

September 2021 Report

1. Administrative Bans, Security Interventions

- 01: Ankara** The police prevented the press statement organised by the Labor and Democracy Forces in front of the Train Station.
- 01: Eskişehir** Governorate banned all protests and demonstrations to be organised in the province for 15 days.
- 01: Istanbul** After the rally organised on September 5 within September 1, World Peace Day, was banned by the Interior Ministry, the Istanbul Governorate canceled the rally organised on September 4, in Bakırköy Marketplace.
- 01: Istanbul** Bakırköy District Governorate banned all meetings, demonstration marches, sit-in protests and similar actions for 5 days as of September 2.
- 01: Istanbul** The police intervened against the crowd that wanted to protest the banning of these two rallies and detained 47 people, including 2 children, by force.
- 01: Mardin** The Police prevented the September 1, Peace Day march, which was intended to be held by the Labor and Democracy Platform in the Kızıltepe district.
- 01: Şanlıurfa** The September 1 Peace Day march, which was organised by the Labor and Democracy Platform, was prevented by the police.
- 02: Ankara** Governorate banned the meeting organised within September 1, World Peace Day.
- 03: Mardin** Governorate banned all protests and open-air meetings to be organised in the province for 15 days.
- 04: Istanbul** The traditional May 1 Neighborhood Independence Festival, organised in the Ataşehir district, has been banned by the District Governorate.
- 08: Van** Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Provincial Director Herdem Acar was arrested.
- 10: Adana** Three members of the Furkan Foundation, who went to the police station to testify within the scope of the investigation launched against them, were detained.
- 10: Adana** The police intervened with tear gas and sticks against the people waiting in front of the courthouse for three Furkan Foundation members, who were subjected to torture and ill-treatment under detainment.
- 10: Ankara** 15 members of the Socialist Party of the Oppressed (ESP) and Socialist Youth Associations Federation (SGDF) were detained. As part of this operation, people were detained in Antalya and Istanbul as well.
- 10: Aydın** One LGBTI+ Solidarity volunteer was detained while hanging up a poster that read "LGBTI+ to organise against phobia, discrimination, marginalization, exploitation and speciesism".
- 10: Manisa** 7 people were detained in Salihli district on the grounds of making PKK/KCK propaganda on social media.
- 12: Mersin** The Human Rights Association (IHD) Branch manager Tahir Tüyben was detained on the grounds of his social media posts.

- 13: Ankara** The police prevented the press statement organised after the hearing of the lawsuit filed against the families of those who lost their lives in the train disaster in Çorlu on July 8, 2018.
- 13: Hakkari** Governorate announced that all events to be organised in the province were banned for 15 days. With this decision, the event ban was extended to 480 days in the province.
- 13: Istanbul** Etkin News Agency reporter Tunahan Turhan was detained during the operation against ESP members and executives.
- 15: Diyarbakır** The police intervened with pressurised water and pepper spray against those protesting that DEDAŞ moved their counters to electricity poles in Lice district.
- 15: Istanbul** The police intervened against the protest for re-employment in front of Şişli Municipality and detained 8 people using violence.
- 15: Van** Governorate announced a ban against demonstration marches and open-air meetings for 15 days throughout the province. With this decision, the protest ban in the province was extended to 1774 days.
- 16: Diyarbakır** In the house raids organised in Lice, at least 7 people were detained on the grounds that they participated in the protest against DEDAŞ.
- 18: Adana** Governorate banned the concert organised with the participation of Kaldırım Music Ensemble and Grup Munzur.
- 18: Adıyaman** Three people, who were detained during house raids, were arrested by the court to which they were sent, on the allegation that they were "terrorist organization members".
- 18: Rize Power** 4 people were detained after company officials discussed the Hydroelectric Plant (HES) project to be built in Fındıklı district with the public.
- 19: Ankara** The police prevented the alternative graduation ceremony organised at the Middle East Technical University (METU).
- 19: Mardin** Governorate banned demonstration marches and open-air meetings to be organised in the province for 15 days.
- 20: Ankara** The police intervened against the university students, who set up tents in İlhan Erdost Park to demand their right to shelter, and detained at least 7 people.
- 20: Denizli** A person was detained for allegedly making PKK/KCK propaganda on social media.
- 20: Izmir** University students, whose right to shelter was violated, were taken under police blockade in Buca Hasanağa Park, where they were on watch.
- 21: Adana Gönül was** Former term Co-Chair of the Health and Social Service Workers' Union (SES), Erden was arrested after the objection against the file, within which she was detained on May 25 and was later released.
- 21: Adana** A raid was carried out against the Association for Assistance and Solidarity with the Families of Prisoners and Convicts (ATUHAY-DER). 9 people, including the executives of the association and the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Çukurova district Co-Chair, were detained.
- 22: Eskişehir** The police intervened against the university students, who were on watch to demand their right to shelter, and detained 6 people.
- 22: Istanbul** 4 people were detained during the police intervention against the march organised by the SGDF, demanding the right to shelter in Kadıköy.

- 22: Kocaeli** The watch organised to demand the right to shelter was prevented by the police.
- 23: Izmir** The police dragged the university students, who wanted to protest their housing problem in front of the AKP Izmir Provincial Directorate, away from the scene and detained 3 students.
- 23: Tekirdağ** The police intervened against Bel Karper and Adko Turk workers, who were fired for organizing in Tekirdağ Tek Gıda Labour Union and wanted to meet with the Governor, and detained 58 workers in front of the Governorate.
- 24: Bolu** The police intervened against the protest for re-employment organised in front of the Republican People's Party (CHP) Bolu Provincial building and detained 3 people.
- 24: Malatya** In the house raid carried out by the gendarmerie in Akçadağ district, Labour Party Chairman Tacettin Yaşar was detained.
- 25: Hatay** The "Peace and Solidarity" concert organised in Defne district by Hatay Human Rights Association (IHD) was banned by the District Governorate on the grounds of the COVID-19 outbreak.
- 27: Denizli** Republican People's Party (CHP) Denizli Provincial Youth Branch Chairman Tugay Odabaşoğlu (29) was detained for allegedly insulting the President.
- 27: Denizli** Two people were detained for allegedly making PKK/KCK propaganda on social media.
- 27: Edirne** Dutch citizen and RTL reporter Olaf Koens and cameraman Pepjin Nagtzaam were detained on the grounds that they entered the military zone while they were following news information.
- 27: Istanbul** The police intervened violently against the students, who were on watch in Kadıköy district to demand their right to shelter, and detained 28 people.
- 27: Izmir** The police intervened against the evening shifts of the students, who could not find a place in Izmir State dormitories and had problems with housing due to high rental flat prices, beat 41 students and detained them. 1 student broke his finger.
- 27: Rize** Labour Party (EMEP) Fındıklı district manager Gökmen Turna was detained on the grounds of making illegal organisation propaganda and insulting the President on social media.
- 28: Izmir** At the graduation ceremony of Dokuz Eylül University Faculty of Literature 2019 - 2020, private security guards took one student off the stage due to a banner reading "We do not want a trustee rector".
- 28: Izmir** Three lawyers, including one Human Rights Association (IHD) Prison Committee member, were punched and battered as they were tracking the detainment of students, who were detained in Hasanağa Park.
- 28: Zonguldak** In the house raid organised in Ereğli district, Turkish Workers' Party (TIP) District Chair Çiğdem Günay was detained on the grounds of her social media posts.
- 29: Adana** People's Democratic Party (HDP) Seyhan District Co-Chair Seyfettin Aydemir was detained at the Provincial Security Directorate, where he was summoned to testify as part of an investigation launched against him.
- 29: Izmir** At the graduation ceremony of Dokuz Eylül University Faculty of Literature, private security unit officers attacked the university women on the grounds that they took the stage with #IstanbulConvention masks and LGBTI+ and Bi+ flags.

They tried to take the flags from them by battering the university students and took them off the stage.

30: Samsun 2 of the 19 people, who were detained due to the protest organised in front of the municipality building against the decision of consolidation of agricultural lands in Vezirköprü district, were arrested by the court to which they were sent.

2. Investigations and Prosecutions

01: Mardin An investigation was launched against Jinnews reporter Öznur Değer with the allegation of "inciting the people to hatred and enmity" because of her news about the killing of 7 members of the Dedeoğulları family in Konya.

02: Diyarbakır A lawsuit was filed against former People's Democratic Party (HDP) MP Çağlar Demirel.

03: Hakkari The latest hearing of the lawsuit filed against People's Democratic Party (HDP) member and Yüksekova district Co-Mayor Remziye Yaşar was held at the 1st Assize Court. The next hearing was scheduled for October 1.

03: İstanbul The Constitutional Court ruled that the freedom of expression and press freedom of Gökhan Biçici, who was subjected to ill-treatment by the police as he was following news information during the Gezi protests in 2013, was violated.

06: Diyarbakır The first hearing of the lawsuit filed against Democratic Regions Party (DBP) Provincial Co-Chair Seval Gülmez was held at the 11th Assize Court. The next hearing was scheduled for December 6.

06: Manisa Abaloğlu Lezita Food Industry Inc. dismissed 15 workers, who were members of a trade union, in accordance with the "infamous crime" article.

06: Tunceli The first hearing of the lawsuit filed against lawyer Zafer Çellik was held at the 1st Assize Court.

07: Diyarbakır The latest hearing of the lawsuit filed against Silvan Co-Mayor Naşide Toprak, who was elected from the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), was held at the 8th Assize Court. After the defense statements, the next hearing was scheduled for December 7.

07: Erzurum The latest hearing of the lawsuit filed against journalist Dindar Karataş on the allegation of "terrorist organization membership" was held at the 3rd Assize Court. The next hearing was scheduled for November 16.

07: Hakkari A lawsuit was filed against People's Democratic Party (HDP) executives at the 3rd Assize Court on the grounds of the protests and demonstrations they participated in.

07: İstanbul 52nd Criminal Court of First Instance sentenced Barbaros Şansal to 3 months and 2 days in prison for "openly denigrating the Turkish government".

07: Tunceli Former Co-Mayor Mehmet Ali Bul was acquitted in the lawsuit filed against him at the 1st Criminal Court of First Instance on the allegation that he "misconducted his duty" by using the title "Co-Chair".

08: İzmir A People's Democratic Party (HDP) vehicle was attacked by unidentified people in front of Torbalı Tax Office.

- 09: Diyarbakır** In the lawsuit filed against former Peace and Democracy Party (BDP) MP Ayla Akat Ata at the 5th Assize Court within the investigation against the Rosa Women's Association, the court decided to combine the file with the file of the Kobanê Case.
- 09: Diyarbakır** The prosecution of Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Provincial Co-Chairs Zeyyat Ceyhan and Hülya Alökmen Uyanık continued at the 5th Assize Court. The next hearing was scheduled for January 20, 2022.
- 09: İstanbul** A lawsuit was filed at the 16th Assize Court against 46 people, who were detained during the Pride Parade held on June 26, 2021. The first hearing will be held on November 2, 2021.
- 09: İstanbul** After the verdict of conviction issued in the lawsuit filed against journalist Şahin Alpay, Mümtazer Türköne and Mehmet Özdemir was reversed by the Court of Cassation, the prosecution of the journalists continued. The next hearing was scheduled for January 11, 2022.
- 09: Osmaniye** A lawsuit was filed in the 2nd Assize Court against Müslüm Çağan, who was a parliamentary candidate from the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), as well as against show host Erdal Tecik due to the Newroz celebrations organised in 2018. The first hearing will be held on December 18.
- 09: Şanlıurfa** A lawsuit was filed against Emine Şenyaşar at the Criminal Court of First Instance upon the complaint of Justice and Development Party (AKP) MP Ibrahim Halil Yıldız or her words during the Justice Watch protest in front of the Courthouse.
- 09: Tekirdağ** Three TAYAD members, who were detained on the grounds of hanging posters demanding the release of ill prisoner Ali Osman Köse, were arrested.
- 10: Ankara** The next hearing of the lawsuit filed against 3 members of Ankara Socialist Youth Associations Federation (SGDF) at the 27th Assize Court due to "terrorist organisation membership" will be held on January 25, 2022.
- 10: İstanbul** 37th Assize Court decided for lawyer Oya Arslan to remain arrested within the lawsuit filed against her and scheduled the next hearing for December 13.
- 10: Van** The latest hearing of the lawsuit filed against People's Democratic Party (HDP) Assembly member Fırat Keser was held at the 2nd Assize Court.
- 11: İzmir** 65-year-old Peace Mother Hanse (Xense) Bulut, living in Çimentepe district of Konak district, was detained in the morning of September 10 in a raid against her house. Hanse was arrested in 2015 after his 2-year prison sentence was upheld in the lawsuit filed against her for allegedly "aiding a terrorist organization".
- 13: Diyarbakır** The latest hearing of the lawsuit filed against Free Women's Movement Term Spokesperson Ayşe Gökkan at the 9th Assize Court with the allegation of "illegal organisation membership" was held. The next hearing was scheduled for October 20.
- 14: Aydın** In the lawsuit filed against 17 people within the scope of KCK operations, the 2nd Assize Court sentenced 8 people to 6 years and 3 months in prison on the grounds that they were "members of a terrorist organization" and 7 people were acquitted.
- 14: Diyarbakır** The prosecution of Peace Mother Meryem Soylu continues at the 5th Assize Court due to "terrorist organization membership" within the scope of the investigation

against the Association for Solidarity with the Bereaved in the Mesopotamia Cradle (MEBYA-DER). The next hearing was scheduled for December 14.

14: Diyarbakır Journalist Mahmut Oral was acquitted in the first hearing of the lawsuit filed against him at the 4th Assize Court as part of an investigation against the Ivy Association for Combating Poverty and Sustainable Development.

14: Diyarbakır The first hearing of the lawsuit filed against journalist Roza Metina was held at the 5th Assize Court with the allegation of "terrorist organisation membership.". The next hearing was scheduled for October 12.

14: Istanbul 23rd Assize Court adjourned the hearing to January 29, 2021 in the lawsuit filed against Gazete Yolculuk reporter Buse Söğütlü on the charge of "targeting a public official who took part in the fight against terrorism".

14: Istanbul In the lawsuit filed against 7 lawyers of PKK leader Abdullah Öcalan at the 33rd Assize Court with the allegation of "terrorist organization membership", the court scheduled the next hearing for December 16, 2021.

14: Van The lawsuit filed against Sevil Rojbin Çetin, a member of the People's Democratic Party (HDP) Democratic Local Administrations Board and an activist of the Free Women's Movement (TJA), continues at the 2nd Assize Court on the charge of "illegal organization membership". The next hearing was scheduled for November

30.

15: Hatay In the lawsuit filed against Kadir Sert on the grounds that he shared a photo of his sister, who is an HPG militant, on social media, the 3rd Assize Court sentenced the defendant to 1 year and 3 months in prison on the charge of "making propaganda for a terrorist organization" and deferred the announcement of the verdict.

15: Istanbul The prosecution of former Chairman of Contemporary Lawyers Association (ÇHD) Atty. Selçuk Kozağaçlı and the lawyer of the People's Law Office, Ebru Timtik continued after the decree against them was reversed by the Supreme Court of Appeals. The court decided for Kozağaçlı to remain under arrest and scheduled the next hearing for November 17, 2021.

16: Adana An investigation has been launched against the Human Rights Association (IHD) Branch Chairman and lawyer Yakup Ataş on the grounds of the statement made in the association building 24 April 24, 2021 regarding the Armenian Genocide.

15: Şanlıurfa The first hearing of the lawsuit filed against writer Gökhan Yavuzel was held at the 4th Criminal Court of First Instance on the allegation that he "insulted the President" through his social media posts. The next hearing was scheduled for February 22, 2022.

16: Istanbul The prosecution of 27 people, including ETHA reporter Meşale Tolu and writer Mukaddes Erdoğan Çelik, continued at the 29th Assize Court. The next hearing was scheduled for December 24, 2021.

17: Gaziantep The prosecution of 29 people, 7 of whom were arrested including People's Democratic Party (HDP), Socialist Re-Liberation Party (SYKP), Human Rights Association (IHD), 1978 Generation Association, Peace Mothers Assembly members and executives as well as municipal assembly members and lawyers, continued at the 2nd Assize Court.

- 17: Siirt** Eruh Criminal Court of First Instance sentenced conscientious objector Zana Aksu to 18 months in prison and a fine of 10,000 TL for 'violating the Military Service Law'.
- 20: Ankara** The prosecution of 108 People's Democratic Party (HDP) members and executives, 20 of whom are imprisoned, including former HDP Co-Chairs, continued at the 22nd Assize Court. Journalists were not allowed into the courtroom and the next hearing was scheduled for October 18, 2021.
- 20: Diyarbakır** The prosecution of journalist Durket Süren continues at the 11th Assize Court on charges of "aiding a terrorist organization" and "making propaganda for a terrorist organization". The next hearing was scheduled for December 13.
- 20: Diyarbakır** The latest hearing of the lawsuit filed against Hatice Kocaman, former Siirt MP of the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), was held at the 9th Assize Court.
- 21: Diyarbakır** The latest hearing of the lawsuit filed against former People's Democratic Party (HDP) MP Çağlar Demirel was held at the 5th Assize Court with the allegation of illegal organisation membership.
- 21: Istanbul** The prosecution of Mesopotamia Agency reporters Sadık Topaloğlu and Sadiye Eser continued at the 22nd Assize Court. The next hearing was scheduled for November 18, 2021.
- 21: Van** People's Democratic Party (HDP) Assembly member Fırat Keser was sentenced to years and 6 months in prison at the 2nd Assize Court due to illegal organisation membership.
- 22: Diyarbakır** Journalist Yelda Çiçek, who was detained as she was following the protests against the appointment of a trustee to Diyarbakır Metropolitan Municipality, was sentenced to 1 year and 8 months in prison at the 4th Criminal Court of First Instance for the crime of 'violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations No. 2911'. The announcement of the verdict was deferred.
- 22: Diyarbakır** The prosecution of Figen Aras, a member of the Diyarbakır Women's Academy, started at the 10th Assize Court as part of an investigation against the Rosa Women's Association, on charges of "terrorist organization membership". The next hearing was scheduled for January 26, 2022.
- 22: Diyarbakır** The first hearing of the lawsuit filed against Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Hakkari MP and Democratic Society Congress (DTK) Co-Chair Leyla Güven, who lost her seat at the Parliament, was held at the 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance. The next hearing was scheduled for October 13.
- 22: Istanbul** The latest hearing of the lawsuit filed against artist Ferhat Tunç was held at the Büyükçekmece 4th Criminal Court of First Instance due to his social media posts. The next hearing was scheduled for February 22, 2022.
- 23: Ankara** Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Youth Assembly and Party Assembly member Betül Ünsal was detained at the courthouse, where she went to testify, and was later arrested by the court she was sent to on the charge of "terrorist organization membership".
- 23: Diyarbakır** The prosecution of Democratic Regions Party (DBP) Co-Chair Saliha Aydeniz continues on the charge of "terrorist organization membership" at the 4th Assize Court. The next hearing was scheduled for January 19, 2022.

- 23: Diyarbakır** 4th Assize Court sentenced Free Women’s Movement (TJA) activist Zelal Bilgin to 9 years in prison due to “illegal organisation membership”.
- 23: Hakkari** Human Rights Association (IHD) Central Executive Committee member Sait Çağlayan was sentenced to 6 years and 3 months in prison on charges of "terrorist organization membership" in the lawsuit filed against him at the 3rd Assize Court.
- 23: Istanbul** An investigation has been launched against Ferhat Çelik, the Editor-in-Chief of Mesopotamia Agency, for the news titled "Detention order for journalists from the same place", which covered the detention of journalists who covered 2 people detained in Van been thrown off a helicopter.
- 23: Izmir** A3 News Editor-in-Chief Süleyman Gençel was detained on the grounds that he insulted the Dokuz Eylül University rector Nükhet Hotar, on social media.
- 23: Van** The prosecution of journalist Oktay Candemir continues at the 5th Assize Court with the allegation of making illegal organisation propaganda. The next hearing was scheduled for November 18.
- 24: Istanbul** The prosecution of three police officers, who applied violence against journalist Beyza Kural as she was following news information, continued at the 3rd Criminal Court of First Instance on the charge of “violating the freedom of labour and work.” The court scheduled the next hearing for December 10, 2021.
- 27: Ankara** The first hearing of the lawsuit filed at the 16th Assize Court against Eriñç Sağkan, President of the Ankara Bar Association, and the members of the board of directors on the grounds that they "insulted a public official" in the press statement they made regarding the discriminatory statements of the President of Religious Affairs, Ali Erbaş, will be held on November 11, 2021.
- 27: Diyarbakır** Artı Gerçek news website writer Nurcan Kaya was sentenced to 1 year and 3 months in prison by the 9th Assize Court for allegedly making propaganda for an illegal organization in her social media posts. The announcement of the verdict was deferred.
- 27: Diyarbakır** Mehmet Şah Tekiner was sentenced to 1 year, 3 months and 16 days in prison by the 4th Criminal Court of First Instance on the grounds of "insulting the President".
- 28: Batman** An investigation has been launched against People’s Democratic Party (HDP) Provincial Co-Chair Ömer Kulpu on allegations of "making propaganda for a terrorist organization" and "praising the crime and criminals" based on the expressions "Kurdistan" and "Mr. Öcalan" he used in events he participated in.
- 28: Diyarbakır** The prosecution of former People’s Democratic Party (HDP) Istanbul MP Levent Tüzel continues at the 5th Assize Court within the scope of an investigation against the Democratic Society Congress (DTK). The next hearing was scheduled for December 7.
- 28: Diyarbakır** Journalist Nurcan Yalçın is on trial at the 9th Assize Court as part of an investigation against the Rosa Women's Association, on charges of "terrorist organization membership" and "successively making propaganda for an illegal organization". The next hearing was scheduled for November 22.

- 28: Diyarbakır** Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) MP Feleknaş Uca is on trial at the 5th Assize Court for the statements she made between the years 2015 and 2016. The next hearing was scheduled for January 11, 2022.
- 29: Diyarbakır** The prosecution of Tevgera Jinên Azad (Free Women's Movement - TJA) activist Figen Ekti continues at the 10th Assize Court. The next hearing was scheduled for December 8th.
- 29: İzmir** Families of six students, who participated in the watch for their right to shelter, were called by the police and threatened with the expression, *"Your child is protesting right now, if you don't come and pick them up, we will detain them."*
- 30: Diyarbakır** The prosecution of journalist Abdurrahman Gök continued at the 5th Assize Court over photographing the killing of Kemal Kurkut by the police during the 2017 Newroz celebrations. The next hearing of the lawsuit, in which Gök is charged with "illegal organisation membership," was scheduled for January 20, 2022.

3. Other violations

- 01: Ankara** 1st Criminal Judicature of Peace issued an access ban against the news articles on the "Zindashti Case" on Cumhuriyet, BirGün and Diken news websites on the ground of "violation of personal rights."
- 02: Ankara** Reporter Barış Kaya was not allowed inside the Justice and Development Party (AKP) headquarters to participate in a press meeting organised by AKP Spokesperson Ömer Çelik.
- 02: Ankara** Journalist Celal Eren Çelik was attacked by unidentified people.
- 03: Batman** Jiyan News Daily owner İdris Yayla was called by unidentified people, threatened and fire was opened in the air in front of his house.
- 06: Diyarbakır** 5th Criminal Judicature of Peace issued an access ban against two websites of JinNews agency based on "the protection of national security and public order."
- 08: Ankara** People's Democratic Party (HDP) Sincan District Co-Chair Fatma Kılıçarslan was kidnapped by people, who introduced themselves as the police.
- 13: İstanbul** 3rd Criminal Judicature of Peace issued an access ban against Cumhuriyet news website due to the news article on the website regarding the detainment of a person, who attacked protesters during the Gezi Park protests.
- 16: Bolu** Mudurnu Criminal Judicature of Peace issued an access ban against the news published on the websites of Halk TV, Gazete Duvar and Gerçek Gündem regarding the detainment of Altınbaş University founders, based on a violation of personal rights.
- 20: İstanbul** Journalist Canan Coşkun was threatened by a police officer, who told her, *"I hope it happens to you as well"* as she was following news information on the lawsuit filed after the death of Birol Yıldırım at Esenyurt Police Station.
- 23: Diyarbakır** 3rd Criminal Judicature of Peace issued an access ban against the news on two Jinnews websites due to "the protection of national security and public order."
- 23: İstanbul** 10th Criminal Judicature of Peace issued an access ban against Cumhuriyet and T24 news websites regarding an article written by journalist Barış Terkoğlu on the ground of "violation of personal rights".

- 23: Istanbul** 10th Criminal Judicature of Peace issued an access ban against Diken, Hürriyet and sendika.org websites regarding the news on the police officers, who caused the death of Dilek Doğan during a police raid, on the ground of “violation of personal rights.”
- 24: Ankara** 2nd Criminal Judicature of Peace issued an access ban against 6 news articles on Cumhuriyet and BirGün news websites regarding six news articles on the Justice and Development Party (AKP) Mersin Provincial Chairman and his relatives, on the grounds of “violation of personal rights.”
- 24: Ankara** People who introduced themselves as the civil police attempted to enter the house of People’s Democratic Party (HDP) Adana MP Tülay Hatimoğulları.
- 24: Batman** Criminal Judicature of Peace issued an access ban against the news on Cumhuriyet, İleriHaber and Evrensel websites on a tender made by Gercüş Municipality on the grounds of “violation of personal rights.”
- 24: Diyarbakır** 1st Criminal Judicature of Peace issued an access ban against JinNews agency website on the grounds of “the protection of national security and public order.”
- 24: Diyarbakır** 5th Criminal Judicature of Peace issued an access ban against the website of Etkin News Agency on the grounds of “the protection of national security and public order.”
- 24: Istanbul** Anatolian 7th Criminal Judicature of Peace issued an access ban against the websites of Cumhuriyet, Diken and Halk TV news websites, who reported the tender won by Bilal Erdoğan’s friend, on the grounds of “violation of personal rights.”
- 27: Ankara** The bank account of Nazan Bozkurt, one of the participants of the re-employment protest held on Yüksel Street, was confiscated due to the penalties imposed against her in accordance with the Misdemeanor Law.
- 28: Ankara** The Press Ad Institute (BIK) issued a four-day ad penalty against Sözcü Daily due to 2 different columns written by Saygı Öztürk.

4. Comments and Suggestions

Coşkun Üsterci (Secretary General, Human Rights Foundation of Turkey - TIHV)

We entered September with the protests and demonstrations organised within the scope of September 1, World Peace Day. However, press statements, rallies, marches and concerts in many parts of the country, especially in Ankara, Istanbul, Urfa, Mardin, and Hatay, were either banned by the local administrators (governors and district governors) or actually prevented by the law enforcement. When we look at the reasons for the prohibitions and obstructions in question, we see that they are completely arbitrary, abstract and contrary to the negative and positive obligations of the state. When we look at the justifications of such prohibitions, we see that they are incompatible with the demands for peace and democracy, which are the most basic needs of our country and our region, the Middle East. In this context, the statements of

the Bakırköy District Governor's Office, which banned the rally organised in Bakırköy district of Istanbul, are truly exemplary:

*“(...) All kinds of meetings and meetings demonstration march, press release, sit-in, etc. activities to be organised in Bakırköy District between September 02-06, 2021 are prohibited in accordance with the Provincial Administration Law No. 5442 and the Law No. 2911 on Meetings and Demonstrations **with the aim of preventing crime by illegal actions and activities, preventing the occurrence of events and irreparable consequences, thus protecting peace and security, public order and public well-being.**”*

The security forces intervened against other events organised like press statements, to protest such bans and prohibitions. Many people, including children, were detained with torture and ill-treatment during these events.

Workers, public employees previously dismissed with Statutory Decrees, women, LGBTQ+, university students protesting various issues at graduation ceremonies or fighting for their right to shelter were the targets of the above-mentioned prohibitions, bans and the violence of law enforcement officers.

Here is an interesting incident that led to multiple violations of the freedoms of expression, assembly and demonstration this month: Investigations were launched against a total of 1700 healthcare workers, 800 of whom were family physicians, who took a strike action in August to protest the amendment made by the Ministry of Health on the family medicine regulation. Before the investigation was concluded, healthcare workers were given a 2-day salary deduction in September.

The incident that stood out in September, especially in terms of the violation of freedom of assembly, was the intervention of the law enforcement officers and the detainments of many people during the watches performed by university students demanding their right to shelter. The extreme increase in rental flat and dormitory fees as a result of the severe crisis in the country's economy and high inflation left university students facing a serious accommodation problem. Students started to spend the night in the parks to protest this situation, to attract the attention of the authorities and the public about the problem they experienced. Watches organised for the right to shelter became widespread throughout the country in a short time. On the one hand, these actions made the economic and social situation as well as the injustices experienced by the society visible; on the other hand, the police intervention and violence that the students were exposed to, also revealed once again how unusable the freedoms of expression, assembly and organization, which form the basis of a democratic society, have

become. Of course, the hopeful thing in this process was that the society was in solidarity with the university students who were on the watch.

The pressure on journalists and press workers, who tried to protect people's right to receive information and make the violations visible with their reporting, thus playing a major role in preventing violations, continued in September as well. Press workers were detained, investigations and lawsuits were filed against them. They were threatened, not allowed in press conferences held by official institutions or the ruling party, and were exposed to actual attacks by unidentified civilians.

In September, courts issued access bans against 9 websites belonging to 5 press institutions and at least 34 news articles. Administrative fines were issued against Halk TV, Fox TV, Halk TV, Kanal D, TR35 and TELE 1 channels by the Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK). Sözcü newspaper was penalised with a 4-day ad ban by the Press Ad Institute (BİK) due to two separate columns written by journalist Saygı Öztürk.

Another prominent event in September in terms of freedom of expression was the decision to pull a publication/journal off shelves. The 82nd issue of the Theory and Politics magazine was pulled off shelves based on an article about Ibrahim Kaypakkaya.

Another worrying development in September was the oppression and violations against human rights defenders. The final hearing of the lawsuit filed against Human Rights Association (IHD) Central Executive Board member Sait Çağlayan was held at the Hakkari 3rd Assize Court on September 23, 2021, and the court sentenced Sait Çağlayan to 6 years and 3 months in prison for "terrorist organization membership". In addition, the "Peace and Solidarity" concert organised in Defne district by the IHD Hatay Branch, was banned by the Defne District Governorate on September 25, 2021, on the grounds of the COVID-19 outbreak.

In September, all meetings and demonstrations were banned in many provinces by the governorates and district governorates. Some of them were related to September 1, World Peace Day, as mentioned above. However, the duration of the uninterrupted meeting and demonstration ban in Van, Mardin and Hakkari became worrying. With the ban decrees issued in September, the duration of the uninterrupted protest and demonstration ban in Hakkari, which has been implemented since June 5, 2020, has been extended to 495 days; while the uninterrupted protest and demonstration ban that has been implemented in Van since November 21, 2016, has been extended to 1774 days.

Osman İşçi (Human Rights Association - IHD)

As protest and demonstration bans, as well as rights violations during prosecutions continue; reporting, documentation and advocacy activities need to be carried out in a coordinated manner.