

# Think, think...



## Freedom of Expression Weekly Newsletter (Issue 4/22 - 28, 2022)

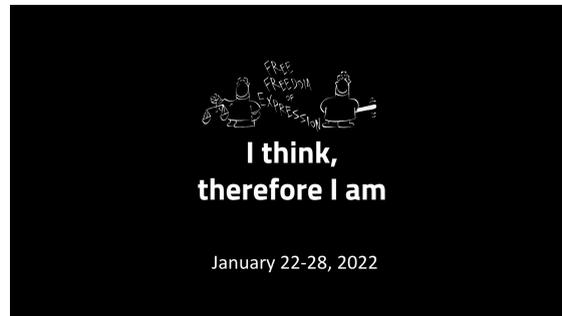
### What happened last week?

- Sezen Aksu, who was targeted because of her reference to "Adam and Eve" in a song she sang years ago and threatened by President Erdoğan with "[her tongue being cut out](#)", responded to the attacks against her with the song "Hunter", which she wrote and has the lyrics; *"You cannot kill me. I have my voice, my instrument, my word. When I say I, I mean everyone. As a result, I have been writing for 47 years.... I will continue to write."* Aksu's answer was translated into [56 languages](#) in a short time.
- Journalist Sedef Kabaş, who was targeted by the authorities after she recited a Circassian proverb in the television show she attended, was detained from her home at midnight. While the journalist was at the police station, the Minister of Justice "[gave the verdict against her](#)". The journalist was then taken to the courthouse and was arrested for "insulting the President". The objection of Kabaş's lawyers against her arrest was denied as well.
- The targeting of Aksu and the arrest of Kabaş caused reactions from the [art world, including writers, rights advocates and lawyers](#). On the other hand, [1,032 citizens](#) who issued a statement for Aysel Tuğluk, Osman Kavala, Sezen Aksu and Sedef Kabaş, stated, *"The country's administration is rapidly moving away from democratic principles... Apart from the prison conditions symbolized by Aysel Tuğluk, threats against citizens, interference with the judiciary, unlawful detentions and arrests, as well as the events regarding Osman Kavala, Sezen Aksu and Sedef Kabaş became the last straw."*
- Making a joint statement for the release of Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) former Co-Chair Aysel Tuğluk, who was detained and not released despite her dementia, 20 Bar Associations stated that Tuğluk could not meet her vital needs such as eating and drinking, and that her illness was getting worse day by day due to the prison conditions.
- The heavy snowfall in Istanbul paralyzed the city. As always, the government did not accept any responsibility and blamed the municipality. The world's 4th most expensive airport, whose construction continued despite all objections from the public opinion, was closed to flights for more than 30 hours, and the roof of the cargo building collapsed. The two ministers who came to Istanbul during this period did not land at the 'big project' of the government, but instead, landed at Atatürk Airport, which was closed for the sake of the new airport. When the passengers, who were stuck at the airport for hours, shouted, "*We need hotel*", riot police gathered at the airport.
- The second hearing of the lawsuit filed against Onur Gencer, who carried out an armed attack on the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Izmir provincial building and

murdered Deniz Poyraz, was held. The murderer said he had “no regrets”; and he continued his rhetoric targeting the family and HDP supporters in this hearing as well. The hearing was adjourned to April 29. [Please click here](#) for details...

- New immunity summaries arrive at the Parliament. In the first 4 weeks of 2022, 62 separate summaries were sent to the Parliament against 36 Parliament members. [Please click here](#) for details.
- The Chief Prosecutor's Office of the Council of State stated that it is against the law to exit an international convention with a Presidential Decree in the case regarding the annulment of the decree to withdraw from the Istanbul Convention, which was heard at the 10th Chamber of the Council of State. The Prosecutor’s Office further expressed its opinion to annul the decree. At least 27 women have been murdered since the beginning of 2022.
- While the protests continue against the trustee rector Naci İnci at Boğaziçi University, [3 elected deans were dismissed](#) by the Council of Higher Education (YÖK). Stating that the appointed rectorate aims to create new damages through the appointed deans to be brought from the top, the academics said, “Our 51-year tradition of free autonomous democratic governance has been destroyed by top-to-down appointments and unlawful dismissals.” The [operation of the trustee rector to eliminate](#) the academics, having opened disciplinary investigations against more than 500 students so far, continues without slowing down.
- The Ankara Bar Association management did not publish the report prepared by the lawyers of the Ankara Bar Association Human Rights Center, who met with the detainees on the allegations that the suspects detained in the Ankara Security Directorate were tortured, which created a [crisis](#).
- 23-year-old Abdulgaffar Dayan, who was hit by a ranger-type armored vehicle on his way to the classroom in Cizre, Şırnak on January 24, died two days later in the hospital he was taken to. According to the data of the Human Rights Association (IHD); 43 civilians, including 20 children, have died under law enforcement vehicles since 2008.
- The mandate of the State of Emergency Procedures Investigation Committee has been extended for another year. The committee, which was established for two years and whose mandate was extended twice before, accepted only 16,060 out of 126,783 applications since 2017, and the review processes continue for 6,080 applications.
- Turkey was ranked 96th among 180 countries in Transparency International's 2021 Corruption Perception Index, and has lost 12 points and dropped 43 places since 2013. It was among the countries that lost the most points in the last 10 years. [Please click here](#) for details...
- Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu, who appointed trustees to dozens of municipalities, hosted 2 Justice and Development Party (AKP) mayors in his office, who were sentenced to prison in the lawsuit where they were charged with bid rigging and whose dismissal was decided by the court through notifying the Ministry of Interior.
- According to the data released by the Interior Minister, 881 personnel have been issued disciplinary penalties due to torture and ill-treatment in the last five years, and only 12 of the 2,594 law enforcement officers investigated regarding the allegations of disproportionate force and torture have been sentenced. The data once again revealed that the impunity policy in the country is maintained as a widespread and systematic state practice.

- The inflation target announced by the Central Bank as 5 percent in the medium term a month ago, and revised this week to 23.2 percent for the end of 2022, was pulled even higher by the Minister of Treasury and Finance. Stating that inflation will hover around 40 percent for a while, the Minister said that their target is to keep inflation below 30 percent by the end of 2022.



*Our weekly video program, “[COGITO ERGO SUM](#),” in which we track Turkey’s freedom of expression and thought agenda, is on our [YouTube channel](#) every Friday...*

*[Please click here](#) for all video newsletters...*

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**The Initiative for Freedom of Expression**, which set out in the courtyard of the Istanbul State Security Court (DGM) on January 23, 1995, **is now 27 years old...**

It's been 27 years since we came together to support Yaşar Kemal, who was summoned to the State Security Court on charges of "spreading separatism" because of his article titled "Expedition of Lies" published in the magazine "Der Spiegel".

On that day, about a hundred intellectuals gathered in front of the court... Since that day, on this journey that we embarked on with the motto "*even if we do not agree with your thoughts, we will be with you to defend them until the end*", we joined the crimes (!!) of hundreds of thought criminals, thinking, "*the problem of one of us the problem of all of us*".

Since 2000, we have continued to publish a series of reports titled "[Freedom for Thought](#)", which is regularly launched every year on our birthday. We share with you the [video report](#) we prepared for the year 2021.

Of course, a lot has changed in 27 years... However, as can be seen, "some" things haven't changed at all... We still want to be hopeful for 2022. Because one can only be as free as the greatness of his dreams...

With our endless respect and greetings to all “thought criminals” and defenders of freedom of thought...



### **Sedef Kabaş arrested**

Journalist Sedef Kabaş, who was targeted by the authorities after she recited a Circassian proverb in the television show she attended, was detained from her home at midnight. While the journalist was at the police station, the Minister of Justice “gave the verdict against her”. The journalist was then taken to the courthouse and was arrested for "insulting the

President". It has been understood that the arrest decree issued against Kabaş was issued by the Istanbul 10th Criminal Judge of Peace Bilgehan Ertem, who cited "suspicious escape" as the reason for the decree, did not fulfill the 4-year term of office determined by the Council of Judges and Prosecutors (HSK) as a new criterion in the Criminal Judicatures of Peace, and was the judge who also issued the arrest of Osman Kavala.



### **RTÜK issues penalties against TELE1 and FOX TV on “extraordinary” meeting**

The Radio and Television Supreme Council imposed an administrative fine of 5 percent and a program suspension for 5 times against Tele 1 channel due to the show, to which Sedef Kabaş attended as a guest. The council also fined FOX TV 3 percent for prime-time newscaster Selçuk Tepeli's criticism of Erdoğan's

economic policies. The sum of the fines issued against the two channels totaled up to 6 million Turkish Liras.



### **Turkey once again ranked top on freedom of expression violations**

According to the 2021 statistics of the European Court of Human Rights, Turkey once again became the country with the highest number of cases before the European Court of Human Rights, after Russia. In 76 of the 78

applications concluded in 2021 regarding Turkey, it was ruled that at least one article of the European Convention on Human Rights was violated by Turkey. Of the 85 court decrees for violations of freedom of expression announced throughout 2021, 31 were delivered in cases filed against Turkey. Thus, Turkey once again became the one European country with the highest number of violations of freedom of expression. [Please click here](#) for the full report.



### Investigation against statement for investigation over ‘insulting President’

A new investigation has been launched against People's Liberation Party Chairman Nurullah Ankut Efe on charges of “insulting the President” after he made a press statement in front of the courthouse where he came to testify within the investigation launched against him due to "insulting the President" and "insulting a

public official".



### Investigation against women participating in November 25 march

An investigation was launched against 20 women, who participated in the march held in Taksim district of Istanbul on the 25th of November, the Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, on charges of "insulting the President" and "violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations". The

investigation file included the slogans, “Tayyip, run, women are coming” and “Jump, jump, you are Tayyip if you don’t.”



### BIA Media Monitoring Report 2021

According to bianet's data; in 2021, 35 journalists were sentenced to a total of 92 years, 6 months and 24 days in prison on charges such as "insulting the President", "membership in a terrorist organization membership", "aiding a terrorist organization", "espionage" and "making propaganda for a

terrorist organization". A total of 64 journalists were acquitted, 6 of them of "insulting the President". The number of journalists convicted of insulting Erdoğan in the last seven years has reached 70. [Please click here](#) for details.



## Indictment against lawyer due to ‘tweet on Kavala’

An indictment was issued against lawyer Aslı Kazan, who recalled the actions of the Prosecutor leading the arrest of Osman Kavala on social media. Kazan was charged with “insult” in the indictment, which was prepared upon the complaint of Hasan Yılmaz, who was

elected as a member of the Council of Judges and Prosecutors and is currently the Deputy Minister of Justice. Kazan is charged with “insult” due to her post, that said, “The Council of Judges and Prosecutors is asking for the list of judges who arrested Osman Kavala. But do not forget. Hasan Yılmaz, who prompted Kavala to be arrested again and prepared a biased/unsubstantiated indictment, is a member of the HSK. Will the one who was arrested unjustly hold the wrongdoer accountable?”



## TUIK files criminal complaint against research on inflation

The Turkish Statistical Institute filed a criminal complaint against the Inflation Research Group, established by academics who are experts in the field of economics, on the grounds of "violation of personal rights". Inflation Research Group manager and

Cumhuriyet Daily writer Prof. Veysel Ulusoy said that within the scope of the investigation, an interim injunction was taken and the research group’s publications were requested to be stopped.



## Lawsuit against citizens over reacting against Governorate statement on Ali Al Hamdan

A lawsuit was filed against two citizens, who reacted on social media against the statement of the Adana Governorate, which claimed that Ali al Hamdan, who was killed by being shot with a police bullet, was shot by accident. The two

citizens were charged with "insulting a public official". Reminding the Adana Governor of the time, Mahmut Demirtaş, that the criminal complaint they made for misinforming the public was not processed, lawyer Tugay Bek stated that it was considered a crime for the citizens to react to this situation while the evidence was still on the Governorate’s website.



### **Lawsuit against lawyer over sharing cartoon**

A lawsuit was filed against lawyer Efan Bolaç, who shared two cartoons drawn by Brazilian cartoonist Carlos Latuff about Berkin Elvan and the miners of Soma, on the charge of "insulting the President". The first hearing of the case will be held on September 6 at the Istanbul 52nd Criminal Court of First Instance.



### **Demirtaş sentenced due to insulting Davutoğlu**

Former Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Co-Chair Selahattin Demirtaş, who was tried on charges of insulting the then-Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu for the speech he gave at the Mersin rally of his party in 2016, was

sentenced to 11 months and 20 days in prison. The next hearing of the lawsuit filed against Demirtaş in Mersin on the charge of "insulting the President" based on the speeches he gave between 2014 and 2016 will be held on February 18.



### **Journalist detained over sharing news on Prosecutor's car accident**

Zonguldak Compass Daily reporter Aytaç Öztürk was detained at his home with a police raid in the early morning for sharing the news of Public Prosecutor Onur Üzgöl, who had an accident with his car in the city center. The reason for his detention and the complainant

were not disclosed to the journalist.



### **Lawsuit filed against journalist Velat Öztekin**

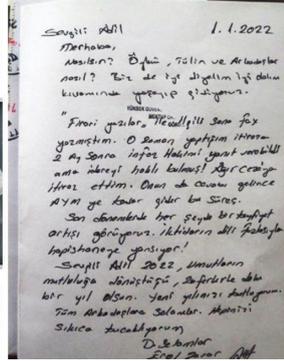
The lawsuit filed against journalist Velat Öztekin on the charge of "insulting the President" due to sharing two cartoons, one of which was drawn by Carlos Latuff, on social media, has started at the Diyarbakır 7th Criminal Court of First Instance. The court

adjourned the case to May 31, issuing that the journalist, who did not attend the hearing because he was abroad, would be summoned to the next hearing by force.



## ECtHR issues decree on Deniz Yücel

The European Court of Human Rights ruled that the right to freedom of expression, compensation for unlawful detention, as well as the right to freedom and security of Die Welt reporter Deniz Yücel, who was imprisoned for one year in Silivri prison on charges of "making propaganda for a terrorist organization" and "public incitement towards resentment and hostility", were violated.



## Prison administration bans book "Fugitive Writings"

Bolu Type-F Prison administration banned the book "Fugitive Writings", which consists of sealed letters of imprisoned writers and poets, as "seen". While the book was not given to one of its authors, Erol Zavar, on the grounds that "it would endanger the security of the institution", the appeal against this application was rejected by the execution judge, who

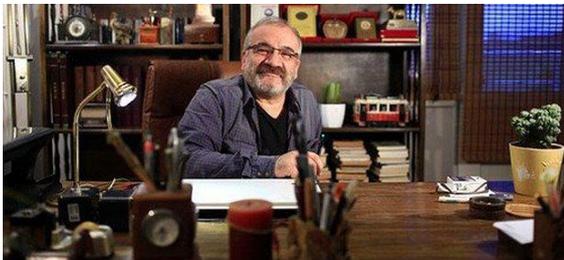
claimed that the book was in fact "illegal".



## Lawsuit against leaflet over "insulting Erdoğan"

The latest hearing of the lawsuit filed against 4 Leftist Party members on the charge of "insulting the President" due to the statements "One man will leave, and the people will rule" and "The real problem is this monstrous

one-man regime itself" in the leaflets they distributed in Hopa district of Artvin was held at the Hopa 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance. The case resulted in acquittal.



## Lawsuit against poet Yılmaz Odabaşı

The trial of poet Yılmaz Odabaşı, who was accused of "public incitement towards resentment and hostility" due to a social media post, started at the Alanya 6th Criminal Court of First Instance. The second hearing of the case was scheduled for May 12.



### Investigation against 33 students over protests for shelter

An investigation was launched against 33 university students for "violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations" for their participation in the "We Can't Find Shelter" protest held in Buca Hasanağa Park on September 28. Seven of the students were

additionally accused of "damaging public property".



### News on corruption and irregularity censored the most

According to the report of the Media Research Association (MEDAR), which examined 1197 access ban decrees issued against 36 websites in a year after the social media censorship regulation that came into effect in October 2020, the content that were censored and

removed the most was on "corruption and irregularity". It was stated that censorship requests mostly came from business people, companies and bureaucrats. When the reasons for the deletion of news content were examined, it turned out that almost all of them were censored on the grounds of violation of personal rights. [Please click here](#) for the full report.



### Prevention against demonstrations and events

- The police attacked the lawyers who wanted to make a statement in front of the Mersin Courthouse due to the "Day of the Lawyers in Danger", which is commemorated specifically for Colombian lawyers this year. The lawyers were beaten and were prevented from making

statements.

- Within the scope of the investigation carried out by the Diyarbakır Chief Public Prosecutor's Office with the allegation of "making propaganda for a terrorist organization", the police raided the building of the Democratic Regions Party (DBP) Diyarbakır Provincial Organization, Provincial Co-Chair Seval Gülmez was detained.

- The cafe where the readers of the New Democrat Youth Magazine held a music concert in Samandağ, Hatay was raided by the police, and 30 people, including children, were detained.

- Batman Governorate did not allow the Kurdish Language Platform to open a booth in the city, demanding that Kurdish be the official and educational language, citing the epidemic.



## Investigation against Twitch streamer Bahadır Telci over “insulting President”

An investigation was launched against Twitch streamer Bahadır Telci, known as "Purplebixi" on Twitch and social media, after the complaint made against him at CIMER on the grounds that he "was implicitly making fun of the President on Twitch". Telci stated that there was no

information or a section about the exact content of the complaint.



## Political Communication Specialist targeted

Participating in the TV Show on HaberTürk to talk about the charge of "insulting the President", Political Communication Specialist Dr. Gülfem Saydan Sanver was targeted by Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) Deputy Chairman Sadir Durmaz, who was connected to the show via phone, asserting that she was also "insulting the President". Speaking about

Durmaz's claim, Sanver said, *"It is very sad for all of us that freedom of thought is being discussed in this way."*



## Access ban against news content on judge over being seen together with criminal organisation leader

The news revealing the moments when Samsun Justice Commission President Judge Kemal Alver came together with the fugitive criminal organization leader Galip Öztürk, was banned from access with a decree issued by Samsun

2nd Criminal Court of Peace.



## Investigation against Selçuk Özdağ

Future Party Deputy Chairman Selçuk Özdağ stated in a TV show he attended, *"If the Supreme Electoral Council (YSK) accepts Erdoğan's candidacy, we will complain to our nation that the members of the YSK violated the Constitution"*. An investigation was launched by the Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office

against Özdağ due to "publicly threatening public officials working in a delegation" and “public incitement to hatred and enmity”.



### **Lawsuit against CHP members over distributing leaflet**

A lawsuit was filed against Republican People's Party (CHP) members, who distributed the brochure, entitled, "One Man Inc." in Zonguldak, on the charge of "insulting the President". 4 party members are charged with "insulting the President" within the

lawsuit filed at Zonguldak 1st Criminal Court of First Instance. After the first hearing was held, the case was adjourned to May.



### **Constitutional Court denies application of journalist Mehmet Güleş**

Dicle News Agency (DİHA) reporter Mehmet Güleş, who was sentenced to 9 years, 4 months and 15 days in prison on charges of "terrorist organization membership" and "making propaganda for a terrorist organization" for his news and social media posts and also remained under arrest for 6 years and 3 months in prison as part of the file. In his application at the

Constitutional Court, the court ruled that "his freedom of expression was not violated." The Supreme Court further argued that there was no interference with the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed in the Constitution during the trial.



## **TRIALS OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION**

### **Roboski Commemoration Case**

The lawsuit filed against 16 people on charges of "making propaganda for a terrorist organization" for commemorating the 34 people who were murdered in Roboski...

**Court:** Şırnak 2nd Assize Court

**Verdict:** The Prosecutor's Office requested for the penalisation of all 16 defendants in its opinion. The case was adjourned to March 7.

### **Selahattin Demirtaş Case**

The lawsuit filed against former HDP Co-Chair Selahattin Demirtaş for "insulting the President" based on the speeches he made between 2014 and 2016...

**Court:** Mersin 14th Criminal Court of First Instance

**Verdict:** The case was adjourned to February 18.

<p><b><u>2021 Istanbul LGBTQ+ Pride Parade Case</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against 3 people detained in the 2021 Istanbul LGBTQ+ Pride Parade in Cihangir with the allegation of "violating to Law No. 2911"...</p> <p><b>Court:</b> Istanbul 14th Criminal Court of First Instance</p> <p><b>Verdict:</b> Hearings in courthouses could not be seen due to heavy snowfall in Istanbul.</p>	<p><b><u>Ferhat Tunç Case</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against artist Ferhat Tunç on charges of "insulting the President" based on 10 tweets he posted in 2016...</p> <p><b>Court:</b> Büyükçekmece 14th Criminal Court of First Instance</p> <p><b>Verdict:</b> Hearings in courthouses could not be seen due to heavy snowfall in Istanbul.</p>
<p><b><u>Ramazan Akoğlu Case</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against Ramazan Akoğlu, a former Dicle News Agency (DIHA) reporter, for following the news of the road blockade in Diyarbakır in 2014...</p> <p><b>Court:</b> Diyarbakır 4th Assize Court</p> <p><b>Verdict:</b> The case was adjourned to May 10.</p>	<p><b><u>Burhan Ekinçi Case</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist and writer Burhan Ekinçi on charges of "making propaganda for a terrorist organization" based on his social media posts...</p> <p><b>Court:</b> Istanbul 30th Assize Court</p> <p><b>Verdict:</b> Hearings in courthouses could not be seen due to heavy snowfall in Istanbul.</p>
<p><b><u>Ismail Arı Case</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist Ismail Arı on the charge of "unlawfully seizing and disseminating personal data", due to the news titled "BirGün reached the documents of the fines imposed on the President and General Manager of the Red Crescent" published in the BirGün Daily on October 6, 2020...</p> <p><b>Court:</b> Istanbul 58th Criminal Court of First Instance</p> <p><b>Verdict:</b> Hearings in courthouses could not be seen due to heavy snowfall in Istanbul.</p>	<p><b><u>Caner Taşpınar Case</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against OdaTV editor Caner Taşpınar on charges of "insulting" former Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey İsmail Kahraman and AKP deputy Ali İhsan Arslan for his book "The Bridegroom: Fethullahists' Father-in-laws from the AKP"...</p> <p><b>Court:</b> Istanbul 11th Criminal Court of First Instance</p> <p><b>Verdict:</b> Hearings in courthouses could not be seen due to heavy snowfall in Istanbul.</p>
<p><b><u>Devrim Ayık Case</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against imprisoned journalist Devrim Ayık, who has Crohn's disease and whose health condition is getting worse, on the charge of "terrorist organisation membership"...</p> <p><b>Court:</b> Izmir 2nd Assize Court</p> <p><b>Verdict:</b> The court decided for Ayık to remain arrested and adjourned the case to April 8.</p>	<p><b><u>Derya Okatan Case</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist Derya Okatan with the allegation of "making propaganda for a terrorist organization" on the grounds of the Afrin operation news shared on the social media accounts of Aktif News Agency (ETHA), for which he was the Editor-in-Chief at that time...</p> <p><b>Court:</b> Ankara 4th Assize Court</p> <p><b>Verdict:</b> The case was adjourned to April 21.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Engin Korkmaz Case</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against Engin Korkmaz, the head of the Mediterranean Branch of the Contemporary Journalists Association (ÇGD), and the Editor-in-Chief of Antalya Körfez newspaper on the charge of "insulting the President" due to his social media posts...</p> <p><b>Court:</b> Antalya 19th Criminal Court of First Instance</p> <p><b>Verdict:</b> The court adjourned the case to May 13, indicating that the case Prosecutor has changed and to allow time for the new Prosecutor to examine the file.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Hatice Şahin Case</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against Yeni Yaşam Daily writer Hatice Şahin, who was detained and released during the operation in Diyarbakır on October 9, 2018, on the charge of "terrorist organisation membership" on the grounds of her Diyarbakır-Istanbul plane tickets, participating in the Democratic Society Congress (DTK) activities, phone calls she made with her colleagues and news sources, as well as secret witness statements against her...</p> <p><b>Court:</b> Diyarbakır 9th Assize Court</p> <p><b>Verdict:</b> The court adjourned the case to April 18, deciding for the travel ban against Şahin to remain.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Buse Söğütlü Case</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against the Gazete Yolculuk's online reporter Buse Söğütlü on charges of "targeting those who took part in the fight against terrorism" on the grounds of a Twitter post dated March 18, 2019, against the judge of the court where the Contemporary Lawyers Association (ÇHD) Case was heard...</p> <p><b>Court:</b> Istanbul 23rd Assize Court</p> <p><b>Verdict:</b> The case was adjourned to February 3 for the changed chief judge to examine the case file.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Özgür Gündem Case</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against Eren Keskin, the Editor-in-Chief of the previously shut-down Özgür Gündem Daily, and Managing Editor Reyhan Çapan, on the charge of "violating the Press Law No. 5187" due to five different news articles published in the newspaper in 2013 and 2014...</p> <p><b>Court:</b> Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance</p> <p><b>Verdict:</b> The case was adjourned to May 24.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Case Against Picnic Organised on Pride Week</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against a person who participated in the picnic held in Maçka Park as part of 2021 Istanbul LGBTQ+ Pride Week on the charge of "insulting a public official"...</p> <p><b>Court:</b> Istanbul 44th Criminal Court of First Instance</p> <p><b>Verdict:</b> The second hearing of the case was scheduled for June 30.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Hayko Bağdat Case</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist Hayko Bağdat on the charge of "making propaganda for a terrorist organization" for 9 social media posts he made in 2017 and 2018...</p> <p><b>Court:</b> Istanbul 28th Assize Court</p> <p><b>Verdict:</b> The court adjourned the case, deciding for the warrant against the journalist (who lives abroad) to remain and to wait for its execution.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Çetin Kurşun Case</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist Çetin Kurşun on the charge of "terrorist organisation membership"...</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Kenan Kırkaya Case</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist Kenan Kırkaya and 8 others on the charge of "terrorist organization membership" for being the</p>

<p><b>Court:</b> Mardin 2nd Assize Court  <b>Verdict:</b> The journalist and his lawyer were absent from the hearing with an excuse and the case was adjourned to May 12.</p>	<p>moderator of the TV show, "Glance at Ankara" on Med Nuce Television, which broadcasts in Turkish in Belgium...</p> <p><b>Court:</b> Ankara 14th Assize Court  <b>Verdict:</b> The court issued a verdict of acquittal for four defendants, including the journalist. Other defendants were sentenced to imprisonment on the charge of "terrorist organisation membership".</p>
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## HEARINGS NEXT WEEK

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Eren Tutel Case</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against Eren Tutel, the sports editor of BirGün Daily, who was accused of "insulting a public official" on the grounds of the news reported about the Turkish Wushu Federation...</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>February 1, Tuesday at Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Özgür Gündem Substitute Editors-In-Chief Case</u></b></p> <p>The retrial of the lawsuit filed against Özgür Gündem Substitute Editors-In-Chief Şebnem Korur Fincancı, Erol Önderoğlu and Ahmet Nesin, whose acquittal verdicts returned from appeal...</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>February 1, Tuesday Istanbul 13th Assize Court</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Ferhat Tunç Case</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against artist Ferhat Tunç on charges of "public incitement to hatred and enmity" due to his social media posts...</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>February 2, Wednesday at Büyükçekmece 14th Criminal Court of First Instance</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Ahmet Kanbal Case</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist Ahmet Kanbal on the charge of "targeting those who took part in the fight against terrorism" and "insulting a public official"...</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>February 2, Wednesday at Aydın 3rd Assize Court</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Osman Akın and Veysi Sarısözen Case</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against Osman Akın, the former Editor-in-Chief of Yeni Yaşam Daily, and columnist Veysi Sarısözen on charges of "making propaganda for a terrorist organization"...</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>February 2, Wednesday at Istanbul 13th Assize Court</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Ramazan Ölçen Case</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against Ramazan Ölçen, the owner of the previously shut-down Azadiya Welat Daily, on the charge of "terrorist organization membership" with a claim of imprisonment for up to 15 years...</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>February 2, Wednesday at Diyarbakır 11th Assize Court</b></p>

**Buse Söğütü Case**

The lawsuit filed against the Gazete Yolculuk's online reporter Buse Söğütü on charges of "targeting those who took part in the fight against terrorism" on the grounds of a Twitter post dated March 18, 2019, against the judge of the court where the Contemporary Lawyers Association (ÇHD) Case was heard...

**February 3, Thursday at Istanbul 23rd Assize Court**

**Selman Keleş Case**

The lawsuit filed against nine people, including previously shut-down Dicle News Agency reporter Selman Keleş, on charges of "violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations No. 2911" and "making propaganda for a terrorist organization"...

**February 3, Thursday at Van 4th Assize Court**

**Mehmet Şahin Case**

The lawsuit filed against Mehmet Şahin, a writer for the Kurdish Xwebun Daily, on the charge of "establishing and leading a terrorist organization" on the grounds of his activities at the Democratic Society Congress (DTK)...

**February 3, Thursday at Diyarbakır 5th Assize Court**