

July 2021 Report

1. Administrative Bans, Police Interventions

- 01: Ankara** The press statement organised in front of the courthouse regarding the detainment of the Health and Social Services Labourers Union (SES) members and executives was prevented by the police.
- 01: Istanbul** The police intervened against women, who wanted to protest Turkey's withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention, with tear gas at Taksim Square.
- 01: Istanbul** Camera shootings organised for the internet concert of Grup Yorum were banned with a decree by Beyoğlu District Governorate.
- 01: Izmir** Women's organisations, who wanted to protest Turkey's withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention, gathered in front of Türkan Saylan Cultural Centre for a statement and a police barricade was constructed in front of them. The riot police intervened against the group with shields and tear gas. Even after the group was dispersed, the women were followed by the police for a long time.
- 02: Bursa** Journalist Irfan Aydın was detained due to insulting the President through his social media posts.
- 02: Istanbul** Musician Güvenç Dağüstün was detained at Sabiha Gökçen Airport due to his social media posts.
- 02: Van** The governorate banned all meetings and demonstrations to be organised in the province for 15 days. With this decree, the protest and demonstration ban in the province, which has been ongoing since November 21, 2016, was extended to 1699 days.
- 03: Istanbul** Students organising an event at Boğaziçi University for the sixth month of the service of the rector appointed to Boğaziçi University by the President, were taken out of the campus by the police and special security forces with physical violence due to creating a risk of "security and health."
- 03: Istanbul** 22 Religious Scholars Association and Democratic Islam Congress members were detained through house raids.
- 04: Ankara** The police intervened against those distributing leaflets on the sixth anniversary of the Suroç Massacre at Dikmen Ahmet Arif Park and detained five people with physical violence.
- 05: Ankara** The police intervened against the justice watch demonstration organised in front of Sincan Prison Campus by the People's Democratic Party (HDP) to protest the ongoing imprisonment of HDP Kocaeli MP Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu despite the violation decree of the Constitutional Court for his release.

- 05: Bursa** People's Democratic Party (HDP) Inegöl District Chairman Köksal Söylemez was detained with a house raid.
- 05: Istanbul** Nursel Tanrıverdi was detained during a sit-in protest at Bakırköy Square for her re-employment after having been dismissed with a Statutory Decree issued within the State of Emergency.
- 06: Ankara** The police blocked the way of mine workers, who were marching from Soma district of Manisa towards the Grand National Assembly of Turkey in Ankara for their compensation rights, at the entrance of Ankara.
- 07: Aydın** The Governorate banned all meetings, demonstrations, photography exhibitions and concerts across the province between July 7 and 12.
- 07: Iğdır** Four people (Yaşar Torzuk, Halil Sanan, Mehmet Kaya and Yaşar İmdat) were detained during house raids. The reason for their detainment is unknown.
- 07: Mardin** 29 people were detained during house raids in Mardin. Of those detained, two people were released on the same day after testifying at the police station. The reason for their detainment was an investigation for the period of curfew declared in Nusaybin. Of those detained, Hayat Akdaş was hospitalised and then was taken back to Mardin Security Directorate.
- 08: Mardin** Dicle Electric Distribution Inc. teams removed the transformers providing electricity to water wells in the rural neighbourhood of Anıtlı in Derik district. The gendarmerie intervened against those protesting the removal of the transformers, using tear gas and by opening fire in the air.
- 09: Istanbul** The police intervened against the group wanting to march towards Ankara after the press statement organised by the Justice for Suruç Initiative in front of the Kadıköy Municipality for the anniversary of the massacre on October 10, detaining five people.
- 09: Istanbul** A citizen, S.K., was arrested due to his social media posts regarding Sedat Peker.
- 09: Kayseri** German citizen T.Y. was detained at the airport and was released with a travel ban.
- 10: Ankara** The police stopped the cars of those participating in the commemoration organised by the Suruç Families Initiative and intervened against those in the car with tear gas, detaining 13 people.
- 10: Batman** The police prevented the press statement organised by the Peace Mothers Assembly to point out the indefinite hunger strikes that were ongoing in prisons with the demand for an end of the solitary confinement against PKK leader Abdullah Öcalan. The police further prevented the car, that was coming from Diyarbakır, to participate in the press statement and was carrying the Peace Mothers, from entering Batman as well.

- 10: Bursa** The police intervened against the protest started by Destek Automotive workers, who were fired due to their membership in trade unions, in front of the factory; beating seven people.
- 10: Istanbul** The police stopped the car of the Suruç Families Initiative, who wanted to go to the commemoration ceremony in Ankara for the anniversary of the Ankara Train Station Massacre. 13 people were beaten and detained.
- 10: Istanbul** The police intervened against the march organised by the Socialist Party of the Oppressed (ESP) and its Youth Branch (SGDF) in Beyoğlu to commemorate the Ankara Massacre, beating and detaining six people.
- 12: Istanbul** The police prevented the demonstration organised by Pegasus Airlines workers, who were fired due to their membership in trade unions, at the company's headquarters.
- 12: Istanbul** Nursel Tanrıverdi was detained during a sit-in protest at Bakırköy Square for her re-employment after having been dismissed with a Statutory Decree issued within the State of Emergency.
- 12: Muş** The Governorate banned all protests and demonstrations to be organised in the province for 15 days.
- 13: Izmir** The press statement organised by rights organisations in front of Türkan Saylan Cultural Center regarding the hunger strikes and solitary confinement in prisons, was banned. The police stated that an investigation will be opened against the press statement and did not intervene against the incident.
- 14: Istanbul** The police intervened against TAYAD members, who wanted to organise a press statement in front of the Greek Consulate in Beyoğlu for their arrested relatives in Greece to be released, detaining four people.
- 14: Şanlıurfa** Emine Şenyaşar's husband Hacı Esvet Şenyaşar and her sons Adil and Celal Şenyaşar were killed following an argument between Justice and Development Party (AKP) MP candidate İbrahim Halil Yıldız, his guards and shop owners in Suruç district. Emine Şenyaşar and her surviving son Ferit Şenyaşar were detained before the visit of People's Democratic Party (HDP) Co-Chair Pervin Buldan to their justice watch in front of the courthouse. After Buldan left the province, they were released.
- 15: Hakkari** The Governorate banned all protests and demonstrations to be organised within the province for 15 days. With this decree, the protest ban, which has been ongoing since June 5, 2020, was extended to 420 days without break.
- 16: Siirt** The Governorate issued a protest and demonstration ban across the province for 15 days.
- 16: Tunceli** The Governorate issued a protest and demonstration ban across the province for 30 days.

- 18: Adana** The police intervened against the event organised in Seyhan district to commemorate 33 people, who have been deceased in the bomb attack in Suruç district of Urfa. 19 people were detained.
- 18: Istanbul** Musician Hazan Arhat was detained due to singing in Kurdish during a wedding in Beykoz.
- 19: Mersin** Republican People's Party (CHP) Mezitli District Chairman Ahmet Serkan Tuncer was detained with the allegation of "insulting the President" within an investigation opened against him during a road check.
- 20: Ankara** The police intervened against the Suruç Massacre in Güvenpark, detaining 23 people.
- 20: Istanbul** The commemoration organised in Kadıköy district for the anniversary of the Suruç Massacre was intervened against by the police with rubber bullets. 62 people, including five children, were beaten and detained. Journalists were prevented from recording visuals and the police either broke or confiscated cameras and cell phones.
- 20: Izmir** The police intervened against the commemoration organised in Karşıyaka on the Suruç massacre with tear gas used from a close range as well as by beating the participants. Eight people were detained with reverse handcuffs. Journalists and other citizens were prevented from recording visuals and beaten.
- 27: Adıyaman** Democratic Regions Party (DBP) former Adıyaman Provincial Chairman Yusuf Bağırıcı and teacher Erdal Çitrik, who was dismissed from profession with a Statutory Decree, were detained. The reason for their detainment is unknown.
- 30: Ankara** The police intervened against the press statement organised in Çankaya district in front of the municipality building to protest the racist attack, in which seven Dedeoğulları family members were murdered in Hasanköy neighbourhood of Meram district in Konya. The police based its intervention on the slogans chanted during the protest, using tear gas.
- 30: Hakkari** The Governorate banned all protests and demonstrations to be organised across the province for 15 days. With this decree, the protest ban, which has been ongoing in the province since June 5, 2020, reached 435 days without break.
- 30: Istanbul** After the group gathered for the demonstration organised to protest the racist attack, in which seven Kurdish Dedeoğulları family members were murdered in Hasanköy neighbourhood of Meram district in Konya, by the People's Democratic Party (HDP) in Şişhane district, was dispersed, they were attacked by a racist group in Kasımpaşa district. Many people, including journalists, were injured. Six people, including two journalists, were detained.
- 30: Van** The police intervened against the demonstration organised to protest the racist attack, in which seven Dedeoğulları family members were murdered in Hasanköy neighbourhood of Meram district in Konya. Three people were detained. During the intervention, Mesut Bor's shoulder was dislocated.

- 30: Van** The Governorate banned all protests and demonstrations to be organised across the province for 15 days. With this decree, the protest ban, which has been ongoing in the province since November 21, 2016, reached 1729 days without break.
- 31: Istanbul** The police intervened against the march started by Dilbent Türker, who was dismissed from the Sinbo factory due to trade union membership, towards Ankara. Türker and Metal Workers Union representative Onur Eyidoğan were detained.
- 31: Mardin** The police intervened against the demonstration organised to protest the racist attack in Konya, detaining three people.

2. Investigations and Prosecutions

01: Ankara In the individual application of the People’s Democratic Party (HDP) Kocaeli MP Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu, who was arrested on April 2, 2021 and was sentenced to 2 years and six months of imprisonment, the Constitutional Court decided that his “right to election and political activity” and the “right to personal freedom and security” were violated.

01: Istanbul The lawsuit filed against 22 people with the allegation of “resisting the police” regarding the Özgür Gündem raid on August 16, 2016 was held at the 5th Criminal Court of First Instance. The next hearing was scheduled for November 23.

02: Adana In the first hearing of the lawsuit filed against lawyer Özgür Yakut, who was arrested on April 23 due to illegal organisation membership, the 11th Assize Court released Yakut on the condition of judicial measures. The next hearing was scheduled for October 28.

02: Diyarbakır The prosecution of the Socialist Party of the Oppressed (ESP) Deputy Co-Chair Beycan Taşkıran started on July 1, 2021 at Diyarbakır 5th Assize Court. Beycan Taşkıran attended the hearing through the Audio-visual Informatics System (SEGBIS). After the defense statements, the court issued the release of Taşkıran. The next hearing was scheduled for November 18.

02: Diyarbakır The prosecution of former Metropolitan Municipality Co-Mayors Gülten Kışanak, Fırat Anlı and municipal assembly members continued at Diyarbakır 10th Criminal Court of First Instance on July 2, 2021 due to the “Co-Mayorship system”. The indictment charges the co-mayors and municipal assembly members with “irregular undertaking of public position” and “misuse of duty”.

During the hearing, the court board wanted the municipal assembly members, who weren’t testifying, to stand and wait. After the objection of the lawyers against the order, the court board ordered lawyers Cihan Aydın, Zuhul Tekiner, Zeynep Çelik and Adnan Akgül to be taken out of the courtroom with the police. The lawyers made a claim for recusation and left the hearing room. The court decided for the claim to be sent to the concerning court and scheduled the next hearing for October 8.

02: Diyarbakır In the lawsuit filed against Diyarbakır Eğıl Co-Mayor Gülistan Ensarioęlu, who was replaced with a trustee, Ensarioęlu was sentenced to 6 years and three months of imprisonment due to “illegal organisation membership” at the 9th Assize Court. Ensarioęlu had been detained on September 30, 2020 within an investigation against the Democratic Society Congress (DTK) and the Interior Ministry appointed a trustee to Eğıl Municipality.

02: Hakkari The 3-year 4-month imprisonment sentence issued against defendant Specialised Sergeant Ali Daękırın has been reversed by Erzurum Regional Court in the lawsuit filed on the death of Sürmi İnce. After the reversal, the prosecution continued at Yüksekova Assize Court on July 2, 2021. The court sentenced Ali Daękırın to 3 years, 10 months and 20 days of imprisonment due to “wilful homicide.” Sürmi İnce (55) had been shot dead by soldiers on July 18, 2016 as he was bringing food to his children, who were plucking weed in the Büyükciftlik region of Yüksekova.

02: İzmir One person was detained with a house raid due to PKK membership.

02: Malatya The 14-year 3-month imprisonment sentence issued against former Diyarbakır Co-Mayor Gültan Kışanak, who was replaced with a trustee, and the 15-year imprisonment sentence issued against former Democratic Regions Party Co-Chair Sebahat Tuncel had been reversed by the 18th Criminal Chamber of Antep Regional Court. The prosecution continued at the 5th Assize Court. Gültan Kışanak and Sebahat Tuncel participated in the hearing through the Audio-visual Informatics System (SEGBIS). The court decided for the lawsuit to be merged with another case at Ankara 22nd Assize Court on the Kobani protests.

02: Şanlıurfa Nine (Hamdullah Özkırın, Mahmut Parsak, İbrahim Basiyan, Mahsum Temel, Mahsum Demir, Mehmet Salih Eliş, Murşit Arslan, Osman Bařkut ve Şahin Basiyan) of the ten people, who were detained within an investigation, were arrested by the court they were taken to due to “illegal organisation membership.” One person was released on the condition of judicial measures.

02: Van Nadir Erdem, who was detained in Van on June 30, 2021, was released on the condition of judicial measures.

02: Van The lawsuit filed against Mesopotamia News Agency reporters Adnan Bilen and Cemil Uęur, Zeynep Durgut, JinNews reporter Şehriban Abi and journalist Nazan Sala continued at the 5th Assize Court. The indictment against the five journalists claimed for the defendants to be imprisoned due to “illegal organisation membership.” After the defence statements, the court scheduled the next hearing for October 21.

Four of the five journalists, who were detained on October 6, 2020 after reporting the allegations that two people in Çatak district of Van were thrown off a helicopter under detainment, had been arrested on October 9 ,2020. The four journalists had been released on April 2, 2021.

05: Antalya The first hearing of the lawsuit filed against Bar Association Chairman Polat Balkan at the 33rd Criminal Court of First Instance was held due to his social media posts on Deniz Gezmiş, Mahir Çayan and Ulaş Bardakçı.

05: Istanbul The lawsuit filed against seven students, two of whom were arrested, due to the “Qaaba” visual at the exhibition opened within the protest demonstration against the appointed rector to Boğaziçi University, was held at the 21st Criminal Court of First Instance. The next hearing was scheduled for November 23.

06: Istanbul The Socialist Party of the Oppressed (ESP) Provincial Co-Chair Ezgi Bahçeci, who was arrested six months ago, was released in the lawsuit filed against her at the 34th Assize Court.

06: Mardin The final hearing of the lawsuit filed against former People’s Democratic Party (HDP) Midyat District Co-Chair Filiz Işık was held at the 2nd Assize Court. Işık attended the hearing through the Audiovisual Informatics System (SEGBIS). After the defence statements, the court sentenced Filiz Işık to 6 years, 10 months and 15 days of imprisonment due to “illegal organisation membership”. Işık had been arrested on September 24, 2020.

06: Mardin The prosecution of former Mazıdağı District Mayor Hasip Aktaş, Akarsu region Co-Mayor Lokman Fındık, Kılavuz region Co-Mayor Ahmet İnci and former Peace and Democracy Party (BDP) District Chairman Mehmet Kılıç started at the 2nd Assize Court due to attending a meeting organised by the Democratic Society Congress. The indictment charges four people with “illegal organisation membership.” After the defense statements the court released four people.

07: Ankara The prosecution of People’s Democratic Party (HDP) Co-Chair Pervin Buldan continued at the 18th Assize Court due to the speeches she gave at the events she participated in. The court denied the claim for stay of prosecution due to her Parliamentary immunity. The next hearing was scheduled for November 3.

07: Istanbul The prosecution of Derya Okatan continued at the 39th Criminal Court of First Instance due to a news article published as she was the Managing Editor for Etkin News Agency (ETHA). The next hearing was scheduled for December 16.

07: Şırnak Cizre Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office opened an investigation against Mesopotamia Agency reporter Zeynep Durgut due to “praising the crime and the criminal” through a news article she reported. Durgut went to the Cizre District Security Directorate and testified.

08: Diyarbakır In the final hearing of the lawsuit filed against Adem Çiftçi at the 7th Assize Court due to the killing of Medeni Yıldırım during the protests organised against the police station construction in Kayacık village of Lice district in Diyarbakır on June 28, 2013, the Prosecutor presented their opinion on the basis of the file and claimed the acquittal of the defendant. Adem Çiftçi was acquitted.

08: Istanbul The lawsuit filed against former Evrensel Daily Managing Editor Cem Şimşek due to an article published in the newspaper was held at Bakırköy 27th Criminal Court of First Instance. The court sentenced Şimşek to 11 months and 20 days of imprisonment.

08: Van In the lawsuit filed against Kurubaş Deportation Center security guards İ.H.K. and Y.V. at the 1st Assize Court with the allegation that they had raped Iran citizen Z.N., the court sentenced the two defendants to 15 years of imprisonment each due to “major sexual offense”.

08: Van In the lawsuit filed against People’s Democratic Party (HDP) Assembly member Firat Keser at the 2nd Assize Court, the defendant attended the latest hearing through the Audiovisual Informatics System (SEGBIS). After the defence statements the court decided for Keser to remain arrested and scheduled the next hearing for September 10.

09: Adiyaman 16 people were detained with house raids in Adiyaman due to participating in the protests organised against the law draft, that predicted a ban on tobacco trading without an “authorisation license” obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. 10 people were arrested by the court they were taken to due to “preventing duty of authorised officer” and “restricting the freedom of travel by blocking the road”. Six people were released on the condition of judicial measures.

09: Antalya The indictment prepared against Bar association Chairman Polat Balkan due to his social media posts claimed an imprisonment sentence against Balkan from 3 years and nine months up to 5 years and three months.

09: Istanbul The prosecution of previously shut-down Dicle News Agency (DIHA) News Director Ömer Çelik, reporter Metin Yokus, Diken News Portal’s former editor Tunca Öğreten, BirGün Daily worker Mahir Kanaat, Yolculuk Daily’s Managing Editor Eray Sargin and Etkin News Agency (ETHA) Director Derya Okatan continued at the Istanbul 29th Assize Court. The court decided for the condition of judicial measures against the journalists to continue and for the prosecution to be extended, scheduling the next hearing for December 9, 2021.

09: Mardin Two (Ayla Kaya and Atiye Yılmaz) of eleven people, who were detained in Nusaybin on July 6, were arrested by the court they were taken to. Nine people were released, three of which with the condition of judicial measures.

10: Batman People’s Democratic Party (HDP) Youth Assembly member Gülistan Yılmaz Diyar was detained at the police control checkpoint at the entrance of Batman due to a warrant issued against her.

11 Hakkari People’s Democratic Party (HDP) Provincial Co-Chair was detained with the allegation of “making illegal organisation propaganda” during a wedding they participated in. The Provincial Co-Chair was released after testifying on the same day.

12: Diyarbakır Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office issued a verdict of non-prosecution in the criminal complaint made against the police officers on the incident, in which Kevser Demir’s arm and three other people’s teeth were broken in Bağlar district on May 18, 2021. Even though the medical report issued for Kevser Demir stated that it was an “injury that could not be treated with simple medical intervention”, the court decree claimed that the report meant the opposite - “an injury that could be treated with simple medical intervention.” An objection was made against the decree at the Criminal Judicature of Peace.

12: Istanbul The prosecution of 46 people, who were detained during the police intervention against the 700th meeting of the Saturday Mothers, continued at the 21st Criminal Court of First Instance. During the hearing, the judge interrupted a defence statement and said that the defence is going “outside the borders of defence.” Afterwards, the lawyers claimed for recusation and the court denied the claim, scheduling the hearing for November 24, 2021.

12: Istanbul After the acquittal decrees issued for 35 people in the lawsuit filed due to the Gezi Park protests were reversed, the case was retried at the 13th Assize Court. The court accepted the claim of the President to take part in the case and scheduled the next hearing for October 8, 2021.

12: Van Meral Abi was detained during a house raid in Ipekyolu district. The reason for her detention is unknown.

13: Istanbul The prosecution of previously shut-down Özgür Gündem Daily's Editors-In-Chief Hüseyin Aykol and Zana Kaya, Managing Editor İnan Kızılkaya and politician Hatip Dicle continued at the 22nd Criminal Court of first Instance. The court decided for the warrant against Hatip Dicle to remain and scheduled the next hearing for November 2, 2021.

13: Istanbul The prosecution of journalist Can Dünder and previously shut-down Özgür Gündem Daily's Managing Editor İnan Kızılkaya continued at the 22nd Assize Court due to participating in the Substitute Editing-In-chief campaign to support Özgür Gündem Daily. The court decided to wait for an answer to the letter of rogatory sent to Germany to receive Dünder's testimony from there, as well as to the execution of the order of the warrant issued against Dünder, and scheduled the next hearing for November 2, 2021.

13: Şanlıurfa People's Democratic Party (HDP) Haliliye District Co-Chair Müslüm Arslan was detained. Arslan will be prosecuted at the 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance due to "resisting the police" during September 1, World Peace Day events.

14: Diyarbakır The prosecution of police officers S.T., F.T., M.S. (who was dismissed from profession) and fugitive defendant U.Y. continued at the 10th Assize Court due to the killing of Bar Association Chairman Tahir Elçi on November 28.

The indictment claimed the three defendant police officers to be sentenced to imprisonment from 2 years up to 6 years due to "causing death by conscious negligence" and for U.Y., who was asserted to be a PKK member, to be sentenced to three times heavy life imprisonment and an additional 45 years of imprisonment due to "wilful homicide," "homicide with eventual intent," "violating the Law on Firearms and Knives No. 6136", "disrupting the unity and the territorial integrity of the state" and "damaging public property."

Two people testified as secret witnesses in the hearing. One person, who testified as an open witness and is currently in prison, claimed that they faced torture and mistreatment in prison and stated, *"The prosecutor told me to testify on the killing of Tahir Elçi and he said he will release me if I did so. I believed him. (...) Since I can't read and write, I signed whatever he put in front of me. (...) I would like to attend the hearing in person. I can't understand you well, since my hearing is not good. They tortured us. The Prosecutor came to me and said, 'You will accuse Uğur and Mahsum on the murder of Tahir Elçi, otherwise we will kill you.'"*

The court released four people after the defence statements.

The court further decided for a warrant to be issued to the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK) for them to make an examination on the erased camera recordings, for the digital recordings to be examined abroad and for a name list of all police officers on duty at the time of incident, scheduling the next hearing for January 12, 2022.

14: Istanbul The prosecution of four people, including Etkin News Agency (ETHA) editor Semiha Şahin and reporter Pınar Gayıp, continued at the 23rd Assize Court. The court scheduled the next hearing for November 9, 2021.

14: Şırnak The prosecution of 16 relatives of 34 people, who were deceased on December 28, 2011 as a result of the bombing by warplanes on Roboski village in Uludere district, continued at the 2nd Assize Court due to their participation in the commemoration event organised in 2015. The next hearing was scheduled for October 4.

16: Van The indictment prepared by the Chief Public Prosecutor's Office against seven people, including People's Democratic Party (HDP) Tuşba Municipal Assembly member Ayşe Minaz and Muradiye Co-Mayor Leyla Balkan (who was replaced with a trustee), due to sharing the video prepared for the demonstration march on the Istanbul Convention on social media, was accepted by the court. The first hearing of the lawsuit filed against seven people due to "violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations" was scheduled for December 11.

16: Van People's Democratic Party (HDP) Tuşba District Co-Chair Hanım Akkuş was detained at a police control checkpoint at the entrance of Bitlis from Tatvan district. The reason for her detainment was a lawsuit filed against her. Akkuş was released after testifying.

28: Hakkari Levent Dere and Harun Ortaş were detained due to an explosion as a military vehicle was crossing a rural area in Yüksekova district on June 27, 2021. The gendarmerie does not allow those detained to meet their lawyers, even though there is no restriction on the matter. Two other people, who were summoned to testify within the same investigation, were released.

29: Adıyaman Democratic Regions Party (DBP) former Provincial Chairman Yusuf Bağırıcı and former teacher Erdal Çitrik, who was dismissed from profession with a Statutory Decree issued within the State of Emergency, were arrested due to "aiding an illegal organisation" after having been arrested on July 27 with house raids.

29: Manisa Two Syrian refugees were detained in Turgutlu district due to PYD/PKK membership.

31: Van The number of those detained with house raids increased to nine: People's Democratic Party (HDP) Assembly member Hazal Karabey, Mesut Bor, Ferat Azan, Arjin Tuncer, Çetin Temel, Rojhat Duman, Rojin Varhan, Nurullah Pekbay and Dilovan Duru. Five more people were detained in another protest organised with the same reason.

Other violations

01: Ankara 21 Parliamentary summaries prepared against Republican People's Party (CHP) Chairman Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu, Democratic Regions Party (DBP) Co-Chair Saliha Aydeniz and 20 Parliament members from the People's Democratic Party (HDP), Good (İYİ) Party, Democrat Party and Turkish Workers' Party (TIP) were sent to the Grand National Assembly of Turkey.

01: Ankara 7th Criminal Judicature of Peace issued access bans against the news published on Habersol, Aykırı and HalkTV websites regarding fugitive businessman Sezgin Baran Korkmaz, due to a violation of personal rights.

01: Diyarbakır 5th Criminal Judicature of Peace issued an access ban against Etkin News Agency's website due to the protection of "national security and public order."

01: Diyarbakır 4th Criminal Judicature of Peace issued an access ban against Kızılbaş and Umut Daily websites with a decree issued on July 1, 2021 due to the protection of "national security and public order."

02: Diyarbakır Eight prisoners at Type-D High Security Prison No.1 (Ahmet Topkaya, Ferhat Kaya, Abdulsittar Özer, Emrah Durmaz, Tarık Aslan, Kendal Barut, Cengiz Kazıcı and Fırat [Surname Unknown]) were transferred to Adana Kürkçüler Type-F Prison, Elazığ High Security Prison No.2 and Kırıkkale Type-F Prison outside of their will.

04: Diyarbakır Prisoner Kendal Barut, who was transferred from Diyarbakır Type-D Closed Prison to Elazığ High Security Prison No.2, faced physical violence by the penitentiary institute guards at the entrance of the prison due to not accepting being searched naked.

04: İzmir The letter sent by a female prisoner in March for supervised release was not processed by Şakran Closed Women's Prison. The prison administration required "independent wards" and "remorse" for the letter to be processed.

05: Ankara Western 2nd Criminal Judicature of Peace issued access bans against 55 different news articles regarding a tender opened by the Ministry of Health, with a decree issued on July 5, 2021 due to a violation of personal rights.

05: Antalya 1st Criminal Judicature of Peace issued access bans against 133 different news articles, including the news on the Uşak Governor yelling at citizens he saw on the street as he was monitoring the measures taken within the COVID-19 pandemic, due to a violation of personal rights.

05: Şanlıurfa People's Democratic Party (HDP) Birecik District Co-Chair Ömer Karadağ announced that he was accused of espionage by the police. In the press statement he organised, Karadağ stated, *"My photo was taken, I reacted against it. I asked them, 'I am the District Co-Chair, you know me, to whom will you get me killed by taking my photo?' The police officers came inside the district building and threatened me. They told me, 'You will let us know who comes here, what you are doing, everything.' They accused me of espionage. When I reacted against it, they threatened me by saying, 'We will not let you breathe. You can't move freely if you're not with us.'"*

06: Ağrı Prisoner Mizgin Kayıtbey was exposed to physical violence by penitentiary institute guarding officers at Patnos Type-L Prison. Mizgin Kayıtbey was injured in different parts of his body due to the torture and other mistreatment he was exposed to. Kayıtbey was hospitalised but was taken back to the prison before his treatment was complete.

07: Ankara Western 2nd Criminal Judicature of Peace issued an access ban against the news on Cumhuriyet, HalkTV and BirGün websites on the cousin of the Interior Minister, due to a violation of personal rights.

07: Ankara The Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK) issued three broadcast bans and an administrative fine against Halk TV due to the song, “Cemo”.

10: Ağrı Prisoner Zozan Kabişen, who was exposed to torture and other mistreatment by penitentiary institute guarding officers at Patnos Type-L Prison, was not taken to the hospital and was taken under solitary confinement in an injured way. The news from the prison further indicated that the prisoners, who were staying in the same ward as Kabişen, reported that they were being threatened by the guarding officers with death, with the words, *“This place is our dumpster. We can do anything to anyone we want. If we wanted, we could kill you today and bury you in concrete.”*

12: Antalya 3rd Criminal Judicature of Peace issued an access ban against the news published on Cumhuriyet, BirGün and Aydınlık Daily regarding businessman Fettah Tamince due to a violation of personal rights.

14: Istanbul 4th Criminal Judicature of Peace issued an access ban against the news on sendika.org, KRT TV and Sözcü websites regarding Sedat Peker’s allegations on the Presidency’s Economical Politics Council member and Justice and Development Party (AKP) Local Administrations Deputy Chairman Korkmaz Karaca, due to a violation of personal rights.

14: Kahramanmaraş Türkoğlu Type-L Closed Prison No.1 prisoners going on a hunger strike with the demand for the solitary confinement against PKK leader Abdullah Öcalan were exposed to physical violence by penitentiary guardians and were placed in solitary cells.

15: Mardin Mazıdağı Co-Mayor Nalan Özaydın, who was replaced with a trustee, and her lawyer Medya Ateş were exposed to threats and verbal harassment by people introducing themselves as security officers in Artuklu district.

16: Elazığ One person entered the People’s Democratic Party (HDP) Elazığ Provincial building and threatened the party executives. He said, *“I will cut those coming from the Middle East, the Kurds. I am Zaza, I know what you are doing.”*

16: Şırnak 8-month pregnant Hatice Baykara was exposed to torture and mistreatment by the police during a house raid in Idil district. Afterwards, Baykara received a medical report, proving the torture and mistreatment, at a hospital and the police confiscated the report she received. Simultaneously, Aydın Baykara, Sait Tatlı and Hacı Derviş Abay were detained during another house raid by the police and Halime Baykara, who was present at the house, was exposed to torture and mistreatment.

18: Ankara The omnibus bill motioned to the Parliament, which involved applications that effectively extended the State of Emergency after its official revocation on July 19, 2018, passed the Grand National Assembly of Turkey.

22: Van Rabia Behçet and her mother Nesibe Sığınç protested the fact that they were not allowed to meet the Prosecutor at Van Courthouse on July 7, when he went there for a lawsuit. During the protest, they said, *“There’s no justice here. Don’t expect justice from here.”* During their protest, the mother and daughter were detained and were exposed to torture and mistreatment under detainment. Rabia Behçet made a statement to the press and said, *“After I was detained, they handcuffed me to the chair. I told the police officers that I was on psychiatric*

medication but they insulted me, so I fainted. When I woke up, I saw my mother being beaten by the police officers. I started begging so they wouldn't beat her up, but they didn't listen to me. Then they put us in a vehicle to take us to the hospital. Even though I had an attack in the vehicle, nobody did anything. After we were taken to the Regional Research and Training Hospital, the doctors examined us in a room with the police officers present. Even though I had bruises on my arms, they were recorded in the medical report as 'handcuff marks'. We were taken to the police station without being able to receive a report on having been beaten, then we were released after testifying."

24: Izmir The People's Bridge Association was targeted due to being funded by the European Union and Germany.

25: Diyarbakır It was revealed that the food given to prisoners at Type-D Prison was not hygienic.

27: Diyarbakır It was revealed that Type-T Prison No.3 Prisoner Kurbanî Özcan has been on a hunger strike since July 12, 2021 with the demand for the torture and other mistreatment he was exposed to, to end, and was being kept under solitary confinement. Kurbanî Özcan's mother Gülan Ateş spoke to the press and said, "The prison guards are constantly beating my son up, applying psychological pressure. They previously broke his fingers, and the guardians threatened my son that his 'corpse will leave the prison.'" After these allegations, a 10-people board from the Human Rights Association (IHD), the Association of Lawyers for Freedom (ÖHD), the Diyarbakır Bar Association and the Non-Governmental Association for the Penitentiary Execution System (CISST) wanted to meet Kurbanî Özcan but the prison administration did not allow the meeting.

28: Şanlıurfa It was revealed that Type-T Prisoners Mürşit Aslan, Mahsum Temel, Mehmet Salih Eriş, Mahmut Parsak and Hamdullah Hozan were exposed to torture and other mistreatment and that they were not taken to the hospital.

4. Evaluation, Commentary and Suggestions

Coşkun Üsterci
Human Rights Foundation of Turkey - Secretary General

Violations against the right to freedom of expression, meeting and organisation continued to increase in July 2021 despite the summer heat and national holiday due to Eid. As reflected on the reports of my dear colleagues, we are facing a worrying situation.

During the month of July, the right to peaceful meeting, which is guaranteed by the Constitution, was seriously and heavily violated. My colleagues reported these violations, region by region. I would like to show you to what parts of the society these interventions were made, with which reasons and how the rights to freedom of expression, meeting and organisation (which construct the basis for a democratic society) were rendered unusable in an interwoven way.

Especially women and the LGBTQ+s, but everyone who wanted to protest Turkey's withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention, were exposed to police interventions in July. There were interventions against the protests organised for the sixth month of service of the rector appointed by the President to Boğaziçi University as well. On the other hand, the police intervened against and applied violence against the mine workers marching towards Ankara for their rights to compensation, those protesting racist attacks, those keeping watch for justice in front of the prison to protest People's Democratic Party (HDP) Kocaeli MP Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu not having been released despite a violation decree by the Constitutional Court, villagers protesting the transformers providing electricity to watering wells being removed by Dicle Electric Distribution Inc (DEDAŞ) as well as workers having been fired from work due to trade union membership.

One example is very important in how it shows the pathetic situation of "democracy" in Turkey. The political ruling has motioned a law draft to the Parliament that predicted a prevention of tobacco trading without an "authorisation license" issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Tobacco sellers in Adıyaman have organised a protest demonstration against this draft. Afterwards, 16 people were detained with house raids due to having participated in these protests. Now I ask: If citizens are not able to use their rights to meeting and thus organisation and freedom of expression, or if they were charged due to using that, how could they freely share their opinion in matters that concern the entire or a part of the society? How could they criticise decision makers? How could they object against or monitor the decisions made by the ruling power?

Many have been detained in July as a result of such interventions. Only between July 18 and 20, 114 people, including five children, were detained with mistreatment after they participated in the events organised to commemorate those deceased in the Suruç massacre, and to demand justice. Six people, including three journalists, were injured during the interventions.

Access bans recently issued by courts against websites and social media accounts seriously violate freedom of expression and media freedom. There has been a serious increase in such violations in July. My colleagues have extensively reported data on this matter as well. I would like to especially mention some court decrees and their reasons, to show how the ruling power benefits from this application by suppressing criticisms and objections. Some of the news that were banned from access in July were: News on a social media post that shared a photograph of fugitive businessman Sezgin Baran Korkmaz having dinner with a Court of Cassation member; news regarding the Izmir Provincial National Education Director; news on the Uşak Governor yelling at people he saw on the street as he was monitoring the measures taken within the COVID-19 pandemic; 55 different news on a tender opened by the Ministry of Health; news and social media posts on the cousin of the Interior Minister selling medical equipment to the Social Security Institute (SGK); news on the allegations of Sedat Peker regarding the Presidency's Economical Politics Council member and Justice and Development Party (AKP) Local Administrations Deputy Chairman Korkmaz Karaca; as well as other oppositional and leftist

news websites. The access bans were based on the protection of national security and public order.

On the other hand, the Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK) issued consecutive penalties against oppositional TV channels in July. Broadcast bans and administrative penalties were issued against Halk TV, FOX TV, KRT TV, TV100 and TELE1 channels.

Lastly, as I do every month, I would like to mention the protest and demonstration bans issued by local administrations (Governors and District Governors). The Governorate bans continued with full speed in July: Governors in Hakkari, Van, Aydın, Muş, Siirt and Tunceli banned all protests and demonstrations with varying durations between 6 and 30 days. Thus, the protest and demonstration ban that has been ongoing in Hakkari without break since June 5, 2020 was extended to 435 days; and the protest and demonstration ban that has been ongoing in Van without break since November 21, 2016 was extended to 1716 days.