

Think, think...



Freedom of Expression Weekly Newsletter (Issue 5/24, February 26, 2024)

What happened last week?

- Two people carried out an armed attack on the Santa Maria Church in Sarıyer, Istanbul during Sunday mass. The attack, which was claimed by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Syria (ISIS), killed a member of the congregation.
- Turkish Workers' Party (TİP) Hatay MP Can Atalay, who is currently under arrest in connection with the Gezi Park Case, has been stripped of his parliamentary seat. [The conviction of Atalay, who has not been released despite the](#) Constitutional Court's ruling, was read out in the plenary session by AKP deputy Bekir Bozdağ on the grounds that Parliament Speaker Numan Kurtulmuş was on a trip abroad.
- Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) Chairman Devlet Bahçeli said "Justice has been served" in his assessment of Can Atalay's parliamentary seat being revoked, [targeting](#) "reaction protests" and threatening that such protests would have a heavy price.
- Turkish Medical Association (TTB) President Şebnem Korur Fincancı's prison sentence of 2 years, 8 months and 15 days for "making propaganda for an armed terrorist organization" was [upheld](#) by the Court of Appeal.
- Turkey ranked 115th among 180 countries in the "[Corruption Perception Index](#)", which Transparency International began publishing in 1995. Turkey was ranked 101st last year.



Reporter who filed a complaint against the police officers was detained again

Mezopotamya News Agency Adıyaman reporter Mahmut Altıntaş was detained on his way to follow a news report. The journalist was referred to the prosecutor's office on the allegation of making propaganda for an illegal organization and was beaten when he objected to the police

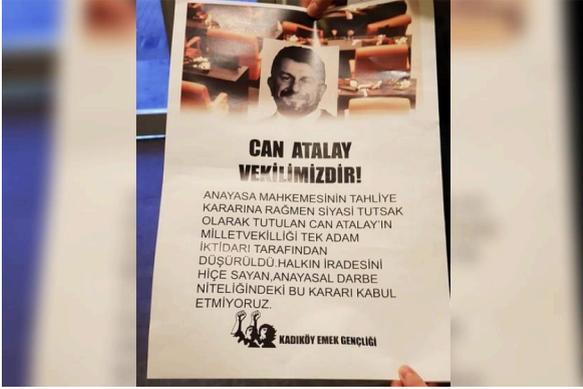
officers bending his head. Altıntaş was released from the prosecutor's office with a request for "judicial control" but was detained again at the police station where he went to file a complaint against the police officers. This time the journalist was released by the Criminal

Court of Peace on charges of "resisting the police", while no action was taken against the torturing police officers.



10 activists detained

The 10 people who were detained during the press statement organized by the Initiative for Solidarity with Prisoners in Kadıköy, Istanbul with the agenda "Shut down S and Y type prisons" were released after interrogation at the prosecutor's office.



Two people detained for hanging Atalay poster

Two people were detained while hanging posters in Istanbul to protest the parliamentary impeachment of TİP Hatay MP Can Atalay.



Journalist Ahmet Kanbal acquitted

Journalist Ahmet Kanbal was acquitted of "making illegal organization propaganda" at Mardin 2nd Assize Court.



Former executives of Diyarbakır Bar Association acquitted

The former president of the Diyarbakır Bar Association and 10 lawyers who were

accused of "denigrating the state" (Article 301 of the Turkish Penal Code) due to the statement made by the Diyarbakır Bar Association in 2020 on the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide on April 24, 2020 were acquitted in the case they were tried at Diyarbakır 9th High Criminal Court.



Verdict announced in Demokratik Modernite Magazine case

Istanbul 30th High Criminal Court announced its verdict in the case against Ramazan Yurttapan, Managing Editor of the magazine, Pakrat Estukyan, Armenian pages editor of Agos newspaper, lawyer Emran Emekçi, Mehmet Nimet Sevim and Cihan Doğan, who were charged with "making propaganda for a terrorist organization"

based on the articles in the 36th issue of the quarterly thought and theory magazine Demokratik Modernite. The court sentenced Ramazan Yurttapan to 1 year and 21 months in prison and separated the cases of Mehmet Nimet Sevim and Cihan Doğan, for whom there was an arrest warrant. Pakrat Estukyan and Emran Emekçi were acquitted.



Journalist Süleyman Gençel arrested

A3 News Editor-in-Chief Süleyman Gençel was arrested as part of a lawsuit filed upon the complaint of Dokuz Eylül University Rector Nükhet Hotar. Gençel was attacked in Izmir in 2013. It was alleged that Hotar, who was the AKP deputy chairman at the time, had instigated the attack.



TRIALS OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>İlyas Salman Trial</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against the artist due to "insult" for calling President Erdoğan a "cheap man"...</p> <p>Court: Istanbul Anatolian 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance</p> <p>Hearing outcome: The court decided to send the file to the Heavy Penal Court on duty for the evaluation of the judge's recusal request and adjourned the hearing to May 14.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>18 journalists on trial</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against 18 journalists on charges of "being a member of an illegal organization" and demanding up to 15 years in prison for their news reports.</p> <p>Court: Diyarbakır 4th High Criminal Court</p> <p>Hearing outcome: The court lifted the signature requirement for 3 defendants under judicial control. However, it decided to maintain their ban on leaving the country. The trial will continue on May 9th.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Journalist Dilan Esen Trial</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist Dilan Esen due to "insulting a public official" upon the complaint of Minister of Culture and Tourism Mehmet Nuri Ersoy.</p> <p>Court: Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance</p> <p>Hearing outcome: The trial will continue on March 26.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>KCK Press Trial</u></p> <p>The KCK Press Trial, in which 46 journalists and media workers have been on trial since 2012 on charges of "illegal organization membership" based on their journalistic activities such as interviews they conducted, photographs they took, press releases they followed, news notes, etc...</p> <p>Court: Istanbul 3rd High Criminal Court</p> <p>Hearing outcome: The trial will continue on April 25.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Ankara Pride March Trial</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against 42 people who were beaten and detained during the Pride March organized in Ankara in July last year due to "violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations No. 2911"...</p> <p>Court: Ankara 52nd Criminal Court of First Instance</p> <p>Hearing outcome: The court adjourned the case to May 8 for the re-preparation of the expert report, which the court deemed inadequate.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Women's University Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against 8 women who were detained during the "Women's University" demonstration in Ankara in 2021, on charges of "Violation of the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations No. 2911".</p> <p>Court: Ankara 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance</p> <p>Hearing outcome: The trial will continue on June 27.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>The Case Against May 1st</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against 15 people who were detained as a result of the police intervention against those who wanted to march to Taksim Square in Istanbul for May 1st Labor Day....</p> <p>Court: Istanbul 29th Criminal Court of First Instance</p> <p>Hearing outcome: The court ordered the police officers to be brought to the court by force and adjourned the next hearing to May 9.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Lawsuit Against Yeni Yaşam Newspaper</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against Yeni Yaşam newspaper Editor-in-Chief Mehmet Ferhat Çelik and Managing Editor Osman Akın on charges of "insult" and "slander" due to the news articles titled "Sedat Peker'den disclosures", "Peker published bribery documents" and "Albayraks are also involved" published on the bribery and corruption allegations that came to the agenda with the revelations of mafia leader Sedat Peker...</p> <p>Court: Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance</p> <p>Hearing outcome: The trial will continue on May 14.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Cinema Collective Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against 8 people who were detained after Cinema Collective was prevented from screening the LGBTI+ Pride Month film at BEKSAV in Kadıköy.</p> <p>Court: Istanbul Anatolian 45th Criminal Court of First Instance</p> <p>Hearing outcome: The next hearing will be held on April 18, when the prosecutor will present his final opinion.</p>	

HEARINGS NEXT WEEK

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Journalist Fırat Bulut Trial</u></p> <p>On February 6, the lawsuit filed against journalist Fırat Bulut due to "publicly disseminating misleading information" for his social media posts about the earthquakes.</p> <p>Tuesday, February 6; Elbistan 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Hayko Baghdad Trial</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist Hayko Baghdad due to "making illegal organization propaganda".</p> <p>Tuesday, February 6; Istanbul 28th High Criminal Court</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Mehmet Shah Oruc Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist Mehmet Şah Oruç, who was detained and arrested on April 25 as part of an investigation conducted by the Diyarbakır Chief Public Prosecutor's Office, due to "membership in an illegal organization".</p> <p>Tuesday, February 6; Bitlis 2nd High Criminal Court</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Ferhat Tunç Trial</p> <p>The 2017 trial of artist Ferhat Tunç, who was charged with "inciting the public to hatred and hostility" due to his social media posts criticizing the referendum...</p> <p>Wednesday, February 7; Istanbul Büyükçekmece 4th Criminal Court of First Instance</p>

<p><u>Insult Case Against HSK Member</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist Barış Pehlivan and former Cumhuriyet Editorial Coordinator Mustafa Büyüksipahi due to "insulting a public official" through their news reports on Hamit Kocabey, a member of the High Council of Judges and Prosecutors.</p> <p>Wednesday, February 7; Ankara 19th Criminal Court of First Instance</p>	<p><u>Pınar Gayıp & Mehmet Acettin Case</u></p> <p>Lawyer Sezgin Keleş filed a criminal complaint against ETHA news agency for "making propaganda for a terrorist organization under the guise of journalism" about news articles published by the news agency but not about him.</p> <p>Thursday, February 8; Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance</p>
<p><u>Sedef Kabaş Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist Sedef Kabaş, accused of 'insulting the President' due to her criticism of the vaccination policy during the pandemic and 25 tweets between 2016-2021, including the question "Where is the 128 billion dollars?"...</p> <p>Thursday, February 8; Istanbul Anadolu 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance</p>	<p><u>Önder Algedik Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against energy expert Önder Algedik due to "opposing the law on disinformation" (TCK 217/A) through his posts on the activities of the Ministry of Interior Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency after the February 6 earthquakes.</p> <p>Thursday, February 8; Ankara 24th Criminal Court of First Instance</p>

**All news of the week is available at dusun-think.net;
You can also access the pdf format of the bulletin at dusun-think.net/bultenler.**