

1. Administrative Bans, Police Interventions

- 01: Istanbul** The press statement organised by the People’s Democratic Party (HDP) Women’s Assembly in Bakırköy within the “Justice for Women Campaign” was prevented by the police.
- 02: Erzurum** The police raided and searched the Erzurum/Karaçoban Municipality under the People’s Democratic Party (HDP) administration early in the morning.
- 02: Hakkâri** The Governorate banned all protests and demonstrations for 15 days.
- 02: Mersin** Eight people were detained and four of them were arrested in house raids conducted in Mersin and Diyarbakır within a Mersin-based investigation conducted on March 2, 2021.
- 02: Şırnak** The Governorate banned all protests and demonstrations for 15 days.
- 03: Bursa** A high school student was detained due to his social media posts.
- 05: Istanbul** Idil Cultural Center was raided by the police, two people were detained.
- 05: Kocaeli** The police intervened against the call made by Migros workers, who were fired from work, for March 8 in front of Migros Storage Unit; detaining 14 people with physical violence.
- 05: Samsun** Y.B. was detained due to their social media posts.
- 05: Van** The Governorate banned all protests and demonstrations for 15 days.
- 06: Istanbul** LGBTQ activists participating in the rally organised in Kadıköy on March 6 within the March 8 events were taken off the taxis they took after the rally. Nine people were detained, including women reacting against the incident and journalists recording the incident.
- 07: Batman** The Governorate banned all protests and demonstrations for 15 days.
- 08: Istanbul** The press statement organised in Karaköy after the Feminist Night Walk on March 8, World Women’s Day, was not permitted. The police intervened against the group marching to participate in the press statement and detained two people.

- 10: Istanbul** 12 women were detained with house raids after participating in the March 8 Feminist Night Walk due to insulting the President through the slogans they chanted during the march.
- 10: Istanbul** Ozan Publishing House's Sultangazi office was raided by the police and five people were detained.
- 10: Istanbul** People's Democratic Party (HDP) member Mehmet Masyan was detained due to his social media posts.
- 15: Adana** Federation of Socialist Youth Associations (SGDF) Central Executive Board (MYK) member was sentenced to 13,237 TL administrative fine due to hanging a banner depicting the appointed rector at Boğaziçi University.
- 15: Istanbul** The police intervened against the Newroz celebration organised in Beylikdüzü district and confiscated lanterns; taking 2 People's Democratic Party (HDP) executives to the station for them to testify.
- 17: Ankara** The police intervened against the press statement organised to protest the Parliamentary membership of People's Democratic Party (HDP) Kocaeli MP Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu being taken off; detaining nine people.
- 17: Aydın** The Governorate did not give permission for Newroz celebrations due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 17: Hakkâri** The Governorate banned all protests and demonstrations for 15 days.
- 17: Istanbul** Journalist Enver Aysever was detained at the police station he went to within another investigation opened against him, based on a warrant issued against him within another investigation.
- 18: Urfa** Emine Şenyaşar's husband Hacı Esvet Şenyaşar and her sons Adil and Celal Şenyaşar were killed on June 14, 2018 after the quarrel between Justice and Development Party (AKP) MP candidate İbrahim Halil Yıldız, his guards and the shop owners. The justice watch Emine Şenyaşar wanted to perform in front of the courthouse was prevented by the police due to "preventing the passage of vehicles and pedestrians."
- 19: Adana** 15 people were detained during house raids due to making "illegal organisation propaganda"; four of them were arrested.
- 19: Ankara** Human Rights Association (IHD) Co-Chair Öztürk Türkdoğan as well as nine People's Democratic Party (HDP) members and executives were detained.

- 19: Iğdır** The police prevented the press statement organised by the People's Democratic Party (HDP) on the Parliament membership of Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu being taken off as well as on the closure case against the HDP. HDP MP Habip Eksik and other citizens participating in the statement were exposed to physical violence by the police.
- 19: Izmir** Five people were detained during house raids against People's Democratic Party (HDP) members in Gömeç and Edremit districts.
- 19: Istanbul** Eight people were detained during house raids against People's Democratic Party (HDP) members and executives.
- 20: Ankara** The press statement organised in order to protest Turkey's withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention was prevented by the police.
- 20: Aydın** Voice vehicle announcing a call to celebrate the Newroz was stopped in Ovaemir neighborhood of Efeler district in Aydın and was fined 339 TL.
- 20: Istanbul** The police intervened against the press statement organised in Kadıköy, using physical violence.
- 21: Adana** Seven people were detained during Newroz celebrations, including three children. One person was arrested.
- 21: Ankara** People's Democratic Party (HDP) Kocaeli MP Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu was detained at the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (GNAT) as he was continuing his justice watch after losing his seat in the Parliament.
- 21: Cizre** The police intervened against the Newroz celebrations with tear gas.
- 21: Istanbul** 11 people were detained in Newroz celebrations.
- 21: Konya** 11 people celebrating the Newroz in Gölyazı village of Cihanbeyli were detained by the gendarmerie.
- 22: Istanbul** The police intervened against the families, who wanted to hold a press statement in front of the courthouse for the release of ill prisoner Ali Osman Köse, and detained two people.
- 22: Osmaniye** The security forces prevented the Newroz celebrations due to the Governorate ban against protests and demonstrations issued within the measures against the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 23: Izmir** Five people were detained after a Newroz celebration due to chanting slogans that praised the PKK/KCK as well as due to their social media posts.

- 24: Antalya** Five people were detained in Kepez during house raids due to “making illegal organisation propaganda”.
- 24: Istanbul** Journalist Ruhi Karadağ was detained at Sabiha Gökçen Airport due to “making illegal organisation propaganda” in a book he wrote.
- 25: Istanbul** Four students, who wanted to enter Boğaziçi University campus with LGBTQ flags in order to support a student facing a disciplinary investigation due to carrying an LGBTQ flag during a press statement organised to protest the appointed rector at the university, as well as right others who gathered to boycott the North Campus were detained with violence.
- 25: Malatya** Labour Party Provincial Disciplinary Council member Hasan Bali was detained due to his social media posts and was released on the condition of judicial measures.
- 26: Gaziantep** Labour Party member Nail Ulutaş was detained due to his social media posts and was released the next day with a travel ban.
- 26: Istanbul** The police intervened against those wanting to hold a press statement in front of Çağlayan Courthouse to support detained students of Boğaziçi University, detaining 60 people using mistreatment and reverse handcuffs.
- 26: Istanbul** The police intervened against the press statement organised in front of Çağlayan Courthouse with the demand of justice for Mehmet Özdemir, who was arrested on August 18, 2020; and detained three people, including one child, using physical violence.
- 26: Nevşehir** One People’s Democratic Party (HDP) member was detained through a house raid in Avanos due to “making illegal organisation propaganda through his social media posts”.
- 27: Istanbul** The police used physical violence to attempt to prevent the entrance to the press statement organised in Kadıköy to protest Turkey’s withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention with a Presidential decree, with LGBTQ flags.
- 28: Tunceli** The Governorate banned all protests and demonstrations for 15 days.
- 28: Urfa** The Governorate banned all protests and demonstrations for 15 days.
- 29: Istanbul** The police intervened against the press statement organised by Kocaeli Migros workers, who were fired, in front of the mansion of Migros Executive Council

Chairman Tunçay Özilhan in Beykoz; and detained 17 people using physical violence.

30: Mersin 6 Mersin Women’s Platform members, who participated in the march organised to protest Turkey’s withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention, were sentenced to 21,598 TL fine in total due to not abiding by the measures taken within the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. Investigations and Prosecutions

01: Istanbul The lawsuit filed against Metin Akpınar and Müjdat Gezen at the Anatolian 8th Criminal Court of First Instance due to insulting the President through their speech on Halk TV was concluded with acquittal.

02: Diyarbakır People’s Democratic Party (HDP) Sur District Co-Chair Hatun Yıldız was sentenced to 6 years and three months of imprisonment due to “illegal organisation membership.”

02: Istanbul The lawsuit filed against journalist Fatih Portakal at Istanbul 46th Criminal Court of First Instance due to insulting the President was concluded with acquittal.

03: Hakkâri Yüksekova Co-Mayor İrfan Sarı, who was replaced with a trustee, was sentenced to 1 year and three months of imprisonment due to “making illegal organisation propaganda” and was acquitted of “illegal organisation membership”. The Regional Court approved the sentence against Sarı due to “making illegal organisation propaganda” and reversed the decree of acquittal issued due to “illegal organisation membership,” issuing 6 years and three months of imprisonment against him.

03: Istanbul In the lawsuit filed against artist Ferhat Tunç at Büyükçekmece 4th Criminal Court of First Instance due to his social media posts, the claim for the statement of Tunç to be received through rogatory from Germany was denied by Darmstadt Prosecutor’s Office due to “freedom of expression.”

04: Batman An investigation was opened against the People’s Democratic Party (HDP) Provincial Organisation with the allegation of “public incitement towards resentment and hostility” after sharing on social media the visuals of an armoured vehicle belonging to the Provincial Security Directorate entering an area with children in Bağlar Neighborhood on February 28, 2021 and the children running away to save their lives.

- 04: Gaziantep** 6th Civil Court of First Instance denied the 20-thousand-TL compensation lawsuit filed against journalist Hazal Ocak by Şahinbey Municipality.
- 04: Istanbul** The Özgür Gündem Daily Case was held at the 22nd Criminal Court of First Instance, including Hatip Dicle as a defendant. The court issued for the warrant against Dicle to remain.
- 04: Istanbul** The prosecution of the lawsuit filed against journalist Can Dünder and Özgür Gündem's Managing Editor İnan Kızılkaya due to participating in the campaign to support Özgür Gündem Daily continued at the 22nd Assize Court. The execution of the warrant against Can Dünder will be awaited.
- 05: Diyarbakır** In the lawsuit filed against TUAY-DER executive Müşerher Ülker due to "illegal organisation membership" and "violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations" through participating in the funeral of a prisoner, Zülküf Gezen, who committed suicide on March 17, 2019; Ülker was sentenced to 3 years, 1 month and 5 days of imprisonment due to "committing a crime on behalf of an illegal organisation without membership" as well as 5 months of imprisonment due to "violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations."
- 08: Ankara** In the lawsuit filed against OdaTV Ankara News Director Müyesser Yıldız, Erdal Baran and TELE1 Ankara Representative İsmail Dükel at the 26th Assize Court, Müyesser Yıldız was sentenced to 2 years and six months, Dükel was sentenced to 1 year and 15 days and Baran was sentenced to 7 years and six months of imprisonment. The sentence issued against Dükel was deferred.
- 08: Denizli** One person was detained with a house raid due to making illegal organisation propaganda on social media.
- 09: Diyarbakır** An investigation was started against 18 lawyers representing MEBYA-DER executives and members within the investigation against the association, without permission from the Ministry of Justice. A confidentiality order was issued for the investigation.
- 10: Cizre** An investigation was started against Cizre Co-Mayor Berivan Kutlu, who posted on social media for Grup Yorum member Helin Bölek after she lost her life on the 288th day of her indefinite hunger strike and then was replaced with a trustee, due to "praising the crime and the criminal".
- 10: Erzurum** The fifth hearing of the lawsuit filed against People's Democratic Party (HDP) Karayazı District Co-Chair Dinçer Polat was held at Erzurum 2nd Assize Court due to "aiding an illegal organisation." The court sentenced Polat to 3 years and 45 days of imprisonment due to "aiding an illegal organisation" and issued his release.

- 10: Istanbul** Journalist Yılmaz Özdil testified at Istanbul Press Crimes Office within the investigation opened against him due to his column, “The Threat of the Bigot.”
- 10: Muş** People’s Democratic Party (HDP) Varto Co-Mayor Ülkü Karaaslan, who was replaced with a trustee, was sentenced to 2 years and three months of imprisonment due to “successively making illegal organisation propaganda” in the lawsuit filed against her at the 2nd Assize Court due to “illegal organisation membership,” “violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations,” and “making illegal organisation propaganda.” Karaaslan was acquitted of the other charges imposed against her.
- 11: Edirne** In the lawsuit filed against Mayor Recep Gürkan due to a speech he gave on July 15, 2015; the court sentenced Gürkan to 2 months and 15 days of imprisonment due to “praising the crime and the criminal” and deferred the announcement of the verdict.
- 14: Ankara** An investigation was opened by the Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office against People’s Democratic Party (HDP) Ağrı MP and Democratic Society Congress (DTK) Co-Chair Berdan Öztürk due to “making illegal organisation propaganda”.
- 15: Diyarbakır** 11th Assize Court sentenced People’s Democratic Party (HDP) Provincial Chairman Murat Öndeş to 6 years and three months of imprisonment due to “illegal organisation membership” through his participation in protests and demonstrations organised by his party in December 2017 and May 2019.
- 16: Diyarbakır** In the lawsuit filed against previously shut-down Özgür Gün TV2s former Managing Director Barış Barıştıran, Democratic Society Congress (DTK) Co-Chairmanship Council member Hilmi Aydoğdu and the father of 16-year-old Rozerin Çukur, who was killed during the curfew in Sur, Mustafa Çukur; Barıştıran and Aydoğdu were acquitted. Çukur was sentenced to 1 year, 6 months and 22 days of imprisonment due to “making illegal organisation propaganda” and the announcement of the verdict was deferred.
- 16: Istanbul** In the lawsuit filed against Cumhuriyet Daily reporter Seyhan Avşar and Sözcü Daily’s former online Managing Editor Necdet Önemli at the 29th Assize Court, the journalists were acquitted.
- 17: Ankara** People’s Democratic Party (HDP) former Spokesperson Günay Kubilay was acquitted in the lawsuit filed against him at the 4th Assize Court.
- 17: Ankara** The Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office of the Court of Cassation applied to the Constitutional Court for the shut-down of the People’s Democratic Party (HDP).

- 17: Istanbul** sendika.org editor Ali Ergin Demirhan was sentenced to 7,000 TL judicial fine by the 24th Assize Court due to insulting the President.
- 17: Muş** 2nd Assize Court sentenced People's Democratic Party (HDP) member Bulanık Co-Mayor Adnan Topçu, who was replaced with a trustee, to 6 years, 10 months and 15 days of imprisonment due to "illegal organisation membership" and to 1 year and 3 months of imprisonment due to "making illegal organisation propaganda."
- 19: Balıkesir** Three people were detained with house raids due to making illegal organisation propaganda on social media.
- 19: Balıkesir** Seven people were detained with house raids in Bandırma district due to making PKK/KCK illegal organisation propaganda on social media.
- 19: İzmir** Deriteks İzmir Chairman was detained at Adnan Menderes Airport following the complaint of SF Trade Textile company.
- 22: Denizli** Two people were detained due to making PKK/KCK illegal organisation propaganda on social media.
- 22: Diyarbakır** An investigation was started against People's Democratic Party (HDP) Co-Chair Mithat Sancar due to the speech he gave during the Newroz celebrations on March 21, 2021.
- 22: Diyarbakır** An investigation was started on the banners, flags opened as well as the slogans chanted during the Newroz celebration organised at Newroz Park in Bağlar district on March 21, 2021.
- 26: Elazığ** 2nd Assize Court sentenced 30 people to imprisonment sentences varying between 7 years and six months as well as 8 years; in the lawsuit filed against Kurdish politicians in Silopi district of Şırnak in 2011 and was transferred to Elazığ due to security reasons. 12 people were sentenced to a total of 99 years of imprisonment and 18 people were acquitted. Cizre Co-Mayor Kutlu was sentenced to 7 years and three months of imprisonment.
- 26: Urfa** 19 people were sentenced to five months of imprisonment each due to "violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations" in the lawsuit filed against them over participating in the event organised by the Labour and Democracy Platform on October 11, 2015 to commemorate those losing their lives in the bomb attack at Ankara Train Station Square. The announcement of the verdicts was deferred.

- 30: Istanbul** Artist Nilüfer Aydan was sentenced to 11 months and 20 days of imprisonment due to insulting the President through her social media posts; the announcement of the verdict was deferred.
- 30: Mersin** In the lawsuit filed against former Press, Media, Communication and Post Labourers Union (Haber-Sen) Chairman Musa Özdemir at the 7th Assize Court, Musa Özdemir was released. The next hearing was scheduled for July 1.
- 30: Urfa** A lawsuit was filed against 29 politicians, who participated in the march organised by the People’s Democratic Party (HDP) Urfa Provincial Organisation for September 1, World Peace Day, at the central province, due to “organising, managing and participating in the activities of illegal meetings and demonstrations.”

3. Other Applications

- 02: Osmaniye** 1st Criminal Judicature of Peace issued an access ban against Mesopotamia News Agency’s website.
- 03: Ankara** 10 more summaries prepared with the demand for the Parliamentary immunities of 8 more MPs to be taken off were sent to the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (GNAT).
- 05: Istanbul** Anatolian 8th Criminal Judicature of Peace issued an access ban against three posts made from the social media accounts of the Republican People’s Party (CHP) on former Minister of Finance and Treasury Berat Albayrak as well as on the dollar reserves of the Central Bank.
- 08: Istanbul** Journalist Levent Gültekin was attacked by 25 people in front of Halk TV headquarters in Bakırköy.
- 11: Istanbul** Bakırköy 6th Criminal Judicature of Peace issued an access ban against the websites gazeteduvar and susma24.com due to the news reported on the appointment of the spouse of a Prosecutor to replace a prison doctor.
- 12: Bursa** 2nd Criminal Judicature of Peace issued an access ban against a news article on Tarımdan Haber website due to violation of personal rights.
- 12: Rize** Criminal Judicature of Peace issued an access ban against a content on ifade.org about the news on the academic facing an accusation of harassment at Recep Tayyip Erdoğan University being promoted as the department head, due to violation of personal rights.

- 16: Istanbul** Anatolian 4th Criminal Judicature of Peace issued an access ban against the news published on Haber124.com.tr regarding the Halkbank case.
- 16: Izmir** Type-F Closed Prison No.1 convict Güven Usta was not allowed to make a phone call to his family.
- 17: Ankara** Access Providers Union issued an access ban against certain news on the websites sol.org, OdaTV and Gerçek Gündem websites.
- 17: Ankara** The Parliament membership of People's Democratic Party (HDP) Kocaeli MP Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu was taken off with the finalised imprisonment sentence against him being read at the General Assembly of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (GNAT).
- 17: Balıkesir** Newspapers and magazines were not distributed in prisons; books and radios were confiscated.
- 17: Istanbul** Anatolian 8th Criminal Judicature of Peace issued an access ban against the news on the website of Evrensel Daily regarding the work accidents and the prevention of union organisation at Iskefe Leather Factory.
- 20: Istanbul** A French journalist arriving in Turkey for the Newroz celebrations in Diyarbakır was detained at Sabiha Gökçen Airport and was deported the next day due to being "inappropriate".
- 20: Izmir** Şakran Women's Closed Prison A6 Ward was raided and books were confiscated.
- 22: Tekirdağ** A large portion of the letter written by lawyer Engin Gökoğlu, who is convicted at Tekirdağ Type-T Prison No. 2, was censored. The letter was addressed to his wife.
- 23: Ankara** 7th Criminal Judicature of Peace issued an access ban against certain news articles on Hürriyet, Sabah and Yenişafak Daily websites due to violation of personal rights.
- 24: Antalya** 1st Criminal Judicature of Peace issued an access ban against a news article on Sözcü Daily's website due to violation of personal rights.
- 31: Izmir** A street musician in Konak district was beaten by the police.

4. COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TIHV - Coşkun Üsterci):

The Human Rights Action Plan was announced by the President with a flamboyant presentation on March 2, 2021. The plan predicted certain targets and activities under the titles of freedom of expression, press freedom as well as freedom of meeting and demonstration, among others. However, there was no protective or progressive attitude in the plan to resolve any issue. Considering the detainment of human rights advocates shortly after the announcement of the Action Plan, the lawsuit of closure against a political party, as well as the withdrawal from one of the most extensive international conventions to prevent domestic violence and violence against women, the Istanbul Convention - unfortunately the new Human Rights Action Plan creates no hope or excitement in us.

The second week of March started with violations and high tension, increasing as the week went by. Human rights advocate and People's Democratic Party (HDP) MP Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu's Parliament membership was taken off. This decree is a violation of freedom of expression and thought. This decree is a violation of the right to fair trial. This decree is a violation of the right to election. Afterwards, an investigation was opened against him with a summary that was prepared from nothing; and Gergerlioğlu was detained with mistreatment as he was performing his justice watch at the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (GNAT). This was imprinted on the memories as an example of a hostile and hateful attitude by the ruling power against an opposition Parliament member, more importantly, against a human rights advocate.

Immediately afterwards, the Chief Public Prosecutor's Office of the Court of Cassation filed a lawsuit at the Constitutional Court for the shutdown of the People's Democratic Party (HDP). A democratic society system predicts, before everything, that citizens are able to express their demands and opinions freely, that they can organise around joint demands and that they can actively participate in public negotiations as well as the shaping of the political sphere. In democratic regimes that are based on representation, the primary tool for the citizens' participation in politics is through political parties. Citizens are able to organise through political parties, express their political opinions and demands; intervene in issues that concern either the entire or a part of society, and participate in public negotiation and decision-making processes. I would like to specially emphasize that all these are civil and political rights that are guaranteed by the Turkish Constitution, as well as by International Conventions that Turkey is a party of. Therefore, the shutdown of the HDP means the exclusion of different parts of society, especially the Kurds, represented by this party; and all citizens having voted for the HDP being deprived of freely using their rights that are indispensable for a democratic society, such as the right to freedom of expression, freedom of meeting, organisation and the right to election.

Another incident that occurred in the same week was the detainment of Human Rights Association (IHD) Co-Chair and Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TIHV) Founders Council member Öztürk Türkdoğan with a police operation against his home early in the morning. Dear

Türkdoğan was released the same day with a travel ban as well as judicial measures against him. However, such detainment and judicial measures against someone who has been the Chairman of one of the most rooted and mass human rights organisations in Turkey for 13 years, having international reputation, who is also a lawyer; is indeed worrisome. This situation is a violation of many rights and freedoms, especially the right to organisation and freedom of expression; and it is important because it clearly reveals how impossible the act of advocacy has become and what levels of pressure human rights advocates are under.

I can find no words to say on the withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention. This decision will lead to especially women and LGBTQ+s being completely open and unprotected against violence. On the other hand, it will weaken the legal basis of the social fight that has been ongoing to prevent violence; encouraging perpetrators of violence, who are mainly men. In the end, domestic violence will be invisible, violations will not be able to be fought against and impunity will be permanent.

Access bans recently issued against social media accounts due to the protection of personal rights have further restricted freedom of expression. News on a Kirgiz journalist, who allegedly committed suicide as a result of sexual harassment by a Justice and Development Party (AKP) MP, were banned from access. Afterwards, this access ban was shared on 97 websites as well. Elazığ 1st Criminal Judicature of Peace issued another access ban on March 24, 2021 against the news and content on these 97 websites due to violation of personal rights. This is such ridiculous, unbelievable absurdity.

As I do every month, I would like to end my evaluation by mentioning the Governorate bans against protests and demonstrations through the example of Van. Van Governorate's latest 15-day ban against protests and demonstrations was between the dates March 20 and April 3, 2021 and it thus extends the continuous protest and demonstration ban in Van since November 21, 2016 - for 4 years, 4 months and 11 days in total - making up 1594 days.

Human Rights Association İzmir (IHD - Ahmet Çiçek):

Women's demonstrations are under heavy blockade and threat by the security forces in our region lately and are hardly being able to be performed. Especially the demonstrations organised after the withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention, women are surrounded by the police in three lines and are being excluded from the rest of society.

Everything that is coloured red, yellow and green; or anything else that is reminiscent of LGBTQ colours are banned and confiscated, in both women's demonstrations as well as at the entrance of the Newroz celebration areas.