

## December 2021 Report

### 1. Administrative Bans, Police Interventions

- 01: Antalya** H. K., who broadcasts street interviews on Youtube channel “Kendine Muhabir”, was detained together with a person he interviewed.
- 01: Batman** Maşur Bekleviş, who is one of the 6 people detained on November 26, 2021, was arrested by the court to which he was referred. 5 people [Free Women's Movement (TJA) activist Sedef Özdemir, Batman Municipal Council Member Vahibe Çelik, Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Batman Provincial Chairman Sedat Yıldız, HDP members Sevcan Öz and Berivan Altun] were released under judicial measures.
- 01: Mardin** 9 out of 45 people detained on November 27, 2021 were released on the condition of judicial measures by the court to which they were referred.
- 01: Van** In house raids, 16 people were detained on charges of "terrorist organization membership", "possessing dangerous materials without permission" and "aiding a terrorist organization".
- 02: Istanbul** The police intervened against the Bakırköy Municipality workers, who have been on strike for 39 days, and their supporters, in front of the municipality building. One person was detained.
- 03: Denizli** Within the scope of the Istanbul-based investigation carried out in 5 more provinces, 25 of the 43 people were detained in house raids on the allegation that they had connections with the DHKP-C.
- 03: Hakkâri** Colemêrg Haber Concession Holder Mimar Kaya, who was recording an argument between the police and a bus driver, was detained on the grounds that he was not permitted to record the argument.
- 03: Istanbul** Three members of the United Youth Assembly (BGM) were detained following a trial at the Anatolian Courthouse.
- 03: Istanbul** As part of an Istanbul-based investigation, 25 people were detained on the grounds that they were members of the People's Assemblies during the operations carried out in 7 provinces.
- 03: Istanbul** The house of Human Rights Association (IHD) Co-Chair Eren Keskin was raided on the grounds of her speech during a panel held in Tunceli two years ago.
- 03: Mardin** On December 1, 2021, retired judge Mehmet Beyazıt Boran in Savur district was put on the ground and reverse handcuffed by the police on the grounds that he did not show them his identity, and he was taken to the Security Directorate. A judicial and administrative investigation was launched against the responsible police officers.
- 03: Mardin** The Governorate banned all kinds of demonstration marches and open-air gatherings throughout the province for 15 days. Press releases, handing out flyers, leaflets, banners, posters, carrying torches, conducting surveys, hunger strikes, sit-in protests, booths, signature campaigns, setting up tents, protests and similar events were bound to permission by the local administration.
- 03: Mardin** The Governorate did not allow the Kurdish play Tartuffe to be staged by the Amed City Theatre, basing the ban on the demonstrations and events in the city.
- 04: Tunceli** PIRHA reporter Cihan Berk, who made a street interview in Nazımiye district, was prevented by the police.

- 05: Ankara** Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) provincial director Hüseyin Gökoğlu was detained by the police who came to his house, with physical violence and reverse handcuffs.
- 06: Istanbul** Within the scope of an Istanbul-based investigation, 24 people were detained in operations conducted in 14 provinces.
- 06: Istanbul** 2 of 25 people who were detained on December 3 on the allegation of being members of People's Assemblies were arrested, 23 people were released on condition of judicial measures.
- 06: Van** 13 people were detained as part of an Istanbul-based investigation related to the Coup Attempt.
- 07: Istanbul** A student, who was detained at the entrance of Boğaziçi University campus upon the complaint of the Secretary General of the university, was released after testifying at the Prosecutor's Office.
- 07: Istanbul** The police prevented the press statement made in front of the Istanbul Forensic Medicine Institute for the release of ill prisoner Ali Osman Köse, 3 people were detained.
- 07: Urfa** The application of the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Youth Assembly to distribute leaflets against drug use in Urfa was denied by the Urfa Governorate.
- 07: Van** A newspaper distributor named Özgür Ali Ağaoğlu was detained in İpekyolu district while he was distributing newspapers Yeni Yaşam Daily and Xwebûn Daily, 200 newspapers that were with him were confiscated.
- 08: Adana** Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) former Batman MP Mehmet Ali Aslan was detained within an investigation launched against him.
- 08: Antalya** Halk TV reporter Hazar Dost was detained at the airport due to the investigation launched against the news he reported.
- 08: Antalya** The police detained a reporter from Halk TV, who came to report the murder committed at Antalya Science and Culture Association.
- 08: Diyarbakır** The police prevented the press statement made by the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) regarding rights violations in prisons.
- 08: Istanbul** Socialist Youth Associations Federation (SGDF) member B.P., who was arrested on November 17 due to his social media posts and released on December 8 upon an appeal, was detained again on the same day as part of another file.
- 08: Şırnak** During the house raids in Silopi district, Municipal Council member from the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Abdullah Kaçmaz, HDP Youth Council member Mehmet Miraç Dinç and Sümeyye Gök were detained.
- 09: Malatya** Two people were detained on the allegation that they made propaganda for a terrorist organization in their social media posts.
- 10: Ankara** The protest to be organized by the "We Can't Find Shelter Movement" on December 12 was banned by the Governorate on the grounds that "it was not deemed appropriate in terms of ensuring public welfare and fulfilling the preventive law enforcement duty".
- 10: Mardin** The police did not allow Garibe Gezer's body to be transported to Dargeçit district with the funeral vehicle belonging to the Metropolitan Municipality. The family carried the body on their own.
- 10: Mersin** 11 people were detained in house raids for allegedly making propaganda for a terrorist organization during the Newroz celebration they attended.
- 10: Şırnak** An unknown person who reacted to the TOMA type anti-riot police vehicle parked in front of his shop in Silopi district, was subjected to ill-treatment by the police officers who said, "*How can you oppose the security forces?*"

<b>11: İstanbul</b>	The members of the Socialist Re-Establishment Party (SYKP) who were distributing leaflets about the economic crisis in Maltepe were prevented by the police.
<b>11: Şırnak</b>	Municipal Council member from the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Abdullah Kaçmaz, who was detained during the house raids in Silopi district on December 8, 2021, was arrested. The detention period of HDP Youth Council members Mehmet Miraç Dinç and Sümeyye Gök has been extended by 4 days.
<b>11: Şırnak</b>	The HDP district building in Cizre district was raided by the police. During the search in the party building, belongings were scattered all around and digital materials, newspapers, photographs and flags found in the building were confiscated.
<b>11: Şırnak</b>	26 people were detained in house raids in Cizre and Silopi districts and during the police raid against the HDP district building. It has been decided to restrict meetings of those detained with their lawyers for 24 hours.
<b>11: Zonguldak</b>	A citizen named A.C. in Ereğli was detained and arrested for allegedly insulting the President by throwing the photograph of the President hanging in the District Governorate building on the ground.
<b>12: Ankara</b>	For the protest to be organized by the Ankara "We Cannot Find Shelter Movement", buses carrying those coming from Izmir and Istanbul were not allowed to enter the province. 90 people were detained. 3 journalists (Nebiyi Arı, Yağmur Kaya and Hilal Işık) were detained on the grounds that they did not have press cards.
<b>12: Antalya</b>	The rally, organized by DISK-KESK-TMMOB-TTB with the theme, "We can't survive. We want a budget from the public in favor of labor" was banned by the Muratpaşa District Governorate on the grounds of the Antalya Provincial Police Department's assessment that the rally might pose a risk.
<b>13: Hakkari</b>	The Governorate banned all kinds of demonstrations throughout the province for 15 days. With this decree, the protest ban in the province, which has been implemented since June 5, 2020, has been extended to 570 days without interruption.
<b>13: İstanbul</b>	In the raid on İdil Cultural Center in Okmeydanı, the police damaged furniture and musical instruments, and detained 9 people.
<b>14: Ankara</b>	Police and private security units intervened in the forum held on the Cebeci campus by the students of Ankara University regarding the economic crisis and detained 13 people.
<b>14: K. Maraş</b>	With a statement made by the Governorate, open-air meetings throughout the province were banned for 14 days as of December 15, 2021.
<b>14: Konya</b>	A person named H. B., who came to the front of the Governorate building with the dead body of a mother dog and her 4 puppies to protest the violence against animals, and made a press statement, was detained by the police on the grounds of "protesting without permission".
<b>14: Şırnak</b>	6 of 27 people detained on December 11, 2021 were released by the court to which they were referred, on the condition of judicial control. 19 people are still under detention.
<b>15: Şırnak</b>	8 out of 30 people detained on December 8, 2021 were arrested by the court to which they were referred; 2 people were released on the condition of judicial control. 12 people are still under detention.
<b>16: Antalya</b>	Police and private security units prevented the forum that Akdeniz University students wanted to hold on campus about the problems they experienced.
<b>16: Diyarbakır</b>	MED TUHAD-FED Co-Chair Emine Kaya and a person named Selma Tanrıku were detained.

- 16: Şırnak** Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Cizre district manager Botan Em and HDP Youth Assembly member Rıdvan Türel, who were detained in Cizre district on December 11, 2021, were subjected to torture and ill-treatment under custody. During their health check, their handcuffs were not removed and the law enforcement officers did not leave the room. They were verbally interrogated many times at the Police Department, and were subjected to insults.
- 16: Şırnak** 3 of the 30 people detained in Şırnak on December 11, 2021 were arrested by the court to which they were referred; 4 people were released on the condition of judicial measures. 5 people are still under detainment.
- 16: Tunceli** The rally, which was planned to be held by the Labor and Democracy Platform, was not allowed by the Governorate on the grounds of the ongoing protest ban and the COVID-19 outbreak.
- 17: İstanbul** Of those detained in the raid against the İdil Cultural Center on December 13, 4 were arrested and 4 were released on the condition of judicial measures.
- 17: İstanbul** In house raids, 12 members and executives of the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) were detained.
- 17: İzmir** In Menemen, the gendarmerie detained 2 foreign nationals on the allegation that they were acting on behalf of the PKK.
- 17: Manisa** A Syrian national was arrested for allegedly carrying out activities on behalf of the PKK/KCK YPG/PYD, with the operation of the Provincial Security Directorate and the Turkish National Intelligence Agency's Presidency.
- 17: Şırnak** 3 of the 30 people detained on December 11, 2021 were arrested by the court to which they were referred; 2 people were released on the condition of judicial measures. Within the scope of the same investigation, 13 people have previously been arrested, and 12 people have been released on the condition of judicial measures.
- 17: Şırnak** Tevgera Jinên Azad (TJA) activist Sümeyye Gök, who was detained in Silopi district on December 8, 2021, was subjected to naked search and an imposition of espionage.
- 18: Diyarbakır** The response to the application made to the Presidential Communication Center System (CIMER) regarding a person being handcuffed and put on the ground by the police in the Sur district, while being ill-treated, was given as, "Your application has been sent to our Legal Affairs Branch Directorate for disciplinary evaluation of the issue".
- 18: Mardin** Democratic Regions Party (DBP) Mardin provincial manager Celal Ata was detained.
- 19: Diyarbakır** MED TUHAD-FED Co-Chair Emine Kaya and a person named Selma Tanrıkulu, who were detained in Diyarbakır on December 16, 2021, were arrested.
- 19: İstanbul** The event to be held due to the second anniversary of the Future Party was banned with a Governorate decree, the announcement vehicles announcing the event were prevented.
- 19: Şırnak** Osman Aksoy, Cizre member of the Association for Solidarity with Families (MEBYA-DER) Of Those Deceased in the Cradle of Mesopotamia, and Mirza Kurt, Co-Chair of the Cizre Birca Belek Language and Culture and Art Association, were detained and arrested the next day.
- 20: Ankara** The police intervened in the re-employment protests held in front of the Republican People's Party (CHP) Headquarters in Çankaya district and detained 4 people.
- 20: Şırnak** HDP provincial director Zozan Aksu was detained, arrested 3 days later.
- 21: İstanbul** 20 people were detained in 4 provinces within the scope of a Bursa-based investigation; 17 people were detained in 16 provinces as part of an İstanbul-based investigation.

- 23: Istanbul** The police intervened in the group, including Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) MPs, who came together at Beyoğlu Istiklal Street to attend the press release organised on the isolation and rights violations of ill prisoners, upon the call of the Democratic Institutions Platform (DKP). The police further detained 11 people using physical violence and did not allow journalists to take pictures.
- 24: Van** At least 13 people, including Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) executives and members, were detained during house raids in Central and Özalp districts.
- 25: Istanbul** The police intervened in the press release, demanding the release of ill prisoner Ali Osman Köse by the Association for Solidarity with the Families of Detainees (TAYAD) at Taksim Square, and 2 people were detained using physical violence.
- 25: Mardin** The press statement made by the members of the Şahmaran Women's Platform in front of the Nusaybin representation of the Confederation of Public Workers Unions (KESK) against harassment, rape and femicide was prevented by the police on the grounds of the Governorate ban against protests and demonstrations. Nevertheless, the statement was made at the union building.
- 25: Mersin** Four Peoples' Democratic Congress (HDK) members, who opened a booth in Yenişehir district and distributed leaflets about the economic crisis, were detained by the police after they wanted to remove the stand and confiscate the leaflets, on charges of *"resisting an officer to prevent duty"*.
- 26: Diyarbakır** 11 people who were detained after the HDP Youth Assembly's 3rd Ordinary Congress held on December 26, 2021 were released by the court to which they were referred to, on the condition of judicial measures.
- 26: Diyarbakır** In the Type-D Closed Prison, ward searches were carried out in the presence of dogs. The prisoners were subjected to physical and verbal violence by the prison guards and their personal belongings were confiscated.
- 26: Diyarbakır** After the HDP Youth Assembly's 3rd Ordinary Congress, 16 people who left the congress hall were detained by the police on charges of "making propaganda for a terrorist organization", the vehicle belonging to the HDP Yenişehir district organization was seized.
- 26: Istanbul** The police intervened against the striking workers of Bakırköy Municipality, who hung a banner reading *"Bakırköy Mayor Bülent Kerimoğlu, an enemy of workers and labor"*, on the Bosphorus Bridge, 10 people were detained.
- 27: Ankara** The police intervened in the protest in front of the company demanding the payment of overtime wages by the workers who are members of İnşaat-İş, and detained 4 people, including the union manager A. D. G..
- 27: Bingöl** Tevhid Bookstore was raided by the police. Three people protesting the raid were injured.
- 27: Van** Two of the 20 people, including HDP executives and members were detained during house raids in the Central and Özalp districts on December 24, 2021, and later, were arrested. 18 people were released, 16 of which became subject to judicial measures.
- 28: Antalya** 12 people were detained on charges of "making propaganda for a terrorist organization" within the scope of the investigation regarding the rally organized by HDP on October 24, 2021.
- 28: Hakkâri** The Governorate banned all protests and demonstrations to be organised throughout the province for 15 days. With this decision, the protest and demonstration ban, which has been implemented since June 5, 2020, has been extended to 571 days without interruption.

- 28: İstanbul** Zeynep Karaman, a former member of the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) central executive committee, was detained and arrested in Edirne as part of the Kobanê case.
- 28: Şırnak** A person named Hediye Savgun was detained during a house raid in Güçlükonak district.

## 2. Investigations and Prosecutions

- 01: İstanbul** Within the scope of the investigation launched on the allegation of "insulting the President" through the leaflets prepared by the Republican People's Party (CHP), 7 party executives testified at the Prosecutor's Office.
- 01: İstanbul** The lawsuit filed against Cumhuriyet Daily reporter Hazal Ocak, photojournalist Vedat Arık, Editor-in-Chief Olcay Büyüктаş Akça and Editor-in-Chief İpek Özbey at the İstanbul 26th Assize Court on charges of "targeting people who took part in the fight against terrorism" and "violating private life" due to the news published about İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality conducting the demolition of the buildings built on the rented foundation land by the Presidential Communications Director Fahrettin Altun; continued on December 1, 2021. The case was adjourned to March 31, 2022.
- 02: Diyarbakır** 8th Assize Court sentenced Peace Mother Makbule Özbek (72) to 7 years and 6 months in prison for "terrorist organization membership".
- 02: İstanbul** The lawsuit filed against journalist Zekine Türkeri started at the 13th Assize Court on the charge of "successively making propaganda for a terrorist organization" on the grounds of her social media posts. The next hearing was scheduled for March 15, 2022.
- 02: Muş** 2nd Assize Court sentenced Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) former Provincial Co-Chair Muhlise Karagüzel to 10 months in prison for "making propaganda for a terrorist organization".
- 03: Siirt** The final hearing of the lawsuit filed against Specialist Sergeant Musa Orhan at the 1st Assize Court was held on the grounds that he sexually assaulted a child named İpek Er and drove her to suicide. The court denied the request of the Ankara Bar Association Women's Rights Center and We Will Stop Femicide Platform to attend the hearing. The court also refused the request of the Diyarbakır Bar Association Chairman, who was connected to the hearing via Audiovisual Informatics System (SEGBİS), to take the floor. The court told the lawyers of the complainants, who wanted to speak to respond to the statements of the defendant's lawyer, *"You talked more. Let them talk too. You are too many people, the lawyer is trying to defend himself alone."* The judge further interrupted İpek Er's mother by saying *"Okay, we got your statement, we get it"*. After the defenses, the court first sentenced Musa Orhan to 12 years in prison for "qualified sexual assault". Later, this sentence was reduced to 10 years. The court denied the Prosecutor's request for the arrest of Musa Orhan.
- 03: Şırnak** 1st Assize Court sentenced Halil İrmez, the Provincial Chairman of the previously shut-down Democratic Society Party (DTP), to 9 years in prison and ordered his arrest. İrmez, who was present at the hearing, was arrested.
- 03: Van** Following the defenses in the case filed at the 2nd Assize Court against 17 people, 10 of whom were detained including MEBYA-DER Co-Chair Gülistan Önver, on the

- charge of "terrorist organization membership", the court decided to release 10 people and adjourned the case to February 18, 2022.
- 06: Diyarbakır** In the 11th Assize Court Case against Democratic Regions Party (DBP) Provincial Co-Chair Seval Gülmez, the Prosecutor demanded that the accused be punished for terrorist organization membership. The next hearing was scheduled for March 2, 2022.
- 06: Diyarbakır** The trial of the Rosa Women's Association President Adalet Kaya continued at the 11th Assize Court. The next hearing was scheduled for March 7, 2022.
- 06: İstanbul** The lawsuit filed against Birgün Daily's editor Mehmet Emin Kurnaz continued for insulting the President and the Chairman of the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP). The next hearing was scheduled for March 17, 2022.
- 07: Adana** In the first hearing of the lawsuit filed against artists İlyas Arzu and Jiyan Savcı at the 2nd Assize Court, the defendants were released. The next hearing was scheduled for March 1, 2022.
- 07: Diyarbakır** Levent Tüzel, a former Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) İstanbul MP and Labour Party General Executive board member, was acquitted in the lawsuit filed against him at the 5th Assize Court as part of an investigation against the Democratic Society Congress (DTK).
- 07: Van** In the lawsuit filed at the 5th Assize Court against former HDP Provincial Chairman Herdem Acar on the charge of "aiding and abetting a terrorist organization", the court decided for the arrest of Herdem Acar to continue and adjourned the hearing to January 13, 2022.
- 08: Ağrı** The lawsuit filed against 5 people, including journalist Aziz Oruç and HDP Doğubayazıt District Co-Chair Abdullah Ekelek, continued at the 2nd Assize Court. The next hearing was scheduled for March 9, 2022.
- 08: Diyarbakır** The lawsuit filed against Jinnews editor Gülşen Koçuk started at the 9th Assize Court for allegedly making propaganda for a terrorist organization in her social media posts. The court sentenced Gülşen Koçuk to 1 year, 10 months and 15 days in prison in the first hearing and deferred the announcement of the verdict.
- 08: Diyarbakır** In the lawsuit filed against Tevgera Jinên Azad (TJA) activist Figen Ekti at the 10th Assize Court, the court abated the case by showing the acquittal verdicts given in 2 separate lawsuits filed within the same allegation.
- 09: İstanbul** It has been found out that the rector, who was appointed to Boğaziçi University by the President, filed a criminal complaint with the İstanbul Chief Public Prosecutor's Office against 16 academics, who participated in the vigil at the university every day.
- 10: Ankara** In the lawsuit filed at the 22nd Assize Court against 108 Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) members and executives, 21 of whom were imprisoned including former HDP Co-Chairs, journalists were not allowed into the hearing room on the grounds that they did not have turquoise press cards.
- 10: İstanbul** The lawsuit filed against police officers K. A., N. D., Y. S. continued at the İstanbul 35th Criminal Court of First Instance for the crime of "violating the freedom of work and employment" on the grounds that they inflicted violence on journalist Beyza Kural during her news coverage. The next hearing was scheduled for March 11, 2022.
- 10: İstanbul** The indictment against journalist Hasan Cemal, prepared by the İstanbul Chief Public Prosecutor's Office on the grounds that he insulted the President in his social media posts, was accepted by the İstanbul 41st Criminal Court of First Instance. The first hearing is on April 12, 2022.
- 12: İstanbul** An investigation was launched by the İstanbul Chief Public Prosecutor's Office regarding the People's Democratic Congress (HDP) Provincial congress held on

- December 12, 2021, upon the complaint of the Istanbul Security Directorate on the grounds of the slogans chanted and the songs sung at the congress.
- 12: Istanbul** The indictment prepared by the Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor's Office against 14 people, 2 of whom are arrested, due to the protests against the rector appointed to Boğaziçi University by the President; was accepted by the Criminal Court of First Instance. The first hearing is on January 7, 2022.
- 12: Istanbul** In the lawsuit filed against the Republican People's Party (CHP) Istanbul Provincial Chair Canan Kaftancıoğlu for allegedly insulting the President in her social media posts, the 4th Civil Chamber of the Istanbul Regional Court of Justice increased the amount of non-pecuniary damage that Kaftancıoğlu was supposed to pay from 56,000 TL to 290,000 TL.
- 13: Diyarbakır** 11th Assize Court sentenced Panayır Çelik, a member of the Municipality Council in Bağlar district and a member of the Rosa Women's Association, to 6 years and 3 months in prison for "terrorist organization membership".
- 13: Diyarbakır** In the lawsuit filed against journalist Durket Süren at the 11th Assize Court, he was charged with 'aiding a terrorist organization' and 'making propaganda for a terrorist organization' for his social media posts and the sale of banned issues of the newspapers Azadiya Welat and Özgür Gündem, which were previously shut-down with Statutory Decrees, with an imprisonment claim from 1 to 8 years. Explaining his opinion on the merits, the Prosecutor demanded that Durket Süren be acquitted of the charge of "aiding a terrorist organization" and sentenced to 10 months to 5 years in prison for "making propaganda for a terrorist organization". The next hearing was scheduled for February 22, 2022.
- 13: Diyarbakır** 9th Assize Court sentenced MEBYA-DER Co-Chair Yüksel Almas to 10 years in prison for "terrorist organization membership" and decided to continue his detention.
- 14: Ankara** The first hearing of the lawsuit filed against Mahmut Konuk at the 54th Criminal Court of First Instance was held on the allegation that he insulted the President with his words during the re-employment protests held on Yüksel Street. After the defenses, the court adjourned the hearing to December 21, 2021 and acquitted the defendants in the next hearing.
- 14: Diyarbakır** In the lawsuit filed against journalist Rojhat Doğru at the 8th Assize Court on charges of "destroying the unity and integrity of the state", "terrorist organization membership" and "making propaganda for a terrorist organization", the Prosecutor, who gave his opinion on the merits, requested that the defendant be sentenced to aggravated life imprisonment. The next hearing was scheduled for January 6, 2022.
- 14: Diyarbakır** The court sentenced Yılmaz Kan, the former Co-Chair of the GÖÇ-DER Branch, to 6 years and 3 months in prison on the charge of "terrorist organization membership" in the lawsuit filed against him at the Assize Court as part of an investigation against the Democratic Society Congress (DTK).
- 14: Diyarbakır** In the lawsuit filed against Meryem Soylu (79) at the 5th Assize Court within the scope of the investigation against MEBYA-DER, the court adjourned the hearing to February 15, 2022 following the defense statements.
- 14: Diyarbakır** After the verdict of acquittal was overturned in the lawsuit filed against Rojeva Medya newspaper distributors Ercan Yeltaş and Veysi Altın at the 5th Assize Court, the trial process started again. After the defense statements, the court adjourned the hearing to March 22, 2022.
- 14: Van** In the lawsuit filed against police officers S. O. and H. O. O. at the 2nd Assize Court regarding the death of Lütfullah Tacik (17) at the Deportation Center on May 27, 2014,

- the Prosecutor gave his opinion on the merits and requested for police officer S.O. to be penalised due to "deliberate injury" and "misuse of duty"; H.O. O. due to "misuse of duty" only. The next hearing was scheduled for February 15, 2022.
- 15: Ankara** The first hearing of the lawsuit filed against the President of the TBB and the former Ankara Bar Association President Erinç Sağkan, Ankara Bar Association President Kemal Koranel and the members of the board of directors at the 16th Assize Court on the allegation of "insulting the religious values adopted by a section of the public" in the press statement they made about the discriminatory statements of the President of Religious Affairs, Ali Erbaş. After the defense statements, the court adjourned the hearing to March 9, 2022.
- 15: Diyarbakır** 9th Assize Court sentenced Democratic Regions Party (DBP) provincial director Celal Yoldaş to a total of 10 years and 6 months in prison, 9 years for "terrorist organization membership" and 1 year and 6 months for "making propaganda for a terrorist organization".
- 15: Diyarbakır** The lawsuit filed against Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) press employee Vedat Dağ continued at the 11th Assize Court. Dağ is demanded to be punished for the crimes of "terrorist organization membership" and "making propaganda for a terrorist organization". The next hearing was scheduled for March 16, 2022.
- 15: Diyarbakır** In the lawsuit filed against People's Democratic Party (HDP) Hakkari MP and Co-Chair of the Democratic Society Congress (DTK) Co-Chair Leyla Güven, who lost her seat at the Parliament, at the 9th Assize Court, on the charge of "making propaganda for a terrorist organization", Leyla Güven's lawyers made a claim of recusation on the grounds that "the court has lost its impartiality". The court, rejecting the request, adjourned the hearing to February 9, 2022.
- 15: Şırnak** In the lawsuit filed against the Co-Mayors of Silopi district, Adalet Fidan and Süleyman Şavluk, at the 2nd Assize Court, the co-chairs are accused of "terrorist organization membership". After the defense statements, the court adjourned the hearing to March 14, 2022.
- 16: Istanbul** Journalist Mehmet Aslan was acquitted in the lawsuit filed against him at the 24th Assize Court on charges of "terrorist organization membership" and "making news that would provoke the masses".
- 16: Istanbul** The lawsuit filed against the lawyers of PKK leader Abdullah Öcalan, Rezan Sarıca, Ali Maden, Baran Doğan, Cengiz Yürekli, İnan Akmeşe, Mahmut Taşçı and Mehmet Selim Okçuoğlu at the 33rd Assize Court, with the request of being penalised for the crime of "terrorist organization membership", continued on 16 December. The court adjourned the case to March 17, 2022.
- 16: Istanbul** In the final hearing of the case filed against 13 people, who were detained in the protest held in front of the Cengiz Holding building in the Üsküdar district of Istanbul on May 17, 2021 against the quarry that was planned to be built in the İkizdere district of Rize, the Anatolian Criminal Court of First Instance acquitted all defendants.
- 16: Van** The trial of three children named O. S. (14, m), S. Y. (16, m) and O. D. (17, m) continued at the 6th Assize Court in the lawsuit filed against the three children, who were detained in İpekyolu district of Van 15 February 15, 2019 and were subjected to torture and ill-treatment in custody, are asked to be sentenced to imprisonment from 10 to 26 years due to 'terrorist organization membership', 'making propaganda for a terrorist organization', 'resisting to prevent duty', 'possession or exchanging of dangerous materials without permission' and 'insult'. After their defense statements, the court adjourned the case to April 12, 2022.

- 17: Diyarbakır** The lawsuit filed against the former Co-Mayors Gültan Kışanak and Fırat Anlı, and the members of the municipal council of the time, continued at the Diyarbakır 10th Criminal Court of First Instance on the grounds of the "Co-Mayorship system". In the indictment, the defendants were asked to be penalised for the crimes of "unlawfully undertaking a position" and "misuse of duty".
- 20: Van** In the lawsuit filed against non-commissioned officers Ali Kaya, Özcan İldeniz and Veysel Ateş at the 1st Assize Court regarding the bomb attack on the Umüt Bookstore in Hakkari's Şemdinli district on November 9, 2005, the court acquitted all defendants.
- 21: Ankara** In the lawsuit filed against the President of the Republican People's Party (CHP) Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu at the 3rd Civil Court of First Instance for allegedly insulting the President in his speech at a group meeting of his party, the court ruled that Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu should pay the President 80 thousand TL in non-pecuniary damages.
- 21: Ankara** In the lawsuit filed against journalist Hayri Demir on allegations of "terrorist organization membership" and "making propaganda for a terrorist organization" at the 15th Assize Court, the court rejected the request for the removal of the judicial control measures against Hayri Demir, adjourning the case to April 19, 2022.
- 21: Istanbul** The court acquitted 22 people in the lawsuit filed at the Istanbul 5th Criminal Court of First Instance against 22 people on the allegation that they "resisted the police" during the police raid on the Özgür Gündem newspaper on August 16, 2016.
- 21: Istanbul** In the lawsuit filed at the Anatolian 37th Criminal Court of First Instance due to a cartoon journalist Enver Aysever shared on social media, the court turned Enver Aysever's 9-month prison sentence to a judicial fine of 4,500 TL on charges of "public incitement towards resentment and hostility".
- 21: Kars** 2nd Assize Court sentenced Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Provincial Co-Chair Cengiz Anlı to 12 years and 6 months in prison for "terrorist organization membership".
- 21: Tunceli** After the decision of the former Co-Mayor Nurhayat Altun was overturned by the Erzurum Regional Court of Justice, the case was heard again at the 1st Assize Court. The court insisted on its previous decree and sentenced Nurhayat Altun to 10 years in prison for "terrorist organization membership".
- 22: Istanbul** In the lawsuit filed against three police officers at the Istanbul Anatolian 1st Criminal Court of First Instance regarding the injury of a person named Erdal Bakırcı on the balcony of his house in Maltepe district of Istanbul on February 27, 2008, the defendants were acquitted on the grounds that "it is not clear that they committed the crime in question".
- 22: Istanbul** In the lawsuit filed against lawyer Mert Yaşar at the Istanbul 23rd Criminal Court of First Instance, on the grounds of his social media posts about Justice and Development Party (AKP) Group Deputy Chair and Tokat MP Özlem Zengin, the court charged Mert Yaşar with 7,000 TL judicial fine on charges of 'insulting the President' and acquitted him of the crime of 'insulting a public official'.
- 22: Izmir** Provincial Security Directorate detained 13 people, including Etkin News Agency (ETHA) reporter, Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Central Executive Board members, YDG (New Democrat Youth) members, and SGDF (Socialist Youth Associations Federation) members, with house raids, on the grounds that they were terrorist organisation members and had propaganda investigations against them.
- 23: Diyarbakır** After the 2nd Assize Court decree against 36 people, including Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) MPs Tayip Temel and Pero Dündar, was overturned by the Supreme

- Court, the trial continued. Pero Dünder attended the hearing and made a defense statement in Kurdish. After the defenses, the court adjourned the case to April 5, 2022.
- 23: Diyarbakır** The trial against police officer I. A. continued at the 9th Criminal Court of First Instance on the death of 5-year-old Efe Tektetin on September 11, 2019 after being hit by an armoured police vehicle. In the indictment, it was requested that the police officer be punished for the crime of 'causing death by negligence'. The court decided to write to the Forensic Medicine Institute to prepare a new report and adjourned the case to March 24, 2022.
- 23: Diyarbakır** The lawsuit filed against Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) former Adıyaman MP Behçet Yıldırım continued at the 8th Assize Court. After the defense statements, the court decided to release Behçet Yıldırım and adjourned the hearing to March 31, 2022.
- 23: Diyarbakır** In the lawsuit filed against Ivy Association Against Poverty and For Sustainable Development members Mahmut Erinç and Haydar Kılıçoğlu at the 9th Assize Court, the court sentenced the defendants to 5 years in prison separately for the crime of "wilfully aiding a terrorist organization". Later, the court abated the sentences to 2 years and 1 month each.
- 23: İstanbul** In the ongoing trial at the İstanbul 13th Assize Court against 52 people due to the Gezi Park protests in 2013, it was unanimously decided for businessman Osman Kavala to remain arrested.
- 23: İstanbul** The lawsuit filed against Ileri Haber's former Editor-in-Chief Doğan Ergün and then Managing Editor of the time Izel Sezer started at the İstanbul 33rd Assize Court on charges of 'unlawful disclosure of data obtained by recording informal conversations between people through the press and broadcast' and 'slander' because of a news article they made about bribery allegations. After the defense statements, the court adjourned the hearing to March 10, 2022.
- 23: İstanbul** The latest hearing of the lawsuit filed against Özgür Gündem Daily's Co-Editor-In-Chief Eren Keskin and Managing Editor Reyhan Çapan at the 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance was adjourned on the grounds that the court judge was on leave.
- 23: İzmir** One person from the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) District administration in Torbalı Subaşı Town was detained with a house raid.
- 25: Ankara** The Chief Public Prosecutor's Office requested a permission from the Ministry of Justice in order to carry out an investigation about 26 members of the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) central executive committee within the scope of Article 301 of the Turkish Criminal Code (TCK), with the allegations of "publicly denigrating The Turkish Nation, the State of the Republic of Turkey, the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, the Republic of Turkey, the government and the judicial bodies of the State".
- 25: Ankara** An investigation was launched against Left Party Keçiören District Chairman M. G. due to "making propaganda for a terrorist organization" on the grounds that he shared the photo of Hıdır Aslan, who was executed after the September 12, 1980 coup, on his social media account.
- 25: İzmir** The Provincial Gendarmerie Command detained 4 people, one of whom is a Syrian national, in house raids on the grounds that they were making PKK propaganda on social media.
- 28: Antalya** Two people, who hosted the Peoples' Democratic Party's (HDP) 'Call to Democracy' rally in Kepez on October 24, were detained due to reciting a poem and invited them to a moment of silence; and 5 people, including 1 child, were detained on the grounds that they chanted slogans at the rally.

- 28: Izmir** The police detained Israfil Erbil, the former president of the British Federation of Alevi Associations (BAF), who came to commemorate the Maraş Massacre, from the hotel where he was staying on the grounds that he had “insulted the President”.
- 29: Istanbul** In the lawsuit filed against 35 people, including journalist Buse Söğütlü, at the 53rd Criminal Court of First Instance on the grounds that they participated in the Feminist Night March in the Beyoğlu district of Istanbul on March 8, 2020, on charges of “violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations No. 2911” and “resisting to prevent duty”, “damaging public property” continued on December 29, 2021. After the defense statements, the court adjourned the case to April 28, 2022.
- 29: Izmir** The trial on the death of Deniz Poyraz, who was murdered by Onur Gencer in the Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP) Provincial building, continued at the 6th Assize Court. An investigation was launched against those who videotaped HDP Co-chair Pervin Buldan's objection during the hearing. The next hearing was scheduled for January 24, 2022.

### **3. Other violations**

- 01: Ankara** 16 summaries were prepared against 13 Parliament members, including one Democratic Regions Party (DBP) and 12 Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP) members, and sent to the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (TBMM), with a request that their immunity be lifted.
- 02: Istanbul** Access to a news article on the Diken website regarding a statement by Republican People’s Party (CHP) Chairman Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu was banned on the grounds of violation of personal rights with a decree of the Anatolian 3rd Criminal Judicature of Peace dated December 2, 2021. The access ban previously imposed by the Antalya 3rd Criminal Judicature of Peace on the same news article had been lifted by the Antalya 4th Criminal Judicature of Peace.
- 02: Istanbul** With a decree of the Anatolian 3rd Criminal Judicature of Peace, dated December 2, 2021, access to a total of 3 news articles about the President, one on Birgün Daily and two on Cumhuriyet Daily’s websites, was banned on grounds of violation of personal rights.
- 02: Istanbul** Regarding the speech of Republican People's Party (CHP) Chairman Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu at the CHP Group meeting on February 11, 2020, an access ban was imposed on the websites of Birgün, T24, Diken, Cumhuriyet, Oda TV4, sendika.org, Gazeteport, GazeteManifesto, Yarın News, Mehrnews, muhalefet.org, Egenin Sesi as well as against Yurttaş TV's social media accounts, on the grounds of violation of personal rights with a decree of the Anatolian 3rd Criminal Judicature of Peace, dated December 2, 2021, following the application of the President's lawyers.
- 02: Istanbul** Access to the news article, published on the website <https://odatv4.com> regarding the evacuation of the places allocated to some foundations by the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality was banned on the grounds of violation of personal rights with a decree of the Istanbul Anatolian 3rd Criminal Judicature of Peace dated December 2, 2021.
- 02: Istanbul** With a decree of the 1st Criminal Judicature of Peace dated December 2, 2021, access to a total of 3 news articles about Turkey Youth Foundation (TÜGVA), one on Cumhuriyet

- Daily's and two on Evrensel Daily's websites, was banned on grounds of violation of personal rights.
- 02: Kastamonu** Access to the news about Kastamonu University Rector on the websites of Cumhuriyet Daily, Tele-1 and Halk TV was banned with a decree of the Ankara 3rd Criminal Judicature of Peace on the grounds of violation of personal rights.
- 02: Rize** With a decree of the Criminal Judicature of Peace, an access ban was imposed on the news article published on the Rize Nabız and Kuzey TV websites regarding the lawsuits filed against Genççağa Karafazlı, the Branch President of the Contemporary Journalists Association, as well as other access bans against news articles.
- 04: Urfa** It has been found out that a disciplinary investigation was launched against 20 prisoners held in Urfa Prison No. 2, who were subjected to physical violence during searches in their wards, alleging that they "*spoke or acted in the institution that could cause fear, anxiety or panic*". A disciplinary investigation was launched against prisoner Mehmet Binici, who was also held in the same prison, on the grounds that he danced a folk dance accompanied by Kurdish songs.
- 06: Ankara** 15 summaries were prepared for 13 Parliament members, including one independent and 12 Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) members, and were sent to the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (TBMM), with a request that their immunity be lifted.
- 06: Diyarbakır** It has been found out that prisoner Aziz Tufan in the High Security Prison No. 1 has been kept in a solitary cell for 73 days on the grounds of quarantine.
- 06: Şırnak** Civil Defense Units (Yekîneyên Parastina Sivîl-YPS) claimed responsibility for the attack against Tahir Güven, who lost his life in the armed attack in Cizre district on December 4, 2021.
- 09: Ankara** Access to the news on HaberSol and Tele-1 websites regarding the bribery allegations against the Istanbul Security Director and some police officers was banned with a decree of the Access Providers Union on the grounds of violation of personal rights.
- 09: Şırnak** Prisoner Kadri Katar, who was transferred from a Type-T Prison to Erzurum Type-E Prison, was subjected to torture and other ill-treatment during the transfer. A disciplinary investigation was launched against Kadir Katar and he was sentenced to deprivation of his right to communicate and meet for one month.
- 10: Urfa** It was found out that the physical therapy of ill prisoner Emin Güler, who was held in the Type-T Prison No. 2, was not provided to him.
- 11: Antalya** Access to the news articles on a3-News, Habertürk and Gazete Duvar websites regarding the murder of a student by an employee in a student dormitory was banned with a decree of the 6th Criminal Judicature of Peace on the grounds of violation of personal rights.
- 11: Aydın** At around 20:00 in the evening, fire was opened against the house of the Coşkun Family, who were villagers of Çine Topçam and were fighting against the gold mine in the region. The Coşkun Family had been threatened by the mining company for a long time.
- 12: Şırnak** It has been found out that Kemal Güler, who performed his compulsory military service in a base area belonging to the Yekmal Battalion in Uludere district, died on December 4, 2021. The authorities first informed Güler's family that he had been injured in the conflict, and later said that he had committed suicide. A relative said: "The people who came to our door said, '*Calm down, your child was injured in the conflict, he is now in the hospital*'. Later, when we told them, '*You wouldn't come to our door with so many people*', they said, '*He passed away*'. In no way did they tell us that he committed suicide or why he died. Other soldiers in the battalion told us that he went to an empty container and shot himself (...) They did not show my brother's body when they had an autopsy done. The day we buried him, they only showed his face. Nor could we see how he was shot."

- 13: Elâzığ** Haşim Gezer, who was held in Elazığ High Security Prison, was not allowed to attend the funeral of his sister, Garibe Gezer, after she died in Kocaeli Kandıra Type-F Prison, neither to the condolence meeting held in the Midyat district of Mardin, for security reasons.
- 14: Elâzığ** It has been found out that the heaters were not lit in the Type-T Prison, and the meal portions given to the prisoners have been reduced.
- 15: Ankara** The Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK) removed a part of Hasan Can Kaya's program "Speakers" broadcast on the EXXEN platform from the catalogue. RTÜK decided to impose administrative fines against Fox TV, Halk TV, TELE 1, Netflix and DMAX channels as well.
- 15: Diyarbakır** Ill prisoner Halil Güneş died in Type-F Prison No. 2, where he was being held. Halil Güneş, a cancer patient, was kept in a solitary cell despite his illness and was not given his regular medications. His sister, Gül Güneş, stated: *"He had various inflammatory wounds on his body. He went to the hospital for the dressing of his wounds. Later, he was quarantined for going to the hospital. The prison administration called us and told us not to come for an open meeting with him."* The preliminary autopsy report prepared by the Forensic Medicine Institute regarding Halil Güneş was not given to the lawyers.
- 17: Denizli** The Bar Association administration and the Lawyer Rights Center Administration submitted the report they prepared against the unlawfulness in the Provincial Security Directorate and the police stations to the Security Director. The Security Director said, *"The security may be endangered due to the rights of the lawyers arising from the law, in the cases where security may be endangered, the rights of the lawyers may be restricted at points where safety is the main issue, not the law, and on the other hand, lawyers are allowed to use their right to complain."*
- 17: Kayseri** Access to 5 news articles on Halk TV, Cumhuriyet Daily, Gazete Duvar (2 news articles) and Evrensel Daily's websites regarding the events that took place during the former duties of the Develi District Governor was banned with the decrees of the Develi Criminal Judicature of Peace issued on 3 different dates, on the grounds of violation of personal rights.
- 21: Ankara** Access to the news article on the Newspaper Wall website regarding a case filed against Human Rights Association (IHD) Co-Chair Eren Keskin, in which she was acquitted, was banned with a decree of the Access Providers Association on the grounds that it had similar content to the previously-banned news.
- 22: Diyarbakır** With a decree of the 5th Criminal Judicature of Peace, the website of Aktif News Agency was banned on the grounds of "protection of national security and public order".
- 22: Istanbul** With a decree of the 8th Criminal Judicature of Peace, dated December 22, 2021, access to a total of 351 news articles on various websites about the Chairman of the Board of CNR Holding was banned on the grounds of violation of personal rights.
- 23: Diyarbakır** It has been found out that the meals given to the prisoners in Type-T Prison No. 4 were quite scarce.
- 25: Mersin** A decree was issued by the Chief Public Prosecutor's Office to collect the declaration, titled "We Can't Survive" distributed by the People's Democratic Congress (HDK) Provincial Assembly regarding the economic crisis.
- 26: Diyarbakır** It was learned that in the Type-D Closed Prison, ward searches were carried out in the company of dogs, the prisoners were exposed to physical and verbal violence by the prison guards and their personal belongings were confiscated.
- 26: Istanbul** In the statement made by the Interior Ministry, it was stated that *"After denouncements, complaints and determinations that some of the personnel recruited in Istanbul*

*Metropolitan Municipality (IBB), its affiliates and companies, are affiliated with terrorist organizations, a special inspection has been initiated by our Ministry to investigate the issue in all aspects.”*

- 28: Istanbul** An unknown person attacked the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Bahçelievler district building and 2 people were injured. The Governorate made a statement on the subject and said, “... Suspect named M. E. S. was taken into custody by our security forces who were sent to the scene, 2 blank pistols and (6) blank pistol bullets were confiscated. A judicial investigation has been initiated on the matter.”
- 30: Iğdır** It was found out that prisoner Hogir Batu, who was transferred from Diyarbakır High Security Closed Prison No. 1 to the Type-S Closed Prison, was subjected to ill-treatment on the grounds that he refused to be searched naked at the entrance of the prison, and that he had a 3cm-wide wound on his head as a result of the ill-treatment. It has been learned that prisoner Hogir Batu has been on a hunger strike for 7 days against torture and other ill-treatment, and Hogir Batu was not given salt, sugar or vitamin supplements.
- 31: Şırnak** It was found out that 3 prisoners held in Type-T Closed Prison were transferred to other prisons against their consent and will, one of the prisoners, Sümeyye Gök, to Kayseri Bünyan Women's Closed Prison, Mehmet Miraç Dinç to Elazığ Type-F Prison, and Abdullah Kaçmaz to Elazığ Type-T Prison.
- 31: Van** It was found out that 2 prisoners (Ferhat Ertunç and Sedat Karabalık) held in Type-F Closed Prison were transferred to another prison against their consent and will.
- 31: Van** It was found out that 2 prisoners held in the High Security Prison were transferred to other prisons against their consent and will, Barış Kahraman was transferred to Ankara Sincan Type-F Prison No.2, and Metin Gelni was transferred to Aksaray Type-T Prison.

#### **4. Comments and Suggestions**

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

In the last month of the year, as in previous months, the intervention and prevention of the law enforcement towards peaceful meetings and demonstrations continued intensively. Moreover, these continued despite the UN Human Rights Week in December (on 10 -17 December), and despite the fact that the violations on this issue were reported extensively by human rights institutions.

The summary of these reports is as follows: 2021 was a year in which restrictions and violations were the rule in terms of freedom of assembly and demonstration, and the use of freedoms was the exception. During the whole year, members of opposition political parties, workers, students, lawyers, women, LGBTQ+s, environmentalists and rights advocates, individuals and groups from all social segments, could not their freedom of assembly and demonstration due to bans and/or could not use them as a result of the actual, physical interventions of the law enforcement forces. The use of force, especially by law enforcement officers during their interventions in peaceful meetings and demonstrations, has turned into an illegal and uncontrolled act of violence that goes far beyond the authority to use force defined in the universal law and country laws. We can even say that this violence of law enforcement often reaches the level of torture and other ill-treatment.

According to the data of the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TIHV) Documentation Center, at least 12 interventions and 3 preventions were carried out by the law enforcement across the country in December. At least 162 people were detained due to torture and other ill-treatment practices, and at least 10 people were injured.

In December, there were detentions and arrests as part of the violation of freedom of expression: At least 7 press workers and 3 online channel reporters were detained. One person was arrested for insulting the President. In the meantime, we should also mention the police raid against the house of Human Rights Association (IHD) Co-Chair Eren Keskin, within the scope of the investigation launched against her due to a speech she made in Tunceli two and a half years ago.

Again, in this context, lawsuits continued against 47 journalists, 6 journalists were sentenced to prison and 1 journalist was fined. Most of the lawsuits were filed on the grounds of "making propaganda for a terrorist organization", "terrorist organization membership" or "aiding a terrorist organization".

5 people, including one Republican People's Party (CHP) former Izmir MP Zeynep Altıok Akatlı, who were on trial for insulting the President, were sentenced to prison terms. It is also noteworthy that the 56,000 TL non-pecuniary damage penalty issued against CHP İstanbul Provincial Chair Canan Kaftancıoğlu was increased to 290,000 TL by the 4th Civil Chamber of the İstanbul Regional Court of Justice.

An investigation was launched against 7 CHP executives, alleging insulting the President, due to the leaflets prepared by the CHP.

Article 301 of the Turkish Criminal Code (TCK), which has been a major obstacle against freedom of expression for years, came to the fore again in December. It was found out from the news on December 25, 2021 that the Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office stated that they used the expression "Armenian Genocide" during their statement on April 24, 2021, about 26 members of the HDP central executive committee, within the scope of Article 301 of the TCK with the allegation of "publicly denigrating the Turkish Nation, the State of the Republic of Turkey". It has been learned that permission has been requested from the Ministry of Justice in order to carry out an investigation with the allegation of "publicly insulting the Turkish Grand National Assembly, the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the judicial bodies of the State".

In December 2021, access to 5 websites belonging to 4 media organs was banned. Access to at least 395 news has been banned. The major justification for these bans were again, "the protection of national security and public order". In addition, news about the President, public officials (such as some law enforcement officials who allegedly took bribes), capital owners, holding managers and politicians who are members of the ruling parties were banned from access on the grounds of violation of personal rights. Administrative fines were imposed on 2 digital platforms 2 times and 4 TV channels (Tele 1, Halk TV, Fox TV and Dmax) 7 times by the Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK).

The decisions of the local authorities, which arbitrarily banned all protests and demonstrations across the provinces and districts, continued in December as well. In each monthly session, we talk about the bans that have been continuing uninterruptedly since November 21, 2016 in Van. Today, I would like to draw attention to the bans in another province, Hakkari. As a result of the ban decrees issued by the governorate in December, the protest and demonstration ban implemented in Hakkari since June 5, 2020 has been extended to 571 days without interruption.

In December, there were attacks and raids against political parties, especially against one party, HDP, as violations of the freedom of association:

On December 11, 2021, the HDP district building in Şırnak's Cizre district was raided by the police. During the search carried out in the party building, it was learned that the items were scattered around and the digital materials and newspapers, some photographs and flags found in the building were confiscated.

On December 28, 2021, an armed attack was carried out against the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) district building in the Bahçelievler district of Istanbul, and 2 people were injured.

An important development was the intervention of the Ministry of Treasury and Finance on freedom of association. With the decision of the Ministry published in the Official Gazette dated December 24, 2021, the assets of 770 people and the Niagara Foundation in Turkey were frozen within the scope of the Law No. 6415 on the Prevention of Financing of Terrorism.

### **Osman İŇçi (Human Rights Association - IHD, Headquarters)**

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

### **Ahmet Çiçek (Human Rights Association - IHD, Izmir)**

\* Deaths increase in prisons, especially as political prisoners catch diseases as a result of their long-term imprisonment, cannot reach medical treatment / are not regularly checked, and their diseases become chronic and irreversible. At the same time, all attention was turned to prisons due to the allegation of "suspicious death/suicides" as a result of the hostile approach of the prison administrations.

\* Now, social media posts on the economy and criticizing the government are also examined and legal actions have started against them.

\* Murders of and hate speeches against refugees have increased considerably.

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

Since protest bans and violations of rights regarding trials 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 for the prisons, especially in order to end the violations of rights there.

While the period of conflict continues, it is necessary to express the word "peace" more and to spread the awareness of peace in the society.

While the state's policy of impunity continues, rights defenders need to work in a coordinated and effective manner for effective advocacy..