

## October 2021 Report

### 1. Administrative bans, police interventions

- 01: Ankara** The police prevented the march towards the Ministry of National Education organised by the Education and Science Workers' Union - Labour (Egitim-Iş) to demand "a healthy education".
- 01: Diyarbakır** In a raid on a house in Bismil, a person was detained with reverse handcuffs.
- 01: Istanbul** The police intervened in the protest in front of the Forensic Medicine Institute to demand the release of ill prisoner Ali Osman Köse and detained 2 people.
- 01: Muş** The Governorate banned rallies, meetings and demonstrations for 15 days.
- 02: Şırnak** One person was detained in İdil with torture and ill-treatment.
- 03: Diyarbakır** 11 people were detained during house raids in Diyarbakır, Istanbul, Hakkari, Bursa and Konya.
- 03: Istanbul** The police intervened in the press release demanding the release of sick prisoner Ali Osman Köse in Çağlayan Courthouse and detained 8 people.
- 03: Izmir** Dokuz Eylül University Rectorate opened an investigation against students and academics because of the protests organised with the demands, "We do not want a trustee rector" and "Istanbul Agreement Keeps People Alive" at the graduation ceremony.
- 04: Istanbul** The security intervened against the students protesting Naci İnci, the appointed rector of Boğaziçi University, and prevented the protest.
- 04: Istanbul** 7 more students were detained after holding a sit-in protest for their friends, who were detained on the grounds that they participated in the protest against the appointment of a rector at Boğaziçi University.
- 05: Bitlis** Eight people, including the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Municipal Council Member and HDP Güroymak District Co-Chair, were detained. Lawyers who went to the Gendarmerie Provincial Command were not allowed to see the detainees.
- 05: Istanbul** The meeting organised by the Family Physicians Platform was not permitted by the Istanbul Governorate.
- 05: Istanbul** Journalist Fatoş Erdoğan was subjected to physical violence by the police while she was covering news at Boğaziçi University.
- 05: Samsun** Six of the 24 people, who were detained due to the protest organised in front of the municipality building against the deed of agricultural lands in Vezirköprü district, were arrested by the court they were sent to.
- 05: Şırnak** 12 people were detained in house raids in Silopi.
- 06: Ankara** Three members of the Revolutionary Anarchist Federation, who wrote on walls about the October 10 Massacre in Çankaya district, were detained by the police.
- 06: Diyarbakır** During the house raids in Silvan, 13 people were detained on the allegation that "they will hold a protest on the anniversary of the 6-8 October Kobanê protests".
- 06: Diyarbakır** Writer Serhat Polatsoy was detained on the grounds that there was an arrest warrant against him.
- 06: Mersin** A person named Salih Akça was arrested on charges of "terrorist organization membership".

- 07: Ankara** Merve Demirel, one of the participants of the re-employment protests on Yüksel Street, was detained.
- 07: Istanbul** 14 people protesting the arrest of 2 students during the protest organised against Naci İnci, the appointed rector of Boğaziçi University, were beaten and detained.
- 08: Batman** 5 people were detained, together with Semra Güneş, a member of the Batman Provincial Assembly, and Taybet Çetinkaya, the former director of the Association for Solidarity with the Families Losing Relatives in the Cradle of Civilizations and Culture Association (MEBYA-DER) during house raids.
- 08: Istanbul** Two students, who were arrested during the protest against Naci İnci, the appointed rector of Boğaziçi University, were tortured in prison and were not given their textbooks back.
- 10: Ankara** The police intervened against those gathered in front of the Metropolitan Municipality Building to commemorate the victims of the bomb attack during a peace rally on October 10, 2015, and detained 11 people by using rubber bullets and tear gas. After the intervention, the police intervened for the second time against those gathering once again in the same place and detained 11 more people.
- 10: Rize** Çağlayan Bozacı, who spoke at the commemoration event organised at the cemetery for his father Osman Turan Bozacı, who lost his life in the October 10 Massacre, was detained on the same day on charges of "insulting the President".
- 11: Ankara** The wedding of a Kurdish family in Mamak was raided by the Anti-Terror Unit on the grounds that there were complaints about the local clothes being worn.
- 11: Şırnak** The District Governorate did not accept People's Democratic Party's (HDP) application to hold a feast in Cizre district, citing the COVID-19 outbreak.
- 12: Antalya** 5 people, including People's House branch head Gülkan Gülseven, Socialist Re-Establishment Party (SYKP) Party Assembly member Taylan Sönmez, and Turkey Workers Party (TIP) executive Enes Keskin, were detained during house raids.
- 12: Antalya** The police detained 6 people, including SYKP, TIP and Community Centers executives, due to the "Kızılder Commemoration".
- 14: Ankara** Police detained 5 party members due to distributing the brochure entitled "SaBıKa Holding: A Story of Black Money-Politics-Judiciary" prepared by the Republican People's Party (CHP) in front of Ankara University Faculty of Political Sciences (SBF).
- 14: Hakkâri** The governorate banned rallies, meetings and demonstrations to be organised in the province for 15 days.
- 14: Istanbul** The police intervened against those, who distributed the brochure, 'SaBıKa Holding' prepared by the Republican People's Party (CHP) in Kadıköy, and detained 5 party members.
- 15: Van** The governorate banned rallies, meetings and demonstrations to be organised in the province for 15 days.
- 16: Diyarbakır** A lawyer was searched despite showing his identity as he attended a rally and when he refused to be searched, he was subjected to physical violence by the police. Another person was detained because of the yellow, red and green flag he was wearing.

- 16: Istanbul** The police intervened against the march organised by the People's Democratic Party (HDP) Youth Organisation members in Beyoğlu to protest the ban on the 30th anniversary event of the Mesopotamia Cultural Center (MKM) and detained 10 people, along with 2 journalists.
- 16: Istanbul** The concert, which was planned to be held at the Bostancı Cultural Center due to the 30th anniversary of the Mesopotamia Cultural Center (MKM), was banned by the Kadıköy District Governorate, despite the permission previously received from the Governorate.
- 18: Istanbul** The police denied permission to the march that was requested by the Avcılar Women's Platform to be held in Avcılar district to protest the murder of Esra Yıldız.
- 19: Antalya** The police detained mothers Fatmana Karkuzu and Melek Çetinkaya, who held a sit-in protest in front of the Courthouse to postpone the imprisonment of critically ill prisoner Ayşe Özdoğan.
- 19: Istanbul** Private security units intervened in the vigil held at Istanbul Technical University for the right to shelter and took the students out of the building. A student was injured during the intervention.
- 20: Ankara** The police intervened against the re-employment protest organised in front of the Republican People's Party (CHP) Headquarters by the dismissed workers of Şişli Municipality in Istanbul and detained 4 people using physical violence.
- 20: Şanlıurfa** A 5-year-old was injured after being hit by an armored vehicle in Viranşehir.
- 21: Şanlıurfa** The governorate banned all protests and meetings to be organised inside the prison campus as well as in the area within 1 km of the fence line for one week.
- 22: Diyarbakır** 4 people were detained during house raids in Lice.
- 22: Istanbul** The press statement that was intended to be held at Barbaros Square in Beşiktaş due to the 500th week of the "F session" organised by the Human Rights Association (IHD) Prison Committee to demand the release of sick prisoners, was banned.
- 22: Istanbul** Private security units, which intervened in the vigil that was intended to be held in front of the rectorate building to protest the rector appointed to Boğaziçi University, seized the tents set up for the protest. Later, there was a police intervention and the police detained 45 people using physical violence.
- 22: Mardin** Two people detained in Ömerli were subjected to torture and ill-treatment during the raid at their homes.
- 22: Tunceli** The music concert organised by the municipality was not permitted on the grounds of the COVID-19 outbreak.
- 23: Diyarbakır** During a house raid in Bismil, 2 people were subjected to torture and ill-treatment.
- 24: Adana** The concert organised at the Mimar Sinan Open Air Theater as part of the 30th anniversary events of the Mesopotamia Cultural Center (MKM) was banned by the Governorate on the grounds of "protecting national security and public order, the possibility of a crime being committed" and that the concert might "endanger the rights and freedoms of others".
- 24: Diyarbakır** Musician Abdullah Karakaş was detained.

- 25: Tunceli** The governorate banned rallies, meetings and demonstrations to be organised in the province for 15 days.
- 25: Van** In the press statement made by the Turkish Medical Association (TTB) at Yüzüncü Yıl University Faculty of Medicine, the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TIHV) application physician and Van-Hakkari Medical Chamber President Dr Hüseyin Yaviç as well as TIHV Representation Secretary Sevim Çiçek were detained.
- 27: Hatay** The play called Dandelion, which was planned to be staged in the Antakya district, was banned by the Governorate due to "not having been deemed appropriate".
- 28: Hakkâri** The governorate banned rallies, public meetings and demonstrations to be organised in the province for 15 days.
- 29: Siirt** A person in Kurtalan district was detained because of his words to İyi Party Chair Meral Akşener: *"Where you are standing right now is Kurdistan, but unfortunately this Kurdistan is being denied in the Parliament"*.
- 29: Şırnak** A person named Hüsnü Kaydı was detained.
- 31: Şırnak** Faik Tuncay, Refik Tuncay and Mehmet Tuncay were detained during house raids in Cizre.

## 2. Investigations and Prosecutions

- 01: Ankara** Actress Ezgi Mola was fined 5,200 TL by the 31st Criminal Court of First Instance for her social media posts regarding specialized sergeant Musa Orhan, who was prosecuted for allegedly sexually assaulting a child.
- 01: Hakkari** The 1st Assize Court sentenced People's Democratic Party (HDP) Co-Mayor Remziye Yaşar as well as HDP and Democratic Regions Party (DBP) executives Abdulvahit Şahinoğlu and Mehmet Çapraz to 17 years and 6 months each in prison; and 27 others to 8 years and 9 months each in prison for the charge of "terrorist organisation membership".
- 01: Kars** 2nd Assize Court sentenced 3 people to aggravated life imprisonment for the charge of "attempting to overthrow the Constitutional order"; 9 people to life imprisonment and 4 people to 12 years and 6 months in prison each.
- 01: Mersin** The lawsuit filed against artist Kadir Çat with the allegation of "making propaganda for a terrorist organization" at the 7th Assize Court resulted in his acquittal.
- 05: Ankara** The first hearing was held in the lawsuit filed against Republican People's Party (CHP) Deputy Chair Gökçe Gökçen at the 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance. In the indictment, Gökçen is charged with "public incitement to hatred and enmity", "insult" and "slander". The next hearing was scheduled for February 24, 2022.
- 05: Antalya** The lawsuit filed against former Bar Association President Polat Balkan at the 3rd Criminal Court of First Instance with the allegation that he "praised the crime and the criminal" through his social media posts resulted in acquittal.
- 05: Osmaniye** The lawsuit filed against former Central District Co-Chair Sevgül Aydın and 2 others at the 2nd Assize Court on charges of "terrorist organization membership", "propagandizing for a terrorist organization" and "violating the Law on the Prevention of Financing of Terrorism" resulted in acquittal.

- 06: Diyarbakır** MEBYA-DER executive Halime Topus was acquitted of “terrorist organisation membership” in the lawsuit filed against her at the 11th Assize Court.
- 06: Diyarbakır** Yenişehir Co-Mayor Nevriye Çur was sentenced to 6 years and 3 months in prison on the charge of "terrorist organization membership".
- 06: Hakkâri** People's Democratic Party (HDP) Central District Co-Chair Sinem Seven, Hakkari Women's Assembly Spokesperson Zeynep Kaya, HDP Şemdinli District Co-Chair Sozdar Atila and HDP former Provincial Co-Chair Sipan Turan were acquitted by the 3rd Assize Court of the charge of "making terrorist organization propaganda" for participating in a demonstration.
- 06: Istanbul** The lawsuit filed against Cumhuriyet Daily’s former Editor-in-Chief Can Dündar for publishing footage of the stopping of MIT trucks continued at the 14th Assize Court. The court accepted the President's request to take part in the case and adjourned the hearing to December 29.
- 07: Batman** The 2nd Assize Court sentenced director Veysi Altay to 1 year and 15 days in prison for the screening of the documentary film "Nû Jîn" and deferred the announcement of the verdict. The court further converted the 10-month prison sentence of movie theater manager Dicle Anter to a fine of 6,000 TL.
- 07: Istanbul** Journalist Canan Çoşkun was acquitted in the lawsuit filed against her at the 34th Assize Court on the grounds of “targeting public official who took part in the fight against terrorism” in the news she covered about Ali Açar and Can Uğur regarding the murder of Berkin Elvan.
- 08: Ankara** Photographer and poet Mehmet Özer was sentenced to 1 year and 3 months in prison in the lawsuit filed against him at the 2nd Assize Court, based on his social media posts.
- 08: Ankara** 19 people detained during the 9th Pride March held at Middle East Technical University (METU) on May 10, 2019 were acquitted in the lawsuit filed against them at the 39th Criminal Court of First Instance.
- 08: Diyarbakır** Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TIHV) founding board member Dr Mehmet Selim Ölçer was sentenced to 2 years and 1 month in prison by the 9th Assize Court on the charge of "wilfully aiding an illegal organization".
- 08: Istanbul** The first hearing of the combined Gezi and Çarşı cases was held at the 13th Assize Court. In the case with 52 defendants, the court decided for Osman Kavala to remain under arrest. The case was adjourned to November 26.
- 08: Istanbul** The latest hearing of the lawsuit filed against 35 people due to the Gezi Park protests was held at the 13th Assize Court after the decree of acquittal issued by the local court was overturned by the 16th Criminal Chamber of the Court of Cassation. The next hearing was scheduled for November 26.
- 11: Istanbul** The indictment prepared against the person named G.A on the grounds that he insulted the Presidential Communications Director Fahrettin Altun in a social media post, was filed at the Anatolian 12th Criminal Court of First Instance. The first hearing was scheduled for February 9, 2022.
- 12: Diyarbakır** The 5th Assize Court acquitted journalist Roza Metina and the Prosecutor appealed for correction.

<b>12: Kırşehir</b>	German citizen Mahmut Güneş was sentenced to 2 years and 9 months in prison for "making propaganda for a terrorist organization" in the case filed against him at the Assize Court.
<b>12: Mersin</b>	The 2nd Assize Court sentenced musician Dilan Demir to 9 years in prison for "terrorist organization membership".
<b>12: Van</b>	Journalist Ruşen Takva was acquitted by the 2nd Assize Court in the lawsuit filed against him because of a press statement he followed.
<b>14: Bitlis</b>	Turkish Journalists' Association Chairman and Bitlis News Editor-in-Chief Sinan Aygül was fined 16,660 TL by the 2nd Assize Court for "making propaganda for a terrorist organization".
<b>14: Istanbul</b>	The Anatolian 45th Criminal Court of First Instance sentenced Ileri Haber Editor-in-Chief Doğan Ergün to 11 months and 20 days in prison and deferred the announcement of the verdict .
<b>15: Van</b>	The 4th Assize Court sentenced former People's Democratic Party (HDP) MP Aysel Tuğluk to 1 year and 8 months in prison for "making propaganda for a terrorist organization".
<b>16: Istanbul</b>	Mezopotamya Agency reporter Mehmet Aslan stood trial at the 24th Assize Court. After the defense statements, the court adjourned the case to December 16.
<b>18: Ankara</b>	The lawsuit filed against 108 People's Democratic Party (HDP) members and executives, 21 of whom are imprisoned including the former HDP Co-Chairs, continues at the 22nd Assize Court. The court decided for 21 politicians to remain under arrest and adjourned the case to November 8.
<b>18: Diyarbakır</b>	The 9th Assize Court sentenced People's Democratic Party (HDP) Party Assembly member Mehmet Eşref Mamedoğlu to 7 years and 6 months in prison for "terrorist organization membership".
<b>20: Çankırı</b>	A person named O.D. was arrested for the crime of "insulting Atatürk" in connection with the breaking of the Atatürk bust in the garden of the Martyr Erkan Er Regional Boarding School in Orta district.
<b>20: Diyarbakır</b>	The 9th Assize Court sentenced TJA Term Spokesperson Ayşe Gökkan to 12 years in prison for "terrorist organization membership", 7 years and 6 months for "wilfully aiding a terrorist organization" and 3 years for "making propaganda for a terrorist organization", making up a total of 30 years.
<b>20: Istanbul</b>	The lawsuit filed against 9 people, who were detained during the press statement held in Kadıköy to protest the appointment of a rector to Boğaziçi University, started at Anatolian 60th Criminal Court of First Instance. The court adjourned the case May 11, 2022 and revoked the judicial measures against 7 people.
<b>20: Mardin</b>	The 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance acquitted 8 people, including 5 journalists, who were detained during the protests against trustees.
<b>21: Istanbul</b>	The lawsuit filed against artist Ferhat Tunç for allegedly insulting then-Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım through a social media post, started at the 16th Criminal Court of First Instance. The court issued an arrest warrant against Tunç and adjourned the case to March 17, 2022.

- 22: Istanbul** The Anatolian 21st Criminal Court of First Instance sentenced Pınar Yıldırım to 5 months and 18 days in prison on charges of "openly denigrating part of the society on the basis of gender differences" in her social media posts.
- 22: Şanlıurfa** The 5th Assize Court filed a criminal complaint against Koray Türkay, Şahin Tümüklü, Çağla Seven, Fethi Aydın and attorney Sezin Uçar, who attended the Suruç hearing, alleging "insult and threat" because of their words at the hearing.
- 22: Şanlıurfa** The 5th Assize Court sentenced Yakup Şahin, the only arrested suspect, to 34 times aggravated life imprisonment, 70 times to 27 years in prison and a fine of 40.000 TL for the crimes of "willful homicide and attempted homicide" in connection with the bomb attack that took place in Suruç district, in which 33 people lost their lives.
- 26: Diyarbakır** The 8th Assize Court sentenced former Democratic Regions Party (DBP) Provincial Co-Chair Emine Ruken Akça, to 7 years and 6 months in prison for "terrorist organization membership".
- 26: Van** An expert sergeant named T.K., who was detained on charges of sexually assaulting two children, was arrested by the court to which he was sent.
- 27: Diyarbakır** 6 of 8 people detained in Istanbul on October 15, 2021 as part of an investigation were arrested on charges of "terrorist organization membership".
- 27: Istanbul** The prosecution of 97 people, who were detained during the protest held on February 1 against the appointed rector of Boğaziçi University, started at the 32nd Criminal Court of First Instance. The court adjourned the case to January 10, 2022 by issuing warrants against 13 defendants, who were absent in the hearing without an excuse.
- 28: Batman** The 2nd Assize Court sentenced People's Democratic Party (HDP) Provincial Co-Chairs Fatma Ablay and Ömer Kulpu to 1 year and 8 months in prison separately on charges of "making propaganda for a terrorist organization" and deferred the announcement of their sentences.

### **3. Other violations**

- 02: Bingöl** Two workers, Emrullah Anşın and Ömer Faruk Kaya, lost their lives as a result of the explosion that occurred during the passage of a vehicle that was stated to belong to Fırat Electric Distribution Inc. in Genç district.
- 04: Diyarbakır** The right to visit of relatives of some prisoners in High Security Prisons No. 1 and No. 2 was prohibited because they greeted other prisoners during the meeting.
- 04: Eskişehir** The 1st Criminal Court of Peace issued an access ban against the news on the OdaTV4 website about the statements of the Republican People's Party (CHP) Ordu MP Mustafa Adıgüzel regarding promotions and appointments at the General Directorate of Security and the Gendarmerie General Command, on the grounds of violation of personal rights.
- 04: Istanbul** The Anatolian 3rd Criminal Court of Peace issued an access ban against the news on Birgün, Cumhuriyet, Diken, OdaTV and Duvar news websites about the

- company and its owner, who imposed a lien on Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (IBB) accounts, on the grounds of violation of personal rights.
- 04: Samsun** Adatepe Neighborhood Headman Cemil Akbaş and Esentepe Neighborhood Headwoman Semra Ersoy were dismissed by the District Governorate due to the protest held in front of the municipality against the decision of deed of agricultural lands in Vezirköprü district.
- 04: Van** During their transfer to the hospital in the High Security Prison, the prisoners were forced to remove their watches and belts, and the prisoners who did not accept this were not transferred to the hospital.
- 05: Ankara** 4 summaries against 4 MPs, 1 of which against a Democratic Regions Party (DBP) MP and 3 of which against People's Democratic Party (HDP) members, were sent to the Turkish Grand National Assembly, demanding that their immunity be lifted.
- 07: Istanbul** The 4th Criminal Court of Peace issued an access ban against the Internet news websites Cumhuriyet, Duvar and Birgün regarding the news on the allegations of bribery against the Istanbul Security Director and some police officers, due to the violation of personal rights.
- 08: Istanbul** Upon the complaint of Boğaziçi University's appointed rector Naci İnci, the 8th Criminal Judicature of Peace issued an access ban against the news published in the Gerçek Gündem news website about the arrest of university students.
- 09: Şanlıurfa** Some of the 80 prisoners, who were subjected to torture and ill-treatment by the prison guards in Şanlıurfa Type-T Prison No.2, were forcibly taken to cells with no windows and no running water. Furthermore, injured prisoners were not transferred to the infirmary.
- 10: Ankara** ANKA reporter Tamer Arda Erşin, who was following the news during the police intervention in the event organised to commemorate those who lost their lives in the October 10 Ankara Massacre, was prevented by the police and threatened with the words, "I will cut you into four pieces."
- 11: Istanbul** The 4th Criminal Court of Peace issued an access ban against the online news websites Cumhuriyet, İleri Haber and Dokuzsekiz regarding the news on the allegations of bribery against the Istanbul Security Director and some police officers, on the grounds of violation of personal rights.
- 13: Diyarbakır** Prisoners held in Diyarbakır 1 and 2 F Type prisons were not given hot water, poor quality meals were given to them and the treatments of sick prisoners were not made regularly.
- 13: Van** The books sent to journalist Nedim Türfent, who is being held in Van Type-T Closed Prison, were not given to him; the letter he wrote about the violation of rights he was exposed to, was censored.
- 14: Ankara** The 1st Criminal Judicature of Peace issued an access ban against a news article on İleri Haber news website due to a violation of personal rights.
- 16: Ankara** The 4th Criminal Judicature of Peace issued an access ban against the news published on Deutsche Welle, Gündem, Cumhuriyet and Haber Sol news websites regarding the resignation of a member of the Council of Judges and Prosecutors (HSK) on the grounds of violation of personal rights.

- 17: Elâzığ** In the High Security Prison No. 1, the prisoners who tested positive for COVID-19 were given expired drugs. A translation fee was requested from the prisoners for the delivery of books and letters in Kurdish, the number of books that the prisoners could have with them was limited to 7, the newspapers Yeni Yaşam, Evrensel and kurdish newspaper Xwebûn were not given to the prisoners.
- 17: Gaziantep** The treatment of the ill prisoner Adnan Yalçın, who was held in Gaziantep Type-H Prison, was not carried out due to the measures taken within the scope of COVID-19.
- 19: Van** A prisoner in Type-F Prison was taken from his ward and interrogated, and he was subjected to torture and ill-treatment during the interrogation.
- 20: Ankara** The 4th Criminal Judicature of Peace issued an access ban against the news on the Ileri Haber and Kronos34 websites on the parliamentary question submitted by Turkish Workers' Party (TIP) Istanbul MP Ahmet Şık regarding Ziraat Bank.
- 20: Diyarbakır** 7 prisoners, who were transferred from Type-D Closed Prison to other prisons against their will with reasons of security, were subjected to torture and ill-treatment during the transfer, forced to being searched naked in the prisons they were taken to, and the prisoners who did not accept it were also subjected to torture and ill-treatment.
- 20: Istanbul** The 9th Criminal Judicature of Peace issued an access ban against the news on Yeniçağ, Sputnik and Gerçek Gündem news websites regarding the allegations of bribery against the Security Director and some police officers on the grounds of violation of personal rights.
- 20: Şırnak** The number of inmates held in the Şırnak Type-T Closed Prison was more than the capacity the prison could handle. Hot water was given for twenty minutes only, two days a week. Meals were of poor quality, the prices of the products in the canteen were above normal, and the prisoners were not given cleaning materials to protect them from the COVID-19 epidemic. Furthermore, their social, cultural and exercise rights were restricted.
- 20: Şırnak** The hospital referrals and treatments of the prisoners held in Şırnak Type-T Closed Prison were not carried out regularly.
- 21: Ankara** The 4th Criminal Judicature of Peace issued an access ban against the article on the Diken news website regarding a statement by the Republican People's Party (CHP) Chairman Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu on the grounds of violation of personal rights.
- 21: Van** People's Democratic Party (HDP) Provincial Co-Chair Yadişen Karabulak, who was held in Van Type-T Prison, was transferred to Mersin Tarsus Women's Prison against her will.
- 22: Ankara** Access Providers Association issued an access ban against the news about a relative of Ahmet Mahmut Ünlü, known publicly as "Cübbeli Ahmet", on the websites of Cumhuriyet, Gerçek Gündem and Artı Gerçek, on the grounds of violation of personal rights.
- 22: Ankara** The 7th Criminal Judicature of Peace issued an access ban against the news article written by journalist Timur Soykan regarding the Turkish Youth

- Foundation (TÜGVA) on the Birgün, Halk TV and Kronos34 websites, on the grounds of violation of personal rights.
- 22: Istanbul** The 4th Criminal Judicature of Peace issued an access ban against the news on Boğaziçi University Secretary General Nedim Malkoç published in the websites of Sözcü, Cumhuriyet and Medya Tava on the grounds of violation of personal rights.
- 22: Izmir** Two people, who introduced themselves as police officers, approached a reader of Kaldıraç after he left Bozyaka Police Department, where he went to testify a week ago; accusing him of espionage.
- 25: Şırnak** Prisoners who did not accept the imposition of singing the National Anthem in Şırnak Type-T Prison were subjected to torture and ill-treatment by the prison guards.
- 26: Şırnak** In the Type-T Prison, 16 prisoners were subjected to physical violence by the prison guards.
- 27: Ankara** Administrative fines were issued against Halk TV by the Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK) for its broadcasts on TÜGVA, and against TELE 1 channel for news about Deputy Chairman of the Presidency's High Advisory Board and former Speaker of the Parliament İsmail Kahraman.
- 27: Van** Prisoner Veysi Bayat, who was held in the High Security Prison, was subjected to physical violence by the prison guards.
- 28: Şanlıurfa** In the Type-T Prison No.2, 16 people were kept in a quarantine ward with the capacity to host 10 people, new prisoners were placed in the ward before the end of the quarantine period, the quarantine period was restarted from the beginning and the quarantine period was increased from 14 days to 29 days.
- 29: Ankara** The reporters, photojournalists and cameramen of Cumhuriyet Daily, FOX TV channel and Anka Agency were not admitted to the ceremony held in Anıtkabir on the occasion of the October 29 Republic Day, on the grounds of the accreditation requirement applied by the Directorate of Communications.
- 30: Antalya** In Elmalı, 20 people beat 2 people for listening to Kurdish music.
- 30: Batman** The manager Batman Type-T Prison threatened inmates and said, *"I will impose all kinds of torture and distress on you, if necessary, I will break your head, arms and legs. You are terrorists, you deserve all kinds of torture."*
- 30: Batman** Prisoners who did not accept the imposition of a standing count in the Batman Type-T Prison were subjected to torture and other ill-treatment, and were dragged out of their wards on the ground.
- 30: Gaziantep** In the Type-H Prison, prisoners were subjected to physical violence by the prison guards and threatened with death.
- 30: Şırnak** 35 prisoners, who were subjected to torture and other ill-treatment by the prison guards in Şırnak Type-T Prison, were transferred to other prisons.

#### **4. COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS**

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

According to the findings of the TIHV Documentation Center, at least 15 peaceful meetings and demonstrations throughout the country were intervened against by the police in October; at least 3 peaceful meetings and demonstrations were prevented by the police. At least 133 people were detained during these interventions and preventions. 2 people were arrested and 18 people were released on the condition of judicial measures. In addition, during the raid against recycling warehouses in Ümraniye, at least 220 waste paper collector/recycling workers were detained and 3 people were arrested.

If we look at the contents of the violations of freedom of meeting and organisation in October, demonstrations to protest Naci İnci, who was appointed as rector to Boğaziçi University by the President, come to the fore. Likewise, the interventions against the commemoration meetings of the October 10 Train Massacre that happened in Ankara in 2015 draw attention as well.

Another prominent violation was the raids against recycling warehouses in Istanbul Ümraniye, conducted jointly by the municipal police and the police, and the reactions of recycling workers. As I stated above, a large number of people were detained and three people were arrested. However, the statement made by the Istanbul Governorate regarding the incident is quite striking. In the statement in question, after mentioning the number of those detained and those against whom legal proceedings were initiated, it was stated: *"The foreign nationals (33) who were identified to **have been employed in these workplaces without social security**, were handed over to the Provincial Directorate of Migration Management for deportation procedures."* How dare? People are employed and exploited without any social security, and the authorities try to deport those who are exposed to such violations, instead of investigating the perpetrators and taking legal action against them.

Another thought-provoking incident was the arrest of many Republican People's Party (CHP) members, who were distributing leaflets, entitled "SaBıKa Holding: A Story of Black Money-Politics-Judiciary" prepared by the Republican People's Party (CHP), and the seizure of the leaflets by the police forces. This incident, which the main opposition party was exposed to, is very important in terms of showing how narrow the public/political space in the country is and the extent the ruling power's tutelage over politics has reached.

Judicial pressure and harassment against freedom of expression continued in October as well. As a result of prosecutions, movie actress Ezgi Mola, director Veysi Altay, former Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TIHV) Secretary General and former Turkish Medical Association (TTB) Central Council Chairman Dr Selim Ölçer, photographer and poet Mehmet Özer were all sentenced to various fines and imprisonment. In addition, an investigation was opened against journalist Oktay Candemir and actress Berna Laçın for their social media posts. All of these show the alarming level of violations of freedom of expression, media and association; as well as why the fight for rights is important...

In October, courts issued access bans against 1 website belonging to at least 1 media institution and at least 37 news articles.

In October, heavy administrative fines were issued against media organizations by the Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK). Halk TV received its share of these penalties for its broadcasts on TUGVA, and TELE 1 channel for its news about Deputy Chairman of the Presidency's High Advisory Board and former Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey İsmail Kahraman.

All actions and events in 5 provinces were banned 6 times by the governorates, and 7 individual protests and events were either banned or prevented.

The current situation in the province of Van, which we mention in each session, is as follows: With another decree issued by the Governorate in October, the protest and demonstration ban implemented in Van **since November 21, 2016** has been **extended to 1804 days** without interruption.

Of course, in addition to many economic, social and political factors, the fact of impunity plays a fundamental role in the intense and increasing continuation of the violations of rights that we are trying to convey.

As it is known, November 3 is the “**United Nations (UN) International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists**”. On this occasion, it would be useful to briefly touch upon the concept of impunity.

On the occasion of November 3, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said in a statement that 62 journalists were killed as they were performing their profession in last year (2020). He also pointed out that the number of journalists killed while investigating **corruption and human rights violations** has increased in recent years. Stating that 9 out of every 10 crimes against journalists go unpunished, Guterres pointed out that journalists also face threats such as kidnapping, intimidation and torture while doing their jobs, and called on the party states to effectively investigate the crimes against journalists and not leave them under impunity.

#### **Osman İşçi (Human Rights Association - IHD, Ankara):**

Documentation and reporting activities should be continued due to the continuation of violations in the areas subject to our study.

As it is known, November 3 is the “United Nations (UN) International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists”. It is a fact that the culture of impunity is an important factor in the occurrence and especially repetition of rights violations. Knowing that those who commit violations will be protected is one of the main obstacles against the protection and development of human rights values. On this occasion, I would like to recall a few examples of impunity in Ankara and its surrounding provinces:

- The objection against the decree of "non-prosecution" issued in the investigation regarding the death of Ahmet Atakan, who died as a result of a tear gas shell shot by the police hitting his head during the Gezi protests in Hatay's Antakya district, was also rejected.
- The 1st Criminal Chamber of the Supreme Court of Appeals overturned the acquittal of the then District Gendarmerie Commander Captain Bülent Karaoğlu in the case of the Vartinis (Altınova) Massacre, in which 9 members of the same family were burned to death in 1993 in Muş, two years before the statute of limitations. On the other hand, the court upheld the acquittal of three defendants, one of whom was a special operations officer and two of whom were soldiers.
- The lawsuit filed against 6 police officers regarding university student Caner Ertay being tortured during the Gezi Park protests, has been concluded. Eskişehir 4th Criminal Court of First Instance sentenced 2 police officers to 23 months and 10 days in prison for "injuring", deferred the announcements of the sentences and acquitted 4 police officers.
- The Constitutional Court sought the opinion of the Human Rights Department of the Ministry of Justice regarding the application of Aydın Aydoğan, who was beaten, shot with rubber bullets and broken his arm during the police attack against the Saturday Mothers' 700th week meeting. The ministry claimed that the intervention suffered by Aydoğan, who was heavily beaten during the police attack, was justified and proportional. Claiming that the Saturday Mothers' protest was unlawful, the Ministry argued that the intervention of the law enforcement was thus in accordance with the law.

**Devran Yıldız (Human Rights Association - IHD, Batman):**

- Since activity bans and violations of rights regarding prosecutions continue, reporting, documentation and advocacy activities need to be carried out in a coordinated manner.
- Since the violations of rights in prisons have increased so much, it is necessary to carry out comprehensive reports and studies on prisons, especially in order to end the violations of rights there.
- As the process of conflict continues in the region, it is necessary to express the word "peace" more and to spread an awareness of peace in the society.
- While the state's policy of impunity continues, rights defenders must work in a coordinated and effective manner for effective advocacy.