

2022 February Report

1. Administrative Bans, Police Interventions

- 01: Ankara** The police presented the press statement organised within the “re-employment” protests.
- 01: Diyarbakır** The police prevented the press statement organised by TUHAY-DER in front of the Type-D Prison to protest suspicious prisoner deaths.
- 03: Hakkari** The Governorate banned all protests and demonstrations within the province for another 15 days. With this decree, the protest and demonstration ban in Hakkari was extended to 622 days.
- 03: Istanbul** The police intervened against the demonstration organised by the Initiative for the Solidarity of Prisoners in front of the Forensic Medicine Institute to demand freedom for ill prisoners, beating and detaining 17 people.
- 04: Ankara** The police prevented the press statement organised in Mamak district to protest the preventions against street musicians performing in Kurdish.
- 04: Istanbul** The police intervened against the press statement in front of the Forensic Medicine Institute in order to draw attention to ill prisoners. One person was detained.
- 05: Zonguldak** A citizen named A.C., who attempted suicide on the roof of the Justice and Development Party (AKP) district building in Ereğli district, was taken down by the police and was later detained with the allegation of “insulting the President” with the remarks he made at the journalists following the incident.
- 06: Izmir** 14 people were detained in simultaneous operations due to praising the PKK on social media.
- 06: Mardin** The police intervened against the march organised to protest the price electric price increases, using tear gas and pressurised water.
- 07: Diyarbakır** Three people were exposed to physical and verbal violence by the police officers in front of their workplace in Kayapınar district and were threatened with death.
- 07: Mardin** In the house raid organised by the police in Kızıltepe district, former Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP) Co-Chair Kadir Işık was handcuffed on his back. During the handcuffing, he hit his head on the ground and his nose was broken.
- 07: Şırnak** The police prevented the press statement organised in Idil district to protest the electricity price increases.
- 08: Van** The police intervened against the press statement organised in front of the Training and Research Center within the protest of health workers across the country, detaining 8 people.
- 09: Istanbul** 150 people, including DGD-SEN members and executives, who protested in front of the warehouse of Migros in Esenyurt for the re-employment of workers and for the increase of their salaries, were detained.

- 09: Mardin** The police prevented the demonstration in Derik to protest the electricity price increases.
- 1: Ankara** The police prevented the press statement organised by the Education and Science Workers' Union (Eğitim-Sen) and its Labour Branch (Eğitim-İş) in front of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey to protest the Teachers Profession Law Draft.
- 10: Istanbul** The police intervened against the group waiting in front of the Gazi Cemevi in order to participate in the funeral of Birsen Kars, who died in Germany. 16 people were detained.
- 10: Rize** Leftist Party District Chairman Recep Onur was detained due to carrying a banner during the press statement in Pazar district to protest price increases on electricity and natural gas.
- 10: Şırnak** During an intervention against the protest organised in Idil district against the price increases on electricity and natural gas, a police officer hit one person, who was waiting on the pavement, in the face, injuring them.
- 12: Adana** The police prevented the press statement made by Furkan Foundation members on seven arrested members.
- 12: Manisa** The gendarmerie detained one person due to an arrest warrant issued on the allegation of insulting the President on social media.
- 12: Mersin** One Students' Collective member was detained due to their social media posts.
- 13: Istanbul** The police prevented the women's march, who wanted to protest the economic crisis with pots and pans in Kadıköy.
- 14: Manisa** The police detained Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Turgutlu Co-Chairs on the charge of terrorist organisation membership and making terrorist organisation propaganda, and six people on the charge of making terrorist organisation propaganda on social media, with house raids.
- 14: Muş** The police prevented the press statement organised by lawyers, including the Bar Association Chairman, regarding the detainment of 2 Bar Association lawyers and the arrest of one of them, in front of the Courthouse.
- 15: Bingöl** Emin Canpolat, who was detained during a house raid in Hasanova village of Karlıova district, and the other residents of the house were exposed to mistreatment.
- 15: Istanbul** The police prevented the press statement organised by the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) in Bahçelievler district on the anniversary of Abdullah Öcalan being taken back to Turkey.
- 15: Istanbul** 10 people, including Matuhay-Der Co-Chair Esin Çelik and Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) members, were detained with house raids.
- 17: Balıkesir** The Anti-Terror Unit detained one person in Edremit district due to a finalised prison sentence against him on the charge of DHKP-C membership and another person, who allegedly made PKK/KCK propaganda on social media.
- 17: Istanbul** Three people from the Solidarity With Prisoners Initiative were detained during the leaflet distribution on ill prisoners in Kadıköy.
- 18: Hakkari** The Governorate banned all protests and demonstrations to be organised across the province for 15 days, starting on February 18, 2022. The protest and

demonstration ban that has been applied in Hakkari since June 5, 2020 was thus extended to 637 days without break.

- 18: Istanbul** The police intervened against the protest organised by fired Migros workers in front of the house of Migros CEO in Beykoz. 100 people were detained with physical violence.
- 18: Istanbul** The police intervened against the press statement organised by the relatives of prisoners in front of the Forensic Medicine Institute regarding ill prisoners. One person was detained.
- 19: Ankara** The police intervened against those participating in the press statement organised by the Women's Platform in front of Çankaya Municipality building, detaining 8 people.
- 19: Hakkari** The gendarmerie intervened against the quarrel between the residents of Ovaıçi village in Yüksekova district and Vangölü Electric Distribution teams, detaining six people with physical violence.
- 19: Trabzon** The police prevented those wanting to march before the press statement organised in front of the Governorate building to protest price increases.
- 21: Denizli** The police detained two people with finalised imprisonment sentences against them, on the allegation of "making terrorist organisation propaganda".
- 21: Izmir** The police battered and detained two people, who called people for the Alsancak Namık Kemal High School for the High School Students Union (LÖB) Council.
- 21: Izmir** The police detained three New Democrat Women (YDK) members, one of whom was a 17-year-old, as they were distributing leaflets for March 8.
- 23: Ankara** The police prevented the vigil organised in front of the Ministry of Justice building by the parents and sister of Gülistan Doku, who went missing in Tunceli, after their demands to meet the Justice Minister was denied.
- 23: Istanbul** One person, named Nergis Dođru, was detained following the press statement organised regarding ill prisoners in front of the Çađlayan Courthouse.
- 23: Izmir** A 17-year-old was exposed to psychological torture under detainment at the police station. The child was placed in a Child Protection Dormitory because his parents didn't come and get him, and he was exposed to naked search.
- 24: Ankara** The police intervened against the group, named Karala, who wanted to hold a press statement in front of the Russian Embassy in order to protest Russia's attack against Ukraine. Six people were detained.
- 25: Tunceli** Two people, H.Ş. and D.K., were accused of espionage at Pertek Police Station in Pertek district.
- 27: Batman** The police stopped Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Youth Assembly member Barıř Afřar and threatened him with the words, "Prepare your grave."
- 27: Urfa** One person in Eyyübiye district was exposed to mistreatment by the police on the street because he did not comply with the police warning to "stop". Three more people, who intervened against the situation, were exposed to even worse mistreatment.
- 27: Van** The Governorate banned all protests and demonstrations to be organised across the province for another 15 days. The protest and demonstration ban,

applied since November 21, 2016, was thus extended to 1939 days without break.

2. Investigations and Prosecutions

- 01: Diyarbakır** The lawsuit filed against police officer A. E. on the killing of 12-year-old Helin Hasret Şen during an ongoing curfew in Sur district with the fire opened from an armoured police vehicle on October 12, 2015.
- 01: Istanbul** The case against Erol Önderoğlu, Ahmet Nesin and Şebnem Korur Fincancı was retried after the acquittal decree of charges related to their Editing-In-Chief of Özgür Gündem Daily issued by the 13th Assize Court was reversed. The case was adjourned to April 4.
- 01: Mardin** The lawsuit filed against Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Co-Mayors of Kızıltepe and Savur districts at the 2nd Assize Court after they were replaced with trustees, was adjourned as the court judge tested positive for COVID-19.
- 02: Diyarbakır** Democratic Regions Party (DBP) Provincial Co-Chair Seval Gülmez, who was detained on January 29, 2022 and was released later after being tested positive for COVID-19, was detained and arrested once again.
- 02: Diyarbakır** The lawsuit filed against lawyer Newroz Uysal at the 10th Assize Court within the investigation against the Democratic Society Congress (DTK) was adjourned to May 27.
- 02: Diyarbakır** Peace Mother Şükran Akboğa was detained due to social media posts.
- 02: Şırnak** Three people were detained during house raids in Idil district.
- 02: Urfa** 4 people were detained during house raids at Bozova district due to "terrorist organisation membership".
- 03: Diyarbakır** Human Rights Association Diyarbakır Branch was raided by the police. The reason for the raid was found to be the decree against Executive Board Member Ferhat Berkpınar's house and workplace being searched.
- 03: Diyarbakır** Dilan Kartal, who was detained on January 28, 2022, was released on the condition of judicial measures.
- 03: Diyarbakır** The lawsuit filed against Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Ergani Municipal Assembly member Ceylan Aslan at the 11th Assize Court was adjourned to May 18.
- 03: Diyarbakır** The lawsuit filed against journalist Mehmet Şahin at the 11th Assize Court within an investigation against the Democratic Society Congress (DTK) was adjourned to February 10.
- 03: Izmir** A transsexual woman was penalised in the lawsuit filed against her based on the slogans she chanted and the banners she carried during marches on March 8, 2016. The announcement of the verdict was deferred.
- 03: Izmir** One member of General Labour Izmir Branch No.2 was sentenced to 11 months Genel İş İzmir 2 nolu Şube üyesi bir kişiye cumhurbaşkanına hakaret ettiği gerekçesiyle 11 ay 10 gün hapis cezası verildi. Hükmün açıklanması ertelendi.

- 03: Mardin** 10 people were detained with house raids due to making terrorist organisation propaganda on social media.
- 04: Diyarbakır** Journalist Nurcan Yalçın was detained.
- 04: Istanbul** A decree of acquittal was issued for journalist Buse Söğütü, who was on trial on the charge of “targeting those taking part in the fight against terrorism”.
- 05: Urfa** 6 people, who were detained in Bozova district on February 2, was released on the condition of judicial measures.
- 07: Diyarbakır** Journalist Nurcan Yalçın, who was detained on February 4, was released on the condition of judicial measures.
- 07: Istanbul** Two separate investigations were opened against ETHA Editor Pinar Gayıp by the Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office and the Security Directorate due to the news she covered as well as her social media posts.
- 08: Diyarbakır** Author Ömer Ağın was acquitted in the lawsuit filed against him at the 5th Assize Court within an investigation against the Democratic Society Congress (DTK).
- 08: Istanbul** 8 people were acquitted after having been detained in accordance with the Law No. 2911 as a result of the police attack against the LGBTQ+ Pride March on June 26, 2021.
- 08: Istanbul** The lawsuit filed against former Republican People’s Party (CHP) MP Berhan Şimşek at the 56th Criminal Court of First Instance on the charge of “publicly denigrating the Republic of Turkey, its assembly, government and judicial bodies” due to his expressions, “Both the Governor and the District Governor are militants” on a TV show he participated in on January 22, was adjourned to June 21.
- 08: Istanbul** The lawsuit filed against journalist Hazal Ocak, Serkan Ozan, Olcay Büyükaş Akça and Ozan Yurtoğlu at the 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance following the complaint of Bilal Erdoğan due to the news articles with the titles, “Bilal Erdoğan’s lucky friend” and “Friend is tender-rich”, was adjourned to June 7.
- 08: Istanbul** Journalist Deniz Yücel was sentenced to 7080 TL judicial fine on the charge of insulting the former deputy Chief Public Prosecutor.
- 08: Kars** After the acquittal decree issued for journalist Selda Manduz was reversed, the 2nd Assize Court sentenced the journalist to 1 year and six months of imprisonment on the charge of “making terrorist organisation propaganda”.
- 08: Mardin** 41 people, who were detained with a police raid due to participating in a press statement organised in Kızıltepe district on February 6 to protest the electricity price increases, were released after testifying.
- 09: Diyarbakır** The lawsuit filed against Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP) Çınar district Co-Mayor Necla Tamriş at the 10th Assize Court was adjourned to March 25.
- 09: Diyarbakır** The lawsuit filed against Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP) Eğil district Co-Mayor Bahar Karakaş at the 10th Assize Court was adjourned to March 25.
- 09: Diyarbakır** The lawsuit filed against former Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP) Hakkari MP, who lost her seat at the Parliament, and Democratic Society Congress (DTK) Co-Chair Leyla Güven at the 9th Assize Court was adjourned to April 11.

- 10: Adıyaman** Human Rights Association (IHD) Diyarbakır Branch Executive Board member Ferhat Berkpınar, who was detained on February 3, was released on the condition of judicial measures.
- 10: Diyarbakır** Journalist Mehmet Şahin was sentenced to 6 years and three months of imprisonment at the 11th Assize Court due to “terrorist organisation membership”.
- 10: Diyarbakır** The lawsuit filed against publisher Azad Zal at the 8th Assize Court within the investigation against the Democratic Society Congress (DTK) was adjourned to March 10.
- 10: Eskişehir** In the first hearing of the lawsuit filed against five people at the 5th Criminal Court of First Instance due to their participation in the “We Can’t Find Shelter” protest, the defendants were acquitted.
- 10: İstanbul** Writer Aslı Erdoğan was retried at the 23rd Assize Court after the verdict issued was reversed in the lawsuit filed against her due to her Editorial Advisory Council membership for Özgür Gündem Daily, and was acquitted in the first hearing.
- 11: İzmir** Lawyers prosecuted due to a press statement they held against the appointed trustees, were acquitted.
- 11: Mardin** The lawsuit filed against Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP) Derik Co-Mayor Mülkiye Esmez at the 2nd Assize Court was adjourned to May 11.
- 12: Muş** Former Human Rights Association (IHD) Muş Branch Chairman and lawyer Tarık Güneş was arrested, whereas former executive lawyer Rümet Agit Özer was released on the condition of judicial measures.
- 14: Denizli** One person was arrested on the charge of insulting the President on social media.
- 14: Diyarbakır** The retrial of Cihan Yıldız at the 6th Assize Court on the killing of DEP Batman MP Mehmet Sincar was adjourned to June 27.
- 14: Diyarbakır** 27 people were detained with house raids on the allegation that they were “preparing for a demonstration.”
- 14: İstanbul** A lawsuit was filed against journalist Sedef Kabaş on the charge of insulting the President, the Interior Minister and the Minister of TRansportation and Infrastructure due to her expressions during a TV show, with a claim of imprisonment for up to 12 years and ten months.
- 14: Mardin** Peace Mother Halime Işık Artuklu was detained with a house raid.
- 14: Şırnak** Four people, who were detained in Cizre on February 11, 2022, were released on the condition of judicial measures.
- 14: Şırnak** Mesopotamia Agency reporter Zeynep Durgut was detained with reverse handcuffs after the raid against her home in Cizre.
- 14: Van** Four of the seven people, who were detained in Gürpınar and Çatak districts on the allegation of “aiding a terrorist organisation”, were arrested.
- 15: Ağrı** Five of the six people, who were detained with house raids in Diyadin district on February 14, 2022, were arrested by the court they were taken to, on the allegation of “terrorist organisation membership”.
- 15: Diyarbakır** MEBYA-DER executive Abdülaziz Ölçen was acquitted of the charge of “terrorist organisation membership” at the 4th Assize Court.

- 15: Diyarbakır** The lawsuit filed against Rosa Women’s Association Executive Board member and lawyer Elif Tirenç İpek Ulaş at the 8th Assize Court was adjourned to March 3 after the defense statements.
- 15: Diyarbakır** Zeliha Kocaman was detained at the police station where she went to give signatures within the judicial measures imposed against her.
- 15: İstanbul** The lawsuit filed against 23 people, including lawyer Sezin Uçar, Özlem Gümüştaş, Gülhan Kaya and Ali Haydar Doğan as well as ETHA News Director Işminaz Temel, reporter Havva Cuştan and ESP members and executives at the 27th Assize Court was adjourned to June 2.
- 15: İstanbul** The lawsuit filed against 15 union executives, including Confederation of Revolutionary Trade Unions of Turkey (DISK) Chair Arzu Çerkezoğlu at the 20th Criminal Court of First Instance due to marching to Taksim on May 1, 2020, was adjourned to April 26.
- 15: İstanbul** In the lawsuit filed against Barış Pehlivan, Hülya Kılınç, Murat Ağirel, Mehmet Ferhat Çelik and Aydın Keser due to reporting the news of the funeral of a National Intelligence Organisation officer,, the 34th Assize Court arrested Ağirel, Pehlivan and Kılınç on the charge of “terrorist organisation membership”.
- 15: İzmir** Company owners filed a lawsuit against the representative of ship dismantling workers, who quit their jobs due to bad working conditions and low wages in Aliağa, on the charge of “illegal strike” and “causing damage to the workplace.”
- 15: Van** In the lawsuit filed against police officers S.O. and H.Ö.Ö. at the 2nd Assize court on the death of 17-year-old Lütfullah Tacik at the Van Deportation Center on May 27, 2014, S.O. was sentenced to 5 months of imprisonment and the sentence was deferred. H.Ö.Ö. was acquitted of the charge of “misuse of duty.”
- 16: Ağrı** Six people were detained with house raids due to their participation in certain events in 2015.
- 16: Ankara** The lawsuit filed against Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP) Co-Chair Pervin Buldan at the 18th Assize Court due to the speeches she gave during events she participated in, was adjourned to May 11.
- 16: Batman** Those detained in Batman on February 14, 2022 with the allegation that they were “preparing for a demonstration” were released on the condition of judicial measures.
- 16: Diyarbakır** 27 people, who were detained on February 14, 2022 with the allegation that they were “preparing for a demonstration” were released by the court they were taken to.
- 16: Mardin** 22 people, who were detained due to their social media posts and their Democratic Society Congress (DTK) activities on February 14, 2022 and on following days, were released on the condition of judicial measures by the court they were taken to.
- 17: Ağrı** Three of the six people, who were detained on February 16, were arrested on the allegation of “terrorist organisation membership.”
- 17: Ağrı** Three people, who were detained in Patnos and Taşlıçay districts on February 16, 2022, were arrested on the allegation of “terrorist organisation membership”.

- 17: Batman** The lawsuit filed against previously shut-down DIHA reporter Şerife Oruç at the 2nd Assize Court on the allegation of “terrorist organisation membership” was adjourned to March 24.
- 17: Diyarbakır** The 6-year 3-month imprisonment sentence issued against Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP) Antalya MP Kemal Bülbül at the 4th Assize Court on the charge of “terrorist organisation membership” was upheld by the Regional Court.
- 17: Erzurum** Eight people, who were detained due to their social media posts in Karayazı and Tekman districts on February 15, 2022, were released on the condition of judicial measures.
- 17: Istanbul** The lawsuit filed against 205 people, including members and executives of the Peace and Democracy Party, at the 3rd Assize Court, was adjourned to June 2.
- 17: Istanbul** An investigation was opened against ÖHD lawyers Sezin Uçar, Fırat Epözdemir and Contemporary Lawyers Association (ÇHD) lawyer Seher Eriş by the Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office due to the speech they gave at the 2021 Bar Association General Assembly regarding lawyer Ebru Timtik, who died during a death fast.
- 17: Istanbul** Journalist Gökhan Biçici was acquitted in a lawsuit filed against him on the allegation of insulting the President in a news article.
- 17: Kars** Five people, including Human Rights Association (IHD) Kars Branch Executive Ziyadin Can and Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP) Provincial Chairman Turan Altun, who were detained during house raids on February 15, were released on the condition of judicial measures.
- 17: Siirt** 9 people, including TUAY-DER Co-Chair and an association executive, were released on the condition of judicial measures after having been detained on February 14.
- 17: Şırnak** Mesopotamia Agency reporter Zeynep Durgut, who was detained on February 14 in Cizre, was released.
- 17: Şırnak** 14 people, who were detained in Cizre and Silopi districts on February 14, were released on the condition of judicial measures.
- 17: Tunceli** Human Rights Association (IHD) Co-Chair Eren Keskin was acquitted in the first hearing of the lawsuit filed against her at the 2nd Assize Court on the allegation that she was making “terrorist organisation propaganda.”
- 17: Van** The lawsuit filed against former Edremit Co-Mayor at the 2nd Assize Court was adjourned to May 12.
- 18: Urfa** In the lawsuit filed at the 5th Assie Court against fugitive defendants Deniz Büyükçebe and İlhami Bali of the bomb attack in Suruç district on July 20, 2015, which caused the deaths of 33 people, the requests of the Socialist Party of the Oppressed (ESP) and the Federation of Socialist Youth Associations (SGDF) were accepted. The case was adjourned to June 1.
- 21: Diyarbakır** In the lawsuit filed at the 13th Assize Court against 11 lawyers and former executive board members of the bar association, all defendants were acquitted.
- 21: Diyarbakır** Journalist Durket Süren was sentenced to 1 year, 6 months and 22 days of imprisonment by the 11th Assize Court on the charge of “making terrorist organisation propaganda”.

- 21: Istanbul** The lawsuit filed against 52 people at the 49th Criminal Court of First Instance on charges of “depriving one of their freedom” and “violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations No. 2911” due to participating in a protest demonstration against the appointed rector to Boğaziçi University, the judicial measures against them were lifted. The case was adjourned to July 4.
- 21: Istanbul** The lawsuit filed against 52 people due to the Gezi Park protests was held at the 13th Assize Court. The court decided for Osman Kavala to remain arrested and for the file of the Çarşı Case to be separated from the main case file. The case was adjourned to March 21.
- 21: Istanbul** The lawsuit filed against 41 people, who were detained in the press statement organised to call for May 1 in 2021 at Kadıköy district, at the Anatolian 53rd Criminal Court of First Instance on the allegation of violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations No. 2911, was adjourned to June 27.
- 22: Ankara** The lawsuit filed against Human Rights Association (IHD) Co-Chair Öztürk Türkdoğan at the 19th Assize Court on the allegation of terrorist organisation membership was adjourned to April 19.
- 22: Diyarbakır** The lawsuit filed against 27 people, including Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP) Mardin MP Pero DüNDAR, at the 4th Assize Court, was adjourned to June 2.
- 22: Diyarbakır** After the 11-month 20-day imprisonment sentence issued in the lawsuit filed against former Democratic Regions Party (DBP) Co-Chair Sebahat Tuncel at the 10th Criminal Court of First Instance on the allegation of insulting the President, the case was retried. Tuncel was acquitted.
- 22: Mardin** The lawsuit filed against former Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP) MP Gülser Yıldırım at the 3rd Assize Court was adjourned to May 26.
- 22: Şırnak** An investigation was opened against former Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP) Cizre district Co-Mayor Güler Tunç with the allegation of making terrorist organisation propaganda on social media.
- 23: Diyarbakır** The lawsuit filed against Rosa Women’s Association member Fatma Gültekin at the 10th Assize Court was adjourned to May 13.
- 23: Urfa** A lawsuit was filed against PEN member Gökhan Yavuzel at the 4th Criminal Court of First Instance on the allegation of insulting the President on social media.
- 24: Diyarbakır** The lawsuit filed against US-based Vice News reporter Jacob Philip John Gingell Hanrahan, cameraman Philip John Pendlebury, their translator Mohamed Ismael Rasool and driver Abdurrahman Direkçi at the 9th Assize Court was adjourned to May 26.
- 24: Diyarbakır** The lawsuit filed against the Socialist Party of the Oppressed (ESP) Deputy Co-Chair Beycan Taşkiran at the 5th Assize Court was adjourned to June 9.
- 24: Diyarbakır** In the lawsuit filed against journalist Kibriye Evren, the 5th Assize Court decided for the case file to be combined with another case at Mersin 2nd Assize Court.
- 24: Istanbul** The lawsuit filed against 13 people, including two journalists, at the 23rd Assize Court due to their participation in the protest demonstration organised in front of the Bakırköy Women’s Prison regarding hunger strikes in prisons, was adjourned to June 28.

- 24: Urfa** The lawsuit filed against lawyers, who were detained with violence during the Newroz celebrations in 2012, at the 4th Assize Court on charges of “insulting a public officer” and “resisting to prevent duty” was adjourned to March 28.
- 25: Urfa** Another investigation was opened against Emine Şenyaşar due to the justice vigil she performs every day in front of the courthouse. The total number of investigations added up to 14 with this latest investigation against Şenyaşar.
- 25: Van** 4 students, who participated in the protest demonstration organised on February 24 at the Yüzüncüyıl University cafeteria to protest the racist attack at Antalya Akdeniz University on February 22, were destined at the Provincial Security Directorate they were taken to testify.
- 26: Diyarbakır** In the lawsuit filed against 14 police officers regarding the bomb attack against the rally organised by the Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP) on June 5, 2015 at the 14th Criminal Court of First Instance on the allegation of “misuse of duty through neglect”, the 2-month 15-day imprisonment sentences issued against four police officers were reversed by the high court.

3. Other violations

- 03: Diyarbakır** It was found out that some prisoners at the Type-T Prison No.3 were taken to places where there are no CCTV cameras by the prison guards, and that they were exposed to mistreatment.
- 03: Kars** It was recorded that the phone call duration allowed to the prisoners at Type-T Prison, which was 20 minutes before, was lowered to 10 minutes and that the political prisoners were not allowed to benefit from their right to video call.
- 04: Ankara** The Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK) issued an administrative penalty was issued against Halk TV channel due to the expressions used by Levent Gültekin on the show “İki Yorum” as well as against TELE 1 Channel due to the expressions of Levent Gültekin on the show “18 Minutes”.
- 04: Diyarbakır** The 5th Criminal Judicature of Peace issued an access ban against the website of Etkin News Agency.
- 04: Diyarbakır** Journalist Özlem Seyhan, who was kept in the Women’s Prison, was sent to Mersin Tarsus Women’s Closed Prison; Ronahi Sırdaş was sent to Kayseri Bünyan Women’s Prison outside their will.
- 05: Balıkesir** The poster hung on the Republican People’s Party (CHP) Provincial building, which stated, “No worry of electric cuts, nor worry of utility bills, the palace society is in a good mood” was taken down upon the order of the Prosecutor’s Office due to “insulting the President”.
- 05: Istanbul** The Kartal District Governorate banned the event for solidarity with prisoners, which was planned to be organised by the New Democracy Families Union at the Hasan Ali Yücel Cultural Center, due to threats against “national security and public safety.”
- 05: Malatya** No respiratory tool was given to ill prisoner Mehmet Yamaç, who was kept at Akçadağ Prison.

- 05: Van** It was reported that six ill prisoners at the High Security Prison were kept in solitary confinement cells and that all prisoners were not allowed to use their rights to conversation, which was supposed to be 10 hours weekly, for the last 21 months.
- 06: Istanbul** A citizen named Pınar Ö. was detained on the allegation of “insulting the President” due to a social media post she made after the President’s announcement that he was COVID-19 positive. The 4th Criminal Judicature of Peace decided to apply judicial measures against Pınar Ö. through house imprisonment.
- 07: Izmir** At Aliğa/Şakran Women’s Prison, letters of the prisoners are not being sent, and the letters sent to the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (TBMM) in closed envelopes, are not being sent as well.
- 08: Elazığ** It was found out that a disciplinary investigation was opened against Democratic Society Congress (DTK) Co-Chair Leyla Güven, who is kept at Elazığ Women’s Prison, and that a 11-day solitary confinement penalty was issued against her as a result of the investigation.
- 08: Hatay** The 1st Criminal Judicature of Peace issued an access ban against the website of Gazete Yolculuk.
- 08: Istanbul** A total of 3500 TL administrative fine was sentenced against 5 Kurdish transsexual women, who were detained following the rally organised by the March 8 platform on March 6, 2021, on the charge of “Violating the Public Health Law No. 1593.”
- 10: Ağrı** It was found out that prisoner Barış Demir, who is kept at the Type-M Closed Prison, was exposed to physical violence by the prison guards.
- 10: Mardin** It was reported that ill prisoners were not transferred to hospitals in Type-E Prison - masks, gloves and cleaning materials were not provided to protect from the COVID-19 pandemic, and the quarantine wards were dirty.
- 10: Urfa** It was reported that in the Type-T Prison No.1, the relatives of the prisoners were subjected to the imposition of a naked search before meeting their relatives and the relatives who did not accept this could not benefit from the right to visit.
- 11: Urfa** Two ill prisoners, Bazo Yılmaz and Bayram Demirhan, who were kept at Type-T Prison No. 2, could not be hospitalised due to the mistreatment they were exposed to during their transportation to hospitals.
- 11: Van** 140 prisoners, who stay in the same prison, started a 3-day hunger strike with a demand for the illumination of the death of 70-year-old Ramazan Turan on January 21, 2022 after being kept in solitary confinement for 22 days at the High Security Prison he was kept in, as well as for an end to rights violations.
- 13: Urfa** The car of Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP) Urfa MP Ayşe Sürücü was attacked by unidentified person/s with guns, as the car was parked.
- 14: Balıkesir** A company in Bandırma district fired 54 people due to their membership in trade unions.
- 14: Urfa** It was found out that prisoners at Type-T Closed Prison were exposed to mistreatment by the prison guards and that their personal belongings were confiscated during ward searches.

- 15: Ankara** An access ban was brought against two articles written by Barış Pehlivan and one article by Barış Terkoğlu on the website of Cumhuriyet Daily regarding the assistants of the Minister of National Security, following the decree of the 3rd Criminal Judicature of Peace due to a violation of personal rights.
- 16: Adana** Unidentified person/s attacked the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) district building in Yüreğir district with molotov cocktails and guns.
- 17: Diyarbakır** It has been reported that foreign materials such as hair, glass and plastic were found in the meals given to the prisoners in the No. 1 High Security Prison.
- 22: Ankara** Access to two news articles and a column on the website of the Cumhuriyet Newspaper regarding the Deputy Minister of Health was banned with a decree of the 1st Criminal Court of Peace on the grounds of violation of personal rights.
- 22: Mardin** Prisoners in E Type Prison started an indefinite alternating hunger strike, in groups of 3, demanding an end to their rights violations.
- 23: Ankara** With a decree of the 7th Criminal Court of Peace, access to the news on the websites of Cumhuriyet Daily, Gazete Duvar and Yurt Daily regarding the Deputy Minister of National Defense was banned on the grounds of violation of personal rights.
- 23: Van** It was reported that the prisoner named Ferhat Sayiner, who was transferred to Antalya Type-S Prison against his will, was not allowed to take his personal belongings with him.
- 24: Antalya** Arif Kocabıyık, who made street interviews for the Youtube channel called Ilave TV, was attacked by a group of alleged members of Grey Wolves.
- 25: Diyarbakır** Access to the website of Aktif News Agency was banned by the decision of the 3rd Criminal Court of Peace.
- 25: Diyarbakır** B. B., who was staying with his mother in the Women's Prison, suffered from wounds on their body due to the fact that their medication was not given to them.
- 25: Mardin** Prisoner Mehmet Ş. Acar, who was kept at Type-E Prison, was not referred to the hospital for 5 months on the grounds that he did not accept to be searched naked.
- 26: Iğdır** Prisoner named Hogir Batu, who was transferred to the Type-S Closed Prison and was subjected to ill-treatment on the grounds that he refused to be searched naked at the entrance, continues his hunger strike since December 23, 2021.
- 28: Elazığ** 17 prisoners held at the Women's Closed Prison, including Democratic Society Congress (DTK) Co-Chair Leyla Güven and Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Diyarbakır Provincial Chair Hülya Alökmen, were transferred to different prisons against their will.

4. COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Coşkun Üsterci

Secretary General - Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TIHV)

According to the data of the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TIHV) Documentation Center in February 2022, the police intervened against at least 19 peaceful meetings and demonstrations, and prevented 37 meetings and demonstrations before they even started. As a result, at least 351 people were detained after being subjected to torture and other ill-treatment practices. During the interventions, 11 people were injured as a result of the violence by police officers. Among these interventions, those against citizens protesting the electricity and natural gas prices, workers demanding a raise in wages, and anti-war protesters protesting Russia's invasion of Ukraine come to the fore.

Violations against the press and thus freedom of expression were worrisome in February: 1 journalist was killed in an armed attack, 2 journalists were attacked. At least 3 journalists were detained. 3 of the 5 journalists, whose prison sentences were approved, were arrested and sent to prison for the purpose of executing the aforementioned sentences. At the end of the trials concluded in February, 3 journalists were sentenced to prison and 1 journalist to an administrative fine.

The increase in pressure and violations against human rights advocates in February also drew attention.

The Human Rights Association (IHD) Diyarbakır Branch was raided, and a member of its Board of Directors was detained. Two lawyers, the Human Rights Association (IHD) Kars Branch manager and one of the former managers of the Human Rights Association (IHD) Muş Branch were detained, one of them was arrested.

The lawsuit against Human Rights Association (IHD) Co-Chair Eren Keskin started at Tunceli 2nd Assize Court with the allegation of "having made terrorist organisation propaganda" during a speech she gave in 2019 as well as a social media post in 2018, started on February 17, 2022. Fortunately, the court issued the acquittal of Eren Keskin in the first hearing.

The first hearing of the lawsuit filed against Human Rights Association (IHD) Co-Chair Öztürk Türkdoğan at the Ankara 19th Assize Court was held on February 22, 2022 with the allegation of "terrorist organisation membership" based on the statements he made on behalf of the association on various dates. Unfortunately, the court adjourned the hearing to April 19, 2022, ruling that Öztürk Türkdoğan's travel ban would continue.

Another violation against human rights advocates took place in Izmir in February. As it will be remembered, 6 human rights advocates, including Aytül Uçar, Medical Secretary of the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TIHV) Izmir Representative Office, and Erdoğan Akdoğdu, a member of the Contemporary Lawyers Association (ÇHD), were detained as a result of the police intervention against the demonstration organised in Izmir on February 3, 2021 to protest the rector appointed to Boğaziçi University by the President. The indictment prepared by the Izmir Chief Public Prosecutor's Office against the human rights advocates in question with the allegations of 'violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations No. 2911', 'insulting',

'resisting to prevent duty' was accepted by the Izmir 49th Criminal Court of First Instance on February 14, 2022.

I would like to dwell on this issue in particular. Aytül Uçar, who has taken active responsibilities at the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TIHV) in the treatment and rehabilitation of the rights advocates who have been prosecuted, especially those who have been tortured for many years, made efforts to prevent ill-treatment practices and objected to the violence of police officers during the intervention in the event, which was the subject of the case, and verbally warned about torture and other forms of violence, which is absolutely prohibited. However, the law enforcement officers, who were disturbed by the testimonies and warnings of the rights advocates, instead of changing their behavior and giving up the torture and other ill-treatment practices they resorted to, unlawfully detained the rights advocates and even inflicted violence on them. Later, by preparing untrue reports and receiving reports, they enabled lawsuits to be filed on grounds of 'insult', 'resisting to prevent duty'.

This is an administrative technique that is frequently used in Turkey to cover up, legitimize and even encourage police violence, which has almost become a routine, and violations, especially torture. As a matter of fact, counter lawsuits are filed against those who have been subjected to police violence and tortured in many incidents for many years, on the grounds of "insulting a public officer, resisting to prevent duty, injuring, and damaging public property". While the lawsuits filed against torturers go unpunished, the lawsuits filed against the tortured can result in heavy penalties in a short time. As a matter of fact, according to the data of the Ministry of Justice, an investigation was initiated against 34,972 people under Article 265 of the Turkish Criminal Code (TCK), which constitutes the crime of "resisting a public official" by the Public Prosecutor's Office in 2020, and a public lawsuit was filed against 26,628 of them. However, in the same year, 887 people were investigated under Article 94 of the Turkish Criminal Code (TCK), which regulates the crime of torture, and only 102 people were prosecuted.² Such a high difference between the lawsuits filed for the crimes of torture and resisting a public officer clearly shows the extent of the impunity and that impunity is maintained as a systematic policy.

Pressure on social media posts and online news continued at the same pace in February. Again, according to the data of the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TIHV) Documentation Center, 32 people were detained on the grounds of the President's social media posts about his health. Access to the websites of 2 news agencies was banned 3 times. At least 15 news articles were banned from access.

1 TV channel was suspended 5 times and 5 TV channels were fined separately by the Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK).

The protest and demonstration bans issued by the local administrators (governors and district governors) continued throughout this month. As we emphasize in each session, the province of Van is leading by far in terms of these prohibitions. The Van Governorate banned demonstration marches and open-air meetings across the province for 15 days, twice as of February 13 and 28, 2022. With this decree, the protest and demonstration ban implemented in Van since November 21, 2016 was extended to 1939 days without interruption.