the province until June 17 on the grounds of "national security and public order".



TRIALS OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

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| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Ramazan Ölçen Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against previously shut-down Azadiya Welat Daily owner Ramazan Ölçen on the charge of “terrorist organisation membership” with an imprisonment claim for up to 15 years...</p> <p>Court: Diyarbakır 11th Assize Court Verdict: The court decided to wait for the execution of the warrant issued against Ölçen and adjourned the hearing for October 26.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Velat Öztekin Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist Velat Öztekin on the charge of “insulting the President” with two cartoons he shared on social media, one of which belonged to cartoonist Carlos Latuff...</p> <p>Court: Diyarbakır 7th Criminal Court of First Instance Verdict: The court decided to wait for a reply to the forced summoning of Öztekin for his testimony and adjourned the hearing to November 8.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Can Dündar Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist Can Dündar on the charge of “publishing or distributing terrorist organisation statements” due to participating in the Substitute Editing-In-Chief campaign for Özgür Gündem Daily...</p> <p>Court: İstanbul 22nd Assize Court Verdict: The court decided to wait for the execution of the warrant issued against Dündar and adjourned the hearing for October 13.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>İsmail Saymaz Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist İsmail Saymaz on the charge of “insult” through an article he wrote about the abuse in a sect...</p> <p>Court: İstanbul 35th Assize Court Verdict: The next hearing was scheduled for June 15.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Case Against Boğaziçi Protests</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against 97 students, who were detained during the protests organized on February 1, 2021 against the trustee rectors appointed to Boğaziçi University, on the charge of “violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations”...</p> <p>Court: İstanbul 32nd Criminal Court of First Instance Verdict: The next hearing was scheduled for December 21.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Case Against Boğaziçi Protests</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against 7 students on the charge of “public incitement to resentment and enmity” due to the Qaaba visual and LGBTQI+ flags taking place in an exhibition organized within the protests against Boğaziçi University’s appointed rector Melih Bulu...</p> <p>Court: İstanbul 21st Criminal Court of First Instance Verdict: The next hearing was scheduled for September 28.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Charlie Hebdo Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo’s Editor-In-Chief, Managing Editor and cartoonist on the charge of “insulting Erdoğan” with the magazine’s</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Ekrem İmamoğlu Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu on the charge of “insulting” Higher Electoral Council (YSK) Chairman and members of the time with</p> |

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| <p>October 28, 2020 issue, which depicted a cartoon of President Erdoğan...</p> <p>Court: Ankara 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance</p> <p>Verdict: The court decided to wait for a reply to the letter of rogatory written to the Ministry of Justice, adjourning the hearing to December 1.</p> | <p>the press statement he held after the cancellation of the March 31 local elections, which he won...</p> <p>Court: İstanbul Anatolian 7th Criminal Court of First Instance</p> <p>Verdict: The request of recusation made by İmamoğlu's lawyers was denied. The hearing was adjourned to September 21.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Hayko Bağdat Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist Hayko Bağdat on charges of "insulting the President" and "public incitement to resentment and hostility" with his social media posts...</p> <p>Court: Istanbul 50th Criminal Court of First Instance</p> <p>Verdict: The next hearing was scheduled for December 7.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Hayko Bağdat Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist Hayko Bağdat on the charge of "making propaganda for a terrorist organisation" through his social media posts...</p> <p>Court: İstanbul 28th Assize Court</p> <p>Verdict: The court decided for the warrant issued against the journalist, who resides abroad, to continue and adjourned the hearing to September 22.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>ÇHD Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against 22 lawyers, 4 of whom are arrested including Contemporary Lawyers Association (ÇHD) Chairman Selçuk Kozağaçlı, on the charge of "terrorist organisation membership or managing a terrorist organisation"...</p> <p>Court: İstanbul 18th Assize Court</p> <p>Verdict: The release claims of lawyers of those arrested were denied. The hearing was adjourned to September 7.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>İdris Yayla Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against 28 people, including JiyenNews Owner İdris Yayla, who were following the press statement organized in 2016 in Batman against the trustee operations, on the charge of "violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations"...</p> <p>Court: Batman 1st Criminal Court of First Instance</p> <p>Verdict: The next hearing was scheduled for October 4.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>ETHA Reporters Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against 23 people, including Etkin News Agency (ETHA) reporters İsmi naz Temel and Havva Cuştan, Law Bureau of the Oppressed (EHB) lawyers Sezin Uçar and Özlem Gümüştaş as well as members of the Socialist Party of the Oppressed (ESP), on charges of "armed terrorist organisation membership" and "making propaganda for a terrorist organisation"...</p> <p>Court: İstanbul 27th Assize Court</p> <p>Verdict: The next hearing was scheduled for November 8.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Engin Eren Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist Engin Eren and 75 others, who were following the "human shield protest" organized in the rural area of Sason district of Batman in 2015 on charges of "terrorist organisation membership," "aiding a terrorist organisation," "participating in illegal meetings or demonstrations," "violating the Military Forbidden Zones and Security Zones," "use of force or threat with the purpose of preventing duty of public official"...</p> <p>Court: Batman 2nd Assize Court</p> <p>Verdict: The next hearing was scheduled for October 14.</p> |

HEARINGS NEXT WEEK

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| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Cihan Ölmez Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist Cihan Ölmez on the charge of “making propaganda for a terrorist organization” for sharing the speeches he gave to various press institutions on social media, as he was there in the province during the curfew in Cizre in 2015...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">June 7, Tuesday at Diyarbakır 5th Assize Court</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Case Against News on Tender</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against Cumhuriyet Daily executives Serkan Ozan, Olcay Büyüktaş Akça, Ozan Yurtoğlu and reporter Hazal Ocak on the charge of “insult” due to the news stories published in the newspaper with the headlines, “Bilal Erdoğan’s lucky friend” and “tender-rich friend”...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">June 7, Tuesday at Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Case Against CHP Assembly members</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against Republican People’s Party (CHP) Assembly members on the charge of “insulting the President” with a notice launched by the CHP Party Assembly in 2016...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">June 8, Wednesday at Ankara 12th Assize Court</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Erdal Bayrakoğlu Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against musician Erdal Bayrakoğlu on the charge of “making propaganda for a terrorist organisation” through his social media posts...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">June 8, Wednesday at Ankara 25th Assize Court</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Case Against Trustee Protest</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against 38 people, including journalists Taylan Öztaş and Tunahan Turhan, on the charge of “violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations” due to protesting the trustees appointed to municipalities...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">June 9, Thursday at Istanbul 23rd Criminal Court of First Instance</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Case Against Villagers Resisting Plants</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against 15 women, who resisted against the geothermal plants to be built in the agricultural lands in Kızılcaköy district of Aydın, on charges of “preventing duty” and “resisting the law enforcement”...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">June 9, Thursday at Aydın 1st Criminal Court of First Instance</p> |

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