

Think, think...



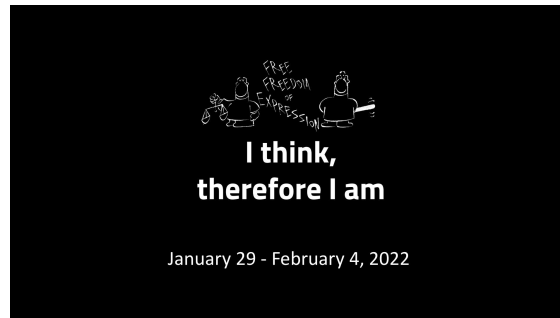
Freedom of Expression Weekly Newsletter (Issue 5/22 - February 4, 2022)

What happened last week?

- Minister of Justice Abdülhamit Gül resigned; Bekir Bozdağ, who had held the same position twice before, was appointed to replace him. It was [claimed](#) that the presentation of the footage of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu as he was "followed through CCTV cameras" was the last step that led Gül to resign.
- A child, who was put on the stage by President Erdoğan at the mass opening ceremony in Trabzon, targeted Republican People's Party (CHP) Leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu and addressed him as "Mr. Kemal". Erdoğan and the ministers accompanying him laughed at the speech of the boy, who called Kılıçdaroğlu a "traitor". A ["vote was demanded"](#) by a boy whose father has been in prison for 10 years and was asking Erdoğan for his father's release...
- In the circular signed by President Erdoğan, [it was stated](#) that "necessary steps will be taken" against TV shows with "especially foreign content", which are defined as "open and covert activities" aimed at wearing down "our national and moral values", "our family and social structure". Objections from non-governmental and media professional organizations arose against the circular, which was adorned with vague and undemocratic expressions.
- Politician Aysel Tuğluk has difficulty in expressing herself and was unable to defend herself, and was asked to be excluded from the Kobane Case because of this but the request was denied. Tuğluk will be kept under observation at the Forensic Medicine Institute for 15 days.
- The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe initiated a sanction process due to the non-implementation of the European Court of Human Rights decree regarding the Osman Kavala case. It was decided that the file should be evaluated by the European Court of Human Rights. Thus, Turkey [went down in history](#) as the second country, after Azerbaijan, against whom a violation process was initiated. Erdoğan criticized the Committee of Ministers' initiation of the infringement process by repeating his past words: *"What the ECtHR said, what the Council of Europe said, we don't care much. We do not recognize those who do not recognize our courts. I say this very clearly..."*
- The European Court of Human Rights ruled on a violation regarding the lifting of immunity of 40 Parliament members from the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) in 2016, including former Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Co-Chair Selahattin Demirtaş. The court ruled that the immunity of the Parliament members was lifted in violation of the Constitution and that their freedom of expression was violated.
- The number of daily cases in the pandemic exceeded 100 thousand and the number of daily deaths exceeded 200. Meanwhile, the Minister of Health said, "There is no need

to worry." The scientific world and professional health organizations do not agree. "We are dying because of the policies of the Ministry of Health, which does not take any precautions and leaves the pandemic to itself, and does not care about public health," the organisations stated.

- As the economic outlook in Turkey worsens day by day, thousands of employees, especially those working in courier services, who work for low wages, started to make their voices heard with strikes and protests for humane wage increases.
- The dead bodies of 19 of the 22 refugees, whose shoes and winter clothes were confiscated while trying to cross the Greek border, were found on the Turkish side. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has called for an urgent investigation.
- Naci Inci, the trustee rector of Boğaziçi University, appointed himself to replace the dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences he had dismissed. Gürkan Kumbaroğlu was appointed instead of the dean of the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences, who was dismissed, and Fazıl Önder Sönmez was appointed to replace the dean of the Faculty of Education, who was dismissed. Thus, while the trustee staff were appointed to the three faculties, where the elected deans were dismissed, in Boğaziçi University, practically 4 people are managing the 10-member committee at the university, which consists of the rectorate and deans.



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...



Police raid against IHD Diyarbakır Branch

The police raided the building of the Diyarbakır Branch of the Human Rights Association. In the statement made by the association, it was announced that Ferhat Berkpınar, a member of the Board of Directors of the Human Rights Association Diyarbakır Branch, whose house was raided at the same time, was detained. During the raids carried out within the scope of an investigation carried out by the Adıyaman Chief

Public Prosecutor's Office, the activities of the association and the personal documents of its members were seized. A confidentiality order was issued on the investigation file, and the requests of the lawyers to meet with Berkpinar, who was under custody, were also rejected on the grounds that there was a meeting ban for the detainee.



DBP Diyarbakır Provincial Co-Chair arrested

Democratic Regions Party (DBP) Provincial Co-Chair Seval Gülmez was arrested within the scope of the investigation launched by Diyarbakır Chief Public Prosecutor's Office with the allegation of "making propaganda for a terrorist organization" after images taken at an event held at the Democratic Regions Party (DBP) Diyarbakır Provincial Building were shared on social media. Gülmez was accused of the protests

and events she participated in, the interviews she gave at events and the books she had in her home, and was previously detained with a police operation in April 2021, being arrested on charges of "terrorist organization membership". In the first hearing held 5 months after her arrest, she was released.



Turkey becomes 2nd country requesting censorship most against journalists on Twitter

[According to the data shared by Twitter](#); in 2021, 5 thousand 454 separate content removal requests were made about 6 thousand 825 accounts from Turkey, and as a result of these requests, 203 tweets and 27 Twitter accounts were blocked. Turkey ranks 4th in both the rankings of the countries with the most content removal

“requests” and the countries with the "most content removals". On the other hand, it took the 2nd place by making a big difference to two countries closest to Turkey with 108 separate requests for journalists and news sources approved by Twitter.

 **DİSK Basın-İş**
@Disk_Basin_Is

BİMEKS işçilerinin protestosunu takip ederken gözüktüğü alanan üyemiz Sultan Eylem Keleş'e dava açıldı. Gazetecilerin değil, işçinin hakkını vermeyen patronların peşine düşün. Gazetecileri açtığınız soruşturmalara susturamayacaksınız.

[#GazetecilikSuçDeğildir](#)

ÖS 12:38 · 1 Şub 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

Lawsuit against journalist Sultan Eylem Keleş

Journalist Sultan Eylem Keleş, who was prevented and detained by the police while following a protest held in Istanbul in 2020, was prosecuted on charges of "resisting to prevent duty" and "insult". The first hearing of the case will be held on September 13 at the Istanbul 56th Criminal Court of First Instance.



Another investigation against Şenyaşar family

A new investigation has been launched against Emine Şenyaşar and her son Ferit Şenyaşar, who have been on guard duty in the Urfa courthouse for months, after Emine Şenyaşar's husband and two sons were murdered by the bodyguards and relatives of Justice and Development Party (AKP) Parliament Member İbrahim Halil Yıldız in 2018. During the justice watch that lasted for

more than 330 days, mother Şenyaşar testified 13 times and son Ferit Şenyaşar 4 times.



Protest bans

The protest ban implemented in Van since 2016 is maintained by the Governorate. The Van Governorate declared a new "protest ban" on the pretext of "providing national security". Governorates in Siirt, Mardin and Hakkari declared a continuation of protest and demonstration bans for another 15 days, citing the protection of "public order", "national security" and protections against the Coronavirus

outbreak.



Conscientious objectors convicted

Conscientious objector Şendoğan Yazıcı, who was prosecuted on charges of violating the Military Criminal Code, was sentenced to 1 month and 20 days in prison by the Borçka Criminal Court of First Instance. In the meantime, conscientious objector Reha Eskidir, who was prosecuted at the Zonguldak 3rd Criminal Court of First Instance on charges of violating the Military Criminal Code, was

sentenced to 5 months and 18 days in prison. In addition, a new lawsuit was filed against Eskidir with the same accusation.



7 Şerzan Kurt Free Youth Association members convicted

Muğla 2nd Assize Court sentenced 7 people in the lawsuit filed against 9 members of Şerzan Kurt Özgür Youth Association on charges of "terrorist organization membership" and "making propaganda for a terrorist organization". Considering press statements and other activities

of associations as "illegal organizational activities", the court sentenced 7 people to 9 years and 3 months in prison.



Investigation against journalist Sevda Karaca

Following the complaint of Lieutenant General Musa Çitil, who was tried and acquitted for 13 unsolved murders in Derik district of Mardin, an investigation was launched against Evrensel Daily columnist Sevda Karaca on the charge of "targeting those taking part in the fight against terrorism," "insulting a public official" and "making propaganda for a terrorist organization" because of [her article](#) titled, "What does the state,

that protects Musa Orhan, say to women?"



Social media investigation against journalist

An investigation was launched against Özgür Boğatekin, the News Director of the Fırat Gerger Daily, following an anonymous denouncement against him based on his social media posts and the news about the bad experiences he had with the recent heavy snowfall. Within the scope of the investigation, the journalist is charged with

"making propaganda for a terrorist organisation." 8 investigations have been launched against the journalist in the last year.



Journalists' appeal denied after conviction over news on MIT

Journalists Aydın Keser, Ferhat Çelik, Murat Ağirel, Barış Pehlivan and Hülya Kılınç were sentenced to prison on charges of "disclosure of information and documents related to intelligence activities" due to the news about a Turkish National Intelligence Agency member who died in Libya. The journalists' appeal against their

sentence was denied by the 4rd Criminal Chamber of Istanbul Regional Court.



Investigation against journalist Nişmiye Güler

Jinnews reporter Nişmiye Güler was detained from her home in Istanbul as part of an investigation launched by the Diyarbakır Bismil Chief Public Prosecutor's Office. The journalist was accused of "terrorist organization membership" and "making propaganda for a

terrorist organization" within the scope of the investigation, and was released on the condition of judicial measures after testifying at the courthouse.



Criminal complaint against acquitted journalist

Journalist Buse Söğütlü was acquitted in the lawsuit filed against her on charges of "targeting those taking part in the fight against terrorism" for a tweet criticizing judge Akın Gürlek. The Istanbul 23rd Assize Court decided to file a criminal complaint against the journalist on the charge of "insulting a public official".



Refugee to be deported over participating in protest

The appeal of Iranian refugee Esmail Fattahi, who was ordered to be deported for participating in the protest against the annulment of the Istanbul Convention, was denied by the Denizli 1st Administrative Court, who claimed that he posed a threat to "public order and public

security".



Young people detained in Istanbul over making music in Kurdish

4 musicians, who were playing Kurdish music on Istiklal Street, were subjected to verbal and physical violence by the police, who said, "This square, this place, everywhere is my territory. You can't do it", and their instruments were confiscated. Selim Öztürk, one of the detained musicians, said that he and 3 of his friends were

finned due to "disturbing the surroundings".



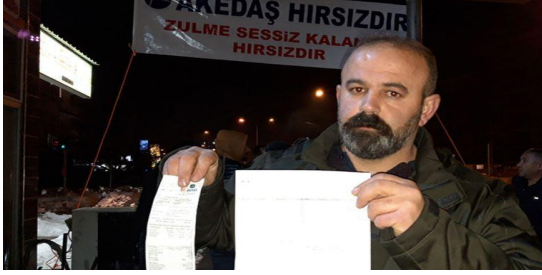
Workers detained over fighting for union rights

Workers of the Farplas Automotive factory in Kocaeli, who were fighting for their union rights, started a protest in the factory for their dismissed friends. The police entered the factory and detained approximately 108 workers, including the managers of the United Metal-Labour Union.



Trade union members detained

Kemal Yılmaz, the Organizing Secretary of the Warehouse, Port, Shipyard and Marine Workers' Union, and Betül Celep, an organization expert, were detained for the protests of Migros workers, who were fired for being union members, in front of Migros CEO Tuncay Özilhan's house.



Tradesman detained over protesting electricity price hikes

In Adıyaman, a tradesman named Erdal Serbaş hung a banner in front of his workplace to protest the electricity price hike. Serbaş, who reacted to the electricity distribution company on the banner, was detained, and the banner was

seized.



Access ban against five newspapers and two news portals

The Information Technologies Authority issued access bans against the websites of Yeni Yaşam Daily and the Kurdish-language Xwebûn newspaper, Alinteri, Kızıl Bayrak and New Democracy newspapers, as well as the Kommun

and Nujinha news portals.



Police intervenes against teachers protesting in front of Parliament

Teachers wanted to make a protest against the Teaching Profession Law Proposal discussed in the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, and they were prevented by the police.



Villagers detained over opposing tree-cutting

30 villagers, who opposed the cutting of trees for the marble quarry that will start operating in the Köprülü Canyon National Park area in Manavgat district of Antalya, were detained.



Journalist Hacı Boğatekin prosecuted

Journalist Hacı Boğatekin testified within the scope of the investigation launched by the Büyükçekmece Prosecutor's Office on the allegation of "public incitement to hatred and enmity", due to Ekrem İmamoğlu's complaint against his social media post, which said, "There is no place for Kurds in the Istanbul

Metropolitan Municipality".



Journalist Nurcan Yalçın detained

Journalist Nurcan Yalçın was detained with a raid against her home. It was reported that the reason for her detainment could not be learned, and a 24-hour lawyer restriction was imposed against Yalçın.



TRIALS OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Eren Tutel Case</u></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>Court: Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance</p> <p>Verdict: The next hearing was scheduled for May 24.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Özgür Gündem Substitute Editors-In-Chief Case</u></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>Court: Istanbul 13th Assize Court</p> <p>Verdict: The court decided to wait for the testimony of Nesin, who resides abroad, to be received through rogatory and scheduled the next hearing for June 14.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Ferhat Tunç Case</u></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>Court: Büyükçekmece 14th Criminal Court of First Instance</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Ahmet Kanbal Case</u></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>Court: Aydın 3rd Assize Court</p>

<p>Verdict: The court decided to wait for the execution of the warrant issued against the artist, who resides abroad, and scheduled the next hearing for June 29.</p>	<p>Verdict: The next hearing was scheduled for March 2.</p>
<p><u>Ramazan Ölçen Case</u></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>Court: Diyarbakır 11th Assize Court</p> <p>Verdict: The court decided to wait for the execution of the warrant issued against the journalist and scheduled the next hearing for May 30.</p>	<p><u>Selman Keleş Case</u></p> <p>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"...</p> <p>Court: Van 4th Assize Court</p> <p>Verdict: The court decided to wait for the execution of the warrant issued against Keleş, who resides abroad, and scheduled the next hearing for May 26.</p>
<p><u>Ismail Saymaz Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist Ismail Saymaz on the charge of "insult" due to an article he wrote on abuse in a cult...</p> <p>Court: Istanbul 35th Criminal Court of First Instance</p> <p>Verdict: The next hearing was scheduled for May 31.</p>	<p><u>Mehmet Şahin Case</u></p> <p>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)...</p> <p>Court: Diyarbakır 5th Assize Court</p> <p>Verdict: The court allowed time for journalist Şahin and his lawyer to prepare their defense statements on the basis of the file, scheduling the next hearing for February 10.</p>
<p><u>M. Şirin Tunç Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against Kurdish politician Mehmet Şirin Tunç within the investigation against the Democratic Society Congress (DTK)...</p> <p>Court: Diyarbakır 8th Assize Court</p> <p>Verdict: The investigation of Adana Chief Public Prosecutor's Office was added to the case file. The next hearing was scheduled for March 1.</p>	<p><u>Hayko Bağdat Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist Hayko Bağdat on the charge of "insulting the President" through his speech on a show on Bugün TV Channel, broadcasted on September 1, 2015...</p> <p>Court: Istanbul 51st Criminal Court of First Instance</p> <p>Verdict: The hearing could not be held due to a change in the judge, and the case was adjourned.</p>

HEARINGS NEXT WEEK

<p><u>Case Against 2021 Istanbul Pride Parade</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against 8 activists from LGBTIQ+ Assemblies, who were detained during the 2021 Istanbul LGBTIQ+ Pride Parade, on the charge of "violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations"...</p> <p>February 8, Tuesday at Istanbul 16th Criminal Court of First Instance</p>	<p><u>Deniz Yücel Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against Die Welt reporter Deniz Yücel on the charge of "publicly insulting a public official" based on a tweet he shared on February 2, 2019 regarding the "Gezi Park Indictment"...</p> <p>February 8, Tuesday at Istanbul 24th Criminal Court of First Instance</p>
<p><u>Cengiz Çandar Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist Cengiz Çandar, together with Kemal Işıktaş, on the charge of "praising the crime and the criminal" for his social media posts...</p> <p>February 8, Tuesday at Istanbul 30th Criminal Court of First Instance</p>	<p><u>Selda Manduz Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist Selda Manduz, who was previously tried and acquitted on charges of "making propaganda for a terrorist organization", filed once again after the reversal decree of the appeal court...</p> <p>February 8, Tuesday at Kars 2nd Assize Court</p>
<p><u>İdris Yayla Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against 28 people, including JihanHaber Owner İdris Yayla, who followed the press statement made in Batman against trustee operations in 2016, on charges of "violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations"...</p> <p>February 8, Tuesday at Batman 1st Criminal Court of First Instance</p>	<p><u>Case Against Boğaziçi Protests</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against 7 students with the allegation of "public incitement to hatred and enmity" on the grounds of the Kaaba image and LGBTQ+ flags exhibited in an exhibition held within the scope of the protests against Melih Bulu, who was appointed as the rector of Boğaziçi University...</p> <p>February 9, Wednesday at Istanbul 21st Criminal Court of First Instance</p>
<p><u>Ruken Demir Case</u></p> <p>Mezopotamya Ajansı muhabiri Ruken Demir'in haber kaynaklarıyla yaptığı görüşmeler gerekçe gösterilerek "örgüt üyeliği" iddiasıyla yargılandığı dava...</p> <p>February 9, Wednesday at Izmir 9th Assize Court</p>	<p><u>Ali Sönmez Kayar Case</u></p> <p>Etkin Haber Ajansı (ETHA) muhabiri Ali Sönmez Kayar'ın "örgüt üyeliği" suçlamasıyla yargılandığı dava...</p> <p>February 10, Thursday at Istanbul 32nd Assize Court</p>
<p><u>Ankara 2012 Newroz Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against rights defenders, including Temel Demirel and Mahmut Konuk,</p>	<p><u>Azad Zal Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against poet, writer and journalist Azad Zal on the charge of "terrorist organisation membership"...</p>

<p>because of the Newroz celebration in Ankara in 2012...</p> <p>February 10, Thursday at Ankara 23rd Criminal Court of First Instance</p>	<p>February 10, Thursday at Diyarbakır 8th Assize Court</p>
<p><u>Case Against Hasankeyf Protest</u></p> <p>31 people, including Jiyan News Editor-in-Chief Sonya Bayık, were detained during the press statement that the People's Democratic Party (HDP) Youth Assembly members wanted to make on June 12, 2019, demanding that the water containment of the Ilisu Dam, which flooded Hasankeyf, be stopped. The lawsuit filed against the 31 people on the charge of "violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations"...</p> <p>February 10, Thursday at Batman 1st Criminal Court of First Instance</p>	<p><u>Nurullah Ankut Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against the President of the People's Liberation Party (HKP), Nurullah Ankut, who was sentenced to 4 years and 8 months in prison for "insulting the President" in his books titled "Lawlesses 2" and "Lawlesses 3", on the charge of "insulting the President" because of his defense in court....</p> <p>February 10, Thursday at Istanbul 48th Criminal Court of First Instance</p>
<p><u>Soma Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against 34 of the citizens, who protested Prime Minister Erdoğan as he visited the district after the Soma mine disaster, in which 301 workers lost their lives on May 13, 2014, on charges of "resisting to prevent duty" and "insult"...</p> <p>February 10, Thursday at Soma Criminal Court of First Instance</p>	<p><u>Özgür Gündem Daily Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against Aslı Erdoğan, a columnist for Özgür Gündem Daily and a member of the Editorial Advisory Board, on the charge of "making propaganda for a terrorist organization" after the appeal court decree...</p> <p>February 10, Thursday at Istanbul 23rd Assize Court</p>
<p><u>Mehmet Şahin Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against Mehmet Şahin, the writer of the Kurdish newspaper Xwebun, on the charge of "establishing and managing a terrorist organization" on the grounds of his activities at the Democratic Society Congress (DTK)...</p> <p>February 10, Thursday at Diyarbakır 5th Assize Court</p>	<p><u>Case Against Families Demanding Justice</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against the families of those who lost their lives in the Çorlu train massacre because of the press statement they wanted to make in front of the Constitutional Court on June 12, 2019 for the prosecution of those responsible, in which they were attacked by the police...</p> <p>February 11, Friday at Ankara 50th Criminal Court of First Instance</p>