

Think, think...



Freedom of Expression Weekly Newsletter (Issue 10/24, March 8, 2024)

What happened last week?

- The 160-page dissenting opinion of Judge Ayhan Altun, a member of the 1st Criminal Chamber of the Ankara Regional Court of Appeals, who wrote a dissenting opinion in the case in which the defendants, including Mehmet Ađar, retired Lieutenant Colonel Korkut Eken and former Special Operations Branch Director İbrahim řahin, were tried and acquitted for "unsolved murders" committed between 1993 and 1996, was approved by the Court of Appeals. In his dissenting opinion, Altun stated that it was clear that Eken and řahin were the executives of the structure that committed the murders.
- Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights Dunja Mijatovic [released](#) her 14-page report on Turkey. In her report, the Commissioner pointed out that freedom of expression and freedom of the press have declined alarmingly in Turkey and that 90 percent of the media is controlled by the government, which hinders democratic debate.
- [Free Web Turkey](#) published its February internet access blocking report. According to the report, at least 866 URLs including news, social media posts and domain names were blocked in February. The most prominent blocked URLs were posts alleging corruption and irregularities against public officials and people close to the AKP.
- According to the "[Male Violence Tally Sheet](#)" published by Bianet, at least 37 women and 3 children were killed by men across Turkey in February.
- The trial of 11 instigators and public officials, who were sentenced in the case regarding the murder of Agos Newspaper Editor-in-Chief Hrant Dink, on charges of "violating the Constitution" and "FETÖ membership" will continue on May 29.
- The trial on the killing of Diyarbakır Bar Association President Tahir Elçi continued. The court adjourned the trial to June 12 for the prosecution to present its final opinion on the case.



Administrative fine for Güney Akgün

Conscientious objector Güney Akgün was sentenced to 2 months imprisonment twice by Ankara 3rd Criminal Judgeship of Peace on the grounds of being a draft evader. The sentence was reduced to 1 month and 20 days

and converted to a judicial fine of 1,000 TL twice in total.



Documentary filmmaker Sibel Tekin acquitted

Documentary filmmaker Sibel Tekin, who was reported and arrested while filming for her documentary "Life Beginning in Darkness" about the permanent daylight saving time, was acquitted of "illegal organization membership" charges at Ankara

26th High Criminal Court.



Verdict in Gerçek Gündem trial

The verdict was announced in the trial of Faruk Eren, former Managing Editor and Furkan Karabay, former editor-in-chief of the online news website Gerçek Gündem, on charges of "targeting people who took part in the fight against terrorism" upon the complaint of İrfan Fidan, a member of the Constitutional Court, at Ankara 4th High

Criminal Court; the journalists were acquitted.



Intervention against Palestine demonstration

The press statement of the Thousand Youth for Palestine initiative in front of the headquarters of LİMAK Holding Ankara to protest the ongoing trade relations with Israel was prevented by the police; one person was detained.



Intervention against March 8 protest at Beyazıt campus

The police intervened the students who wanted to make a statement at Istanbul University Beyazıt campus for the International Women's Day celebrations on the grounds that the banner they were carrying

contained the word "LGBTIQ"; many students were detained.



on March 10, 2023.

Investigation into Red Crescent news

As a result of the Kızılay's criminal complaint, Istanbul Anatolian Chief Public Prosecutor's Office launched an investigation against BirGün newspaper reporter İsmail Arı for "publicly disseminating misleading information". The news article "Kızılay rushed to Menzile" was published in BirGün



Access ban on news about child abuse

News reports on the violence and sexual abuse of 10 students staying in a dormitory belonging to the Süleymancılar community in Alanya were banned from access by the Antalya 1st Criminal Judgeship of Peace.



Number of defendants in journalists' trial rises to 20

The number of defendants in the trial of 18 journalists, 15 of whom were arrested during an operation in Diyarbakır in June 2022, on charges of "membership in an illegal organization" was increased to 20 with the addition of Ari Production owner Berivan

Karatorak and cameraman Servet Yiğen. In the indictment prepared against Karatorak and Yiğen, "association membership" and "get well soon visit" were charged.



TRIALS OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

<p><u>Case Against Bosphorus Protests</u></p> <p>The trial of the case against 13 people who were detained during the protest in Ankara on January 8, 2021, about the appointment of a trustee rector to Boğaziçi University, on the charge of "violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations No 2911"...</p> <p>Court: Ankara 74th Criminal Court of First Instance Hearing outcome: The trial will continue on May 28.</p>	<p><u>Gökhan Yavuzel Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against writer Gökhan Yavuzel, who was charged with "insulting the President" for his post about Deniz Poyraz, who was murdered in the attack on HDP building...</p> <p>Court: Şanlıurfa 4th Criminal Court of First Instance Hearing outcome: The trial will continue on October 31.</p>
<p><u>Lawsuit Against Elvan Family</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against the mother and father of 16-year-old Berkin Elvan, who lost his life with a gas canister fired by the police during the Gezi Park protests, due to "insulting the President" because of the statements they made in front of the courthouse following the lawsuit filed against them...</p> <p>Court: Istanbul 43rd Criminal Court of First Instance Hearing outcome: The trial will continue on September 10.</p>	<p><u>Ferhat Tunç Trial</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against Ferhat Tunç due to "membership in an illegal organization" and "making illegal organization propaganda"...</p> <p>Court: Diyarbakır 5th Assize Court Hearing outcome: The trial will continue on June 25.</p>
<p><u>Lawsuit Against Journalists for Reporting the Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalists İzel Sezer and Batuhan Batan due to "insult" accusation due to the news published on the website İleri Haber about President Erdoğan's former lawyer Mustafa Doğan İnal, who allegedly negotiated bribes, and the lawsuit filed against journalists İzel Sezer and Batuhan Batan due to the same accusation...</p> <p>Court: Istanbul 25th Criminal Court of First Instance Hearing outcome: The trial will continue on June 13.</p>	<p><u>Hakki Boltan Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist Hakkı Boltan, who was charged with "insulting the President" and "insulting a public officer for his duty" for a statement he made in 2016 about journalist Rohat Aktaş, who was killed during the curfew period...</p> <p>Court: Diyarbakır 12th Criminal Court of First Instance Hearing outcome: The trial will continue on July 11.</p>

HEARINGS NEXT WEEK

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Abdurrahman Gök Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against Mezopotamya Agency editor Abdurrahman Gök, who was charged with "illegal organization membership" and "propaganda" based on his phone calls with news sources, social media posts and news reports...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday, March 12; Diyarbakır 5th High Criminal Court</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Case Against Students' Protest</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against 21 students who were detained during the protest organized in front of Dokuz Eylül University Rectorate to protest the online education practice in universities due to the earthquake...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thursday, March 14; Izmir 28th Criminal Court of First Instance</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Haydar Ergül Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against Democratic Modernity magazine editor Haydar Ergül and 18 Kurdish politicians due to "membership in a terrorist organization"...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thursday, March 14; Istanbul 22nd High Criminal Court</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.**