

# March 2022 Report

## 1. Administrative Bans, Police Interventions

- 01: Ankara** Private security officers intervened against the protest held by Yasin Keskin, who was dismissed from his job at the Çankaya Municipality, in the municipality building. The police detained Keskin.
- 04: Istanbul** 2 people were detained in the press release demanding the release of ill prisoner Ali Osman Köse in front of Çağlayan Courthouse.
- 06: Ankara** The police intervened in the press statement held on Sakarya Street on International Women's Day, detaining 5 people.
- 06: Kocaeli** The rally planned to be organized by the Labour and Democracy Forces was banned by the District Governorate.
- 06: Şırnak** The Kurdish play Mem-û Zin, which will be performed by Şermola Theater on March 12 at the Municipal Cultural Center in Cizre, has been canceled by the District Governorate.
- 07: Istanbul** The General Security Directorate announced that it banned the 8 March 8 Feminist Night March on Istiklal Street.
- 08: Adana** The police prevented the Feminist Night March.
- 08: Ankara** The police prevented the vigil organised in front of the Republican People's Party (CHP) Headquarters.
- 08: Antalya** The police attacked the Feminist Night March and detained 40 people.
- 08: Istanbul** 38 people, who wanted to participate in the March 8 Feminist Night March in Taksim, were detained in Kadıköy. The police used rubber bullets and tear gas against the march in Taksim.
- 08: Izmir** The police set up a barricade against the women gathering on Cyprus Martyrs Street in Alsancak for the "Feminist Night March" on International Women's Day and detained 3 women, one of whom was 17 years old.
- 09: Van** The posters hung on the billboards in the city for March 8 International Women's Day by the Van-Hakkari Medical Chamber were removed by the Governorate.
- 12: Urfa** Mehmet Aslan Kaynaklı, who is alleged to be the perpetrator of the incident in which 2 policemen died in Haliliye district on March 10, was killed in the operation organized by the special operations police in the rural neighborhood.
- 14: Ankara** The police prevented the press release for re-employment that was organised in front of the Human Rights Monument on Yüksel Street.
- 14: Istanbul** 10 people were detained during the protest against the price hikes of SODAP members in Beyoğlu.
- 14: Istanbul** The police prevented the press statement that the Medical Chamber members wanted to make in Taksim due to the Medicine Day.
- 14: Van** The Governorate banned all kinds of meetings and demonstration throughout the province for 15 days as of March 15. With this decision, the protest and

- demonstration ban implemented in Van since November 21, 2016 was extended to 1954 days without interruption.
- 15: Ankara** The police intervened against the group marching inside the subway station in Çankaya district to protest the hike in transportation fees, and detained 9 people.
- 17: Mardin** The Governorate banned all kinds of meetings and demonstrations throughout the province for 15 days as of March 18. With this decree, the protest and demonstration ban implemented in Mardin since October 17, 2019 has reached 897 days without interruption.
- 18: Adana** 10 people were detained with house raids on the grounds that they made propaganda for a terrorist organization in their social media posts.
- 19: Izmir** Six people were detained by the police at the Torbalı Newroz celebration because of the colors of their clothes.
- 19: Mardin** The police intervened against those who wanted to march after the Newroz celebration in Kızıltepe district. 30 people, including 18 children, were detained.
- 20: Adana** The police intervened in the march to be held by the members of the Furkan Foundation, and beat at least 15 people, including the founder of the foundation, Alparslan Kuytul.
- 20: Hakkari** The Governorate banned all kinds of protests and demonstrations to be organised throughout the province for 15 days.
- 20: Şırnak** Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Şırnak Provincial Co-Chair Sabuha Akdağ was subjected to physical violence by the police on the grounds that she refused body search.
- 20: Tekirdağ** 14 people were detained on charges of "making propaganda for a terrorist organisation" during the Newroz celebrations.
- 20: Van** In the Hacibekir neighborhood of Ipekyolu district, 4 people, who were stopped by the police, were detained with ill-treatment.
- 21: Diyarbakır** LGBTQI+s, who wanted to participate in the Newroz celebrations, were subjected to hate speech, harassment and threats, their flags were torn off and they were forced to leave the event venues.
- 21: Diyarbakır** The police intervened in the Newroz celebration with tear gas, rubber bullets and pressurized water. At least 333 people, 74 of whom were children, were detained.
- 21: Konya** 4 people, who wanted to attend the Newroz celebration, were detained at the search point on the grounds of the clothes they wore.
- 22: Ankara** The press statement that various legal organizations wanted to hold in front of the courthouse in order to protest the detainment of Association of Lawyers for Freedom branch manager and lawyer Alişan Şahin, was prevented by the police.
- 22: Aydın** One of the 7 musicians, who were detained by the police with the allegation of making PKK/KCK propaganda by singing Kurdish music at the Newroz event, was arrested.
- 22: Izmir** Aliağa Şakran Women's Closed Prison Administration confiscated the March 8 cards sent by politicians to female prisoners on the grounds that they contained

- the phrases, "propaganda for a terrorist organization" and "incitement to crime".
- 23: Ankara** The press statement that was wanted to be held in front of the Courthouse by the lawyers, complainants and deputies after the latest hearing of the Musa Anter Case was prevented by the police.
- 25: Urfa** The Governorate banned all kinds of meetings and demonstrations to be organised throughout the province for 15 days as of March 25.
- 26: Diyarbakır** The Governorate banned all kinds of meetings and demonstrations to be organised throughout the province for 10 days as of March 26.
- 26: Urfa** In the Çalışkan neighborhood of Eyyübiye district, 16-year-old Muharrem Aksem was found dead in the area where the special operations police were conducting target practice, with his limbs amputated and many bullets or pieces of shrapnel penetrating his body.
- 27: Istanbul** The police detained 6 people by using violence due to the press statement that Dev-Lis and Dev-Güç members wanted to hold to commemorate the Kızılderle Massacre.
- 29: Ankara** At Ankara University Cebeci Campus, students wanted to hang a banner to commemorate the people who lost their lives in Kızılderle and they were attacked by an opposing group, afterwards they faced an intervention by private security guards.
- 29: Rize** Fındıklı District Governorate banned the event that was planned to be held on March 30 to commemorate those who lost their lives in the Kızılderle Massacre, with the title, "We Remember the TENs With Respect and Longing on the 50th Anniversary".
- 29: Van** The Governorate banned all kinds of meetings and demonstrations to be organised throughout the province for 15 days as of March 30. With this decree, the protest and demonstration ban implemented in Van since November 21, 2016 was extended to 1969 days without interruption.
- 30: Ankara** The police intervened in the press statement that the dismissed EnerjiSa workers wanted to make in front of Başkent Electricity Company building, detaining 5 people.
- 30: Antalya** The police detained 9 people on the grounds that they participated in the Newroz celebrations.
- 30: Istanbul** 40 people were detained during the commemoration event organised by the United Fighting Forces for those who lost their lives in the Kızılderle Massacre.
- 31: Muğla** Labour Party (EMEP) and Turkish Workers' Party (TIP) Provincial Chairmen were detained by the gendarmerie after they reacted against the private security, who beat villagers protesting the olive massacre in İzikköy district of Milas.

## **2. Investigations and Prosecutions**

- 01: Diyarbakır** Atty. Ruşen Seydaoğlu was sentenced to 6 years and 3 months in prison for "terrorist organization membership" and 1 year and 3 months for "making propaganda for a terrorist organization" in the lawsuit filed against him at the 8th Assize Court.
- 01: Diyarbakır** The lawsuit filed against Democratic Regions Party (DBP) Co-Chair Mehmet Şirin Tunç at the 8th Assize Court has been adjourned to 14 June.
- 01: Diyarbakır** Selim Kurbanoglu was sentenced to 10 years and 6 months in prison for "terrorist organization membership" in the lawsuit filed against the former Co-Mayor of Yenişehir district at the 8th Assize Court.
- 02: Diyarbakır** The lawsuit filed against Democratic Regions Party (DBP) Provincial Co-Chair Seval Gülmez at the 11th Assize Court has been adjourned to May 18.
- 02: Diyarbakır** The lawsuit filed against Atty. Merve Nur Doğan at the 10th Assize Court was adjourned to March 30.
- 03: Adana** Kader Duman was sentenced to 8 months and 10 days in prison for 'praising the crime and the criminal' in the lawsuit filed against her at the 36th Criminal Court of First Instance, based on a post she made on social media.
- 03: Diyarbakır** The lawsuit filed against Rosa Women's Association Executive Board Member and lawyer Elif Tirenç Ipek Ulaş at the 8th Assize Court was adjourned to June 14.
- 03: Istanbul** Bakırköy Chief Public Prosecutor's Office prepared an indictment against the Religious Scholars Association demanding that its activities be suspended and closed for measures.
- 03: Istanbul** The lawsuit filed against Özgür Gündem Daily's Editors-in-Chief Hüseyin Aykol, Zana Kaya, Managing Editor İnan Kızılkaya and politician Hatip Dicle at the 22nd Assize Court has been adjourned to June 16.
- 03: Şırnak** Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) District Co-Chairs Songül Küçük and Naim İnedi were detained during house raids in Cizre district.
- 04: Istanbul** The latest hearing of the lawsuit filed after the indictment prepared following the complaint of 10 people, including President Erdoğan, Süleyman Soylu, Binali Yıldırım and Egemen Bağış against Republican People's Party (CHP) members and executives was accepted at the 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance due to the statement titled 'Criminal Holding' prepared by the party, will be held on September 16.
- 04: Istanbul** The lawsuit filed against 17 people due to the Gezi Park protests was heard at the 13th Assize Court.
- 04: Istanbul** In the lawsuit filed against former employees of Taraf Daily, namely Ahmet Altan, Yasemin Çongar, Yıldray Oğur, Tuncay Opçin and Mehmet Baransu, at the 13th Assize Court, Baransu was sentenced to 13 years and Oğur to 3 years and 4 months in prison.
- 06: Diyarbakır** The lawsuit filed against the Rosa Women's Association President Adalet Kaya, at the 11th Assize Court was adjourned until June 22.
- 06: Izmir** A lawsuit was filed against the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Torbalı district administration on the charge of violating Law No.2911 for distributing leaflets in Turkish and Kurdish in the marketplace.

- 07: Denizli** The suspect, who allegedly made PKK/KCK propaganda on social media, was detained.
- 07: Diyarbakır** In the lawsuit filed by Şeyhmus and Menice Yılmaz, who were subjected to torture and other ill-treatment by the police with a dog during the police raid in their house, against the Ministry of Interior at the 3rd Administrative Court, the Ministry was sentenced to pay 60,000 TL in compensation.
- 07: Eskişehir** The first hearing of the lawsuit filed against 16 people, who participated in the 1st Pride Parade, was held at the 8th Criminal Court of First Instance. The next hearing was scheduled for April 26.
- 07: Istanbul** Journalist Mazlum Engindeniz testified at the Şişli District Police Department as part of the investigation launched due to his social media posts.
- 07: Şırnak** 16 people, who were on trial at the 2nd Assize Court on the grounds that they participated in the commemoration event held in 2015 for the families of Roboski, were acquitted.
- 08: Diyarbakır** 9 people were detained after the March 8 rally.
- 08: Istanbul** The lawsuit filed against Republican People's Party (CHP) Üsküdar District Chairman Suat Özçağdaş at the Anatolian 17th Criminal Court of First Instance for allegedly taking photographs of Fahrettin Altun's house, was adjourned to April 20.
- 08: Istanbul** The lawsuit filed against 7 women, who protested Turkey's withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention in front of the Social Provincial Services Directorate building, at the 23rd Criminal Court of First Instance was adjourned to June 9.
- 08: Istanbul** 14-year-old T.A. was acquitted in the lawsuit filed against them at the Anatolian 2nd Juvenile Court on the charge of insulting the President through a social media post. was acquitted in the lawsuit filed against them.
- 09: Adıyaman** Two people were detained on the allegation that they made propaganda for a terrorist organization in their social media posts.
- 09: Ağrı** The lawsuit filed against journalist Aziz Oruç, Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Doğubayazıt District Co-Chair Abdullah Ekelek and 4 other people at the 2nd Assize Court was adjourned to June 3.
- 09: Ankara** The latest hearing was held in the lawsuit filed against former Ankara Bar Association President Erinç Sağkan and Ankara Bar Association Executive Board members at the 16th Assize Court regarding the press statement they held on the discriminatory statements of Director of Religious Affairs Ali Erbaş. The next hearing was scheduled for June 22.
- 09: Elazığ** Journalist Sultan Eylem Keleş was detained at the airport.
- 10: Diyarbakır** Publisher Azad Zal was sentenced to 6 years and 3 months in prison for "terrorist organisation membership" in the lawsuit filed against him at the 8th Assize Court.
- 10: Mardin** Mesopotamia Agency reporter Ahmet Kanbal testified within the scope of the investigation launched by the Chief Public Prosecutor's Office on the allegation of "public incitement to hatred and enmity".
- 11: Diyarbakır** 1st Criminal Chamber of the Regional Court of Justice changed the acquittal decree issued for police officer Y.Ş., who caused the death of Kemal Kurkut in

2017, ruling that the acquittal decree has to be changed into a “no need for penalty” decree since it was not certain that the crime was committed by the defendant.

- 11: Diyarbakır** Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP) Assembly member Beritan Yaşar was sentenced to 7 years and 6 months in prison at the 8th Assize Court on charges of "terrorist organization membership".
- 11: Istanbul** Arrested journalist Sedef Kabaş was sentenced to 28 months in prison during her hearing at the 36th Assize Court, and was released.
- 11: Mardin** Mesopotamia Agency reporter Ahmet Kanbal was acquitted in the lawsuit filed against him at the 1st Assize Court for allegedly insulting the Minister of Interior on a social media post.
- 11: Urfa** The lawsuit filed against Özgürlükü Demokrasi Daily worker Hamdullah Bayram at the 2nd Assize Court was adjourned to September 14.
- 14: Şırnak** The lawsuit filed against the Silopi District Co-Mayors Adalet Fidan and Süleyman Şavluk at the 2nd Assize Court has been adjourned to June 6.
- 15: Ankara** An investigation was launched by the Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office against Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP) Central Executive Board member Veli Saçılık due to his social media posts.
- 15: Istanbul** Journalist Zekine Türkeri was sentenced to 1 year, 6 months and 22 days in prison in the lawsuit filed against her at the 13th Assize Court on the charge of "making propaganda for a terrorist organization" due to her social media posts.
- 15: Van** Provincial Co-Chair Handan Karakoyun was acquitted in the lawsuit filed against her at the 7th Assize Court, on the grounds of a social media post about Deniz Poyraz.
- 16: Ankara** The final hearing was held in the lawsuit filed against Republican People’s Party (CHP) President Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu at the 12th Civil Court of First Instance upon the President's complaint with a request for non-pecuniary damages of 500 thousand TL due to a speech he made. The court denied the claim for compensation.
- 16: Diyarbakır** The Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office launched an investigation against 18 Libertarian Lawyers’ Association (ÖHD) member lawyers on the allegation of "terrorist organization membership" on the grounds of their attorneyship activities.
- 16: Diyarbakır** The lawsuit filed against Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP) press employee Vedat Dağ at the 11th Assize Court has been adjourned to April 13.
- 16: Diyarbakır** 24 people, including the dismissed co-mayors; party, association and union members and managers, were detained with house raids on the grounds that they participated in the events organized for the November 25, International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.
- 17: Ankara** The Anti-Terrorism Department of the General Directorate of Security has filed a criminal complaint against Turkish Medical Association President and Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TIHV) Executive Board member Şebnem Korur Fincancı at the Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office on the grounds that she

- gave an interview to previously shut-down Journalists And Writers Foundation's former President Erkam Tufan Aytav on his YouTube channel.
- 17: Antep** 6 people, including 2 Syrian citizens, were detained with house raids on charges of insulting the President and making propaganda for a terrorist organization.
- 17: Diyarbakır** Meryem Soylu (81) was sentenced to 6 years and 3 months in prison on the charge of "terrorist organization membership" in the lawsuit filed against her at the 5th Assize Court on the grounds of her work at MEBYA-DER.
- 17: Elazığ** Fırat University Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences Department of Finance research assistant Hifzullah Kutum was acquitted in the lawsuit filed against him at the 2nd Assize Court on the grounds of a social media post.
- 17: İzmir** Provincial Gendarmerie Command teams detained 14 people, including 4 women, against whom the Chief Public Prosecutor's Office issued arrest warrants on the grounds that they were affiliated with the PKK/KCK and were making propaganda for a terrorist organization on social media; and 3 of them were arrested.
- 17. İstanbul** The Prosecutor presented their opinion in the lawsuit filed against BirGün Daily's policy editor M. Emin Kurnaz at the 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance on the charge of insulting the President, demanding that Kurnaz be penalised. The hearing was adjourned to September 8.
- 17. İstanbul** The latest hearing of the lawsuit filed against 7 of Abdullah Öcalan's lawyers was held at the 33rd Assize Court and was adjourned to March 17.
- 18: Van** 5 people, who were detained on charges of "making propaganda for a terrorist organization" after the Newroz celebration in Erciş district, were released.
- 19: Diyarbakır** The 5-year-old twin children of Zeynep B., who was detained before the Newroz celebration in Bismil district, were also detained. The local clothes of the children were removed and their fingerprints were taken at the police station they were taken to.
- 19: Urfa** A lawsuit was filed by the Chief Public Prosecutor's Office at the 4th Criminal Court of First Instance on the grounds that Emine Şenyaşar, who was on a vigil for justice in front of the Courthouse, insulted Justice and Development Party (AKP) MP İbrahim Halil Yıldız in her statements.
- 20: Batman** At least 40 people, who attended the Newroz celebration, were detained on the grounds that they were carrying green, red and yellow flags.
- 20: Diyarbakır** Eleven of the 25 people, including the dismissed co-mayors and party, association and union members and managers, who were detained during the house raids on March 16, were arrested. 14 people were released on condition of judicial measures.
- 20: Diyarbakır** At least 13 people were detained with house raids based on anonymous denouncements against them.
- 20: Diyarbakır** Journalists Ertuğ Bozkurt and Mikail Barut were detained with house raids on the grounds of anonymous denouncements against them.
- 20: İzmir** 1807 websites that made virtual broadcasts were closed with a court decree.

- 20: Şırnak** Six people were detained on the grounds that they were wearing yellow, red and green flags during the Newroz celebration held in Silopi district.
- 21: Hakkari** One musician, who took the stage at the Newroz celebration in Yüksekova district, was detained.
- 21: İstanbul** In the lawsuit filed against 14 Boğaziçi University students, the 22nd Criminal Court of First Instance adjourned the hearing to June 27, deciding for the travel ban and judicial measures to continue for 2 people, and for the judicial measures to continue for 12 people.
- 21: İstanbul** The lawsuit filed against 17 people on the grounds of the Gezi Park protests was adjourned to April 22.
- 22: Adana** A lawsuit was filed against 7 people, who participated in the press release that was intended to be held in front of the Eğitim-Sen Branch building to protest the situation of Boğaziçi University. The court acquitted the 7 people.
- 22: Diyarbakır** The lawsuit filed against police officer Y. Ş., who shot and killed university student Kemal Kurkut during the Newroz celebrations in Diyarbakır in 2017, at the Diyarbakır 7th Assize Court, was adjourned to September 15.
- 22: Muğla** An administrative investigation was launched against 25 health workers, who protested with applause against the expert sergeant who had been arguing with a doctor and beat them in Muğla Training and Research Hospital.
- 23: Ankara** All defendants were acquitted in the lawsuit filed against 33 people on the grounds that they attended an event held in Çankaya to protest the Presidential decree on the withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention.
- 23: Diyarbakır** Metropolitan Municipality Council member Şehriban Zuğurlu was sentenced to 6 years and 3 months in prison for "terrorist organization membership" and to 1 year, 6 months and 22 days in prison for "resisting to prevent duty" in the lawsuit filed at the 10th Assize Court.
- 23: Diyarbakır** Eğitim-Sen and Human Rights Association (IHD) member Fırat Akdeniz was sentenced to 6 years and 3 months in prison on the charge of "terrorist organization membership" in the lawsuit filed against him at the 11th Assize Court.
- 23: İstanbul** In the lawsuit filed against Contemporary Lawyers Association (ÇHD) member lawyers Selçuk Kozağaçlı, Barkın Timtik, Oya Aslan and Özgür Durmaz at the 37th Assize Court, the court decided for the arrest of Kozağaçlı, Timtik and Aslan to remain and adjourned the hearing to June 1.
- 23: İstanbul** The lawsuit filed against 46 Saturday Mothers/People at the 21st Criminal Court of First Instance was adjourned to September 21.
- 24: Diyarbakır** The lawsuit filed against police officer İ.A. at the 9th Criminal Court of First Instance on the death of 5-year-old Efe Tektekin as a result of being hit by an armoured police vehicle on September 11, 2019 in Bağlar district was adjourned to March 29.
- 24: Diyarbakır** 1 out of 333 people, who were detained in the Newroz celebration, was arrested.
- 24: İzmir** One person was arrested on the grounds of "insulting the President," "public incitement to hatred and hostility " and "denigration" upon the order of the

- Menemen Prosecutor's Office due to the street interview they gave on a social media channel on March 17.
- 24: Mersin** An investigation was launched against 21 people, who participated in the "We Can't Survive" rally held in Tarsus district on March 5, on the grounds of "violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations No. 2911".
- 24: Rize** The final hearing of the lawsuit filed against Mehmet Ali Sancaktutan was held at the 4th Criminal Court of First Instance on the grounds that he "insulted the President" with his words in a street interview. The court acquitted Sancaktutan.
- 24: Van** Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Parliament Member Murat Sarısaç was sentenced to 1 year, 6 months and 22 days in prison for "making propaganda for a terrorist organization" in the lawsuit filed against him at the 5th Assize Court on the grounds of his social media posts.
- 24: Istanbul** The lawsuit filed against Etkin News Agency (ETHA) editor Semiha Şahin and its reporter Pınar Gayip at the 23rd Assize Court has been adjourned to May 26.
- 25: Diyarbakır** The lawsuit filed against Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Co-Mayor of Çınar district, Necla Tamriş, at the 10th Assize Court has been adjourned to June 8.
- 25: Diyarbakır** The lawsuit filed against Bahar Karakaş Uluğ, Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Municipal Council member of Eğil district, at the 10th Assize Court has been adjourned to June 3.
- 25: Izmir** **Arrest warrants were issued for 59 people and 51 people were detained** within the scope of the investigation carried out by the Chief Public Prosecutor's Office regarding the opening of a Abdullah Öcalan poster and shouting slogans "praising a terrorist organization" during the Newroz event held in Alsancak Gündoğdu Square on March 20.
- 25: Mardin** 9 people, who were detained in house raids held in Dargeçit district on March 23, were released.
- 25: Urfa** A lawsuit was filed at the 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance against 21 people after they were detained during the police intervention against the march that was planned to be held on March 5, 2017 as part of the International Women's Day on March 8.
- 26: Şırnak** 4 people were detained in house raids in Demirboğaz village of Güçlükonak district.
- 27: Diyarbakır** A lawsuit was filed at the 4th Criminal Court of First Instance against journalist Beritan Canözer on the grounds of posts made from a social media account that did not belong to her.
- 27: Urfa** The criminal complaint filed in 2016 by lawyers Hidayet Enmek, Eyüp Sabri Tinaş and Mehmet Emin Uyguner, who were detained with ill-treatment during the Newroz celebrations held in Urfa in 2012, resulted in non-prosecution due to the statute of limitations.
- 28: Diyarbakır** Blood samples were taken from 42 children, who were detained during the police intervention against the Newroz celebrations on March 21, upon the order of the Prosecutor's Office.

- 29: Diyarbakır** Police officer İ. A. was acquitted in the lawsuit filed against him at the 9th Criminal Court of First Instance regarding the death of 5-year-old Efe Tektekin with an armoured police vehicle hitting him in Bağlar district on September 11, 2019.
- 29: Mardin** The lawsuit filed against expert sergeant B.D., who caused the death of Hazna Sü in the Kızıltepe district on January 11 by hitting her with a vehicle, was adjourned to May 26.
- 29: Urfa** In the lawsuit filed at the 4th Assize Court against the lawyers, who were detained with physical violence during the Newroz celebrations in 2012, 3 lawyers were sentenced to 8 months each in prison for the crime of 'resisting to prevent duty'.
- 29: Van** Three of the four people, including one children, who were detained in Hacıbekir neighborhood of İpekyolu district, were arrested on the allegation of "resisting the police" and one child was released on the condition of judicial measures.
- 30: Ankara** The indictment prepared by the Chief Public Prosecutor's Office against the Chamber of Architects Ankara Branch Executive Board Members was accepted by the 25th Assize Court on the grounds that they awarded Jin TV in the field of International Television Journalism within the scope of the "Emre Madran Press Awards in the Field of Protection" in 2021. The first hearing of the case will be held on June 23.
- 30: Diyarbakır** In the lawsuit filed against layer Merve Nur Doğan at the 10th Assize Court, Doğan was sentenced to 10 years and six months in prison on the charge of "terrorist organisation membership."
- 30: Diyarbakır** In the lawsuit filed against him at the 10th Assize Court, former DIAYDER Chairman Zahit Çiftkuran was acquitted of the charge of "violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations" and was sentenced to 7 years and six months in prison on the charge of "terrorist organisation membership."
- 30: Istanbul** The lawsuit filed against seven Boğaziçi University students at the 21st Criminal Court of First Instance was adjourned to June 1.
- 30: Muş** The lawsuit filed against former Human Rights Association (IHD) Muş Branch member and lawyer Tarık Güneş at the Assize Court was adjourned to June 22. The court decided for the release of Güneş on the condition of judicial measures.
- 31: Diyarbakır** The lawsuit filed against journalist Abdurrahman Gök, who photographed the killing of Kemal Kurkut by the police during the Newroz celebrations in 2017, at the 5th Assize Court was adjourned to June 30.
- 31: Diyarbakır** The lawsuit filed against journalist Beritan Canözer at the 4th Criminal Court of First Instance was adjourned to June 21.
- 31: Diyarbakır** The lawsuit filed against police officer K.B. on the killing of paper collector Recep Hantaş by the police as a result of the fire opened against him on April 14, 2019 at the 7th Assize Court was adjourned to May 16.
- 31: Izmir** The 4th hearing of the lawsuit filed against 24 women, who participated in the Las Tesis demonstrations organised in Konak district on December 15, 2019 on

the charge of violating the Law No. 2911 was adjourned to September 29 due to the excused absence of the court judge.

- 31: Mardin** Six people were detained with house raids organised in Sürgücü and Çınarönü neighborhoods in Savur district on the grounds of their participation in Newroz celebrations.
- 31: Istanbul** Three people, who were detained during the LGBTQI+ Pride Parade, were acquitted in the lawsuit filed against them at the 14th Criminal Court of First Instance.
- 31: Istanbul** Writer Yusuf Ekinci was sentenced to 1 year, 6 months and 22 days in prison in the lawsuit filed against him at the 34th Assize Court on the charge of “making terrorist organisation propaganda” through his social media posts.

### **3. Other violations**

- 01: Ankara** The Parliamentary immunity of Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP) Diyarbakır MP Semra Güzel has been lifted.
- 02: Ankara** 13 reports prepared for the lifting of Parliamentary immunity against 11 Republican People’s Party (CHP), Turkish Workers’ Party (TIP) and Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP) members were sent to the Turkish Grand National Assembly.
- 03: Mardin** İlhami Antep, who was held in Type-E Prison and participated in the indefinite alternating hunger strike that started on February 21, was transferred to Islahiye Type-E Prison.
- 04: Ankara** Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP) MP Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu, who was invited to a conference in Germany, was not allowed to leave the country.
- 04: Diyarbakır** Kurbanî Özcan, who was held in a Type-T Prison, was threatened with death by the prison guards.
- 04: Istanbul** Eurasia Research Company President Kemal Özkiraz was detained at Sabiha Gökçen Airport due to a lawsuit filed against him for "insulting".
- 06: Ankara** The General Directorate of Security announced that, within the scope of virtual patrol activities, legal action has been initiated against 45 accounts that posted provocative and disinformation-containing posts on Twitter over "oil prices".
- 07: Diyarbakır** The prisoners in Type-T Prison No. 3 were transferred to other prisons.
- 07: Mardin** Ill prisoner Remzi Çağlın (57) held in Type-E Closed Prison did not accept the imposition of intraoral search, so he was not referred to a hospital for 7 months.
- 07: Urfa** 5 prisoners held in Urfa Type-T Prison No.1 were transferred to other prisons. The prisoners were subjected to naked search at the prison entrance.
- 08: Hatay** Access to PIRHA and Yeni Yaşam Daily websites was blocked with a decree issued by the 1st Criminal Judicature of Peace.

- 09: Ankara** A report was prepared against Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Batman MP Feleknas Uca, demanding that her immunity be lifted by the Chief Public Prosecutor's Office.
- 09: Ankara** With the decree of the 1st Criminal Court of Peace, an access ban was imposed on a content published on the website of the Freedom of Expression Association about the deputy Minister of National Defense on the grounds of violation of personal rights.
- 09: Van** A body belonging to a refugee was found in the rural area of İpekyolu district.
- 15: Diyarbakır** Ill prisoner Hayri Karaş, who was released upon the report issued by the Istanbul Forensic Medicine Institute on March 5, died in the hospital where he was treated.
- 16: Ankara** 9 reports prepared about 9 Parliament members, including one Republican People's Party (CHP) and 8 Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) members, were sent to the Grand National Assembly of Turkey.
- 18: Elazığ** Prisoners in the High Security Closed Prison No. 2 were forced to stand in the military order during ward searches, and prisoners who refused to accept this were subjected to physical violence.
- 19: Iğdır** Sezer Alan, who is kept in the Type-S Prison, stated in his last meeting with his family that he was subjected to torture and ill-treatment by the prison guards and that he had blood in his urine for two days.
- 20: Iğdır** 28-year-old Sinan Kaya, who was kept in a solitary cell in the Type-S Closed Prison, died suspiciously. The cause of death was reported to his family as suicide.
- 21: Van** It has been reported that the book "Cherry Tree" written by journalist Gökçer Tahincioğlu, who is being held in the High Security Prison, was not given to prisoners by the prison administration on the grounds of "terrorist organisation propaganda" and that the conversation time of the prisoners, which was supposed to be 10 hours a week, was restricted due to the COVID-19 outbreak.
- 22: Ankara** A racist group attacked the Newroz celebration held in Hacettepe University Beytepe Campus.
- 22: Izmir** Two people, who allegedly wrote threats on the walls of Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Gazıemir District building with symbols such as the Turkish flag and 3 crescents, were detained by the police.
- 22: Van** 20-year-old Şervan Can Güder, who was held in Type-F Closed Prison, died suspiciously. It was reported that Güder's body was taken to Van Yüzüncü Yıl University without the presence of his family and lawyers, where the cause of death was recorded as a heart attack.
- 23: Ankara** Access to the Etkin News Agency (ETHA) website has been blocked by the decision of the Information Technologies and Communications Authority.
- 23: Diyarbakır** 80-year-old ill prisoner Abdullah Boran, who was held in Type-D Closed Prison, died in the hospital where he was being treated.
- 23: Istanbul** Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Kartal district building was raided by the police, newspapers and magazines were confiscated.

- 24: Malatya** Musa Külter, who was held in Akçadağ Type-T Closed Prison, was subjected to physical violence by the prison guards because he objected to the distribution of his belongings during the ward search and was put in a room called the sponge room.
- 24: Urfa** On March 4, 2 prisoners, who were transferred from Prison No. 1 to Çorum Prison, were subjected to torture and ill-treatment during their transfer and at the entrance of the prison, they were subjected to naked search and kept in solitary cells.
- 25: Antalya** 2 Akdeniz University students were kidnapped by a civil car.
- 25: Tekirdağ** 10 people were detained with house raids on charges of "making propaganda for a terrorist organization" during the Newroz celebrations.
- 27: Amasya** An opposition group of 20 people attacked the literary talk organized by the Leftist Party.
- 27: Mersin** An armed attack was carried out against the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Erdemli district building by unidentified person(s).
- 28: Ankara** Future Party Pursaklar District Youth Branch President was attacked by 5 people in front of the district building.
- 30: Diyarbakır** Some prisoners held in High Security Closed Prison No. 1 were forcibly changed wards and subjected to physical violence by the prison guards.
- 30: İstanbul** Journalist Emre Orman was detained with a house raid.
- 31: Muğla** The nationalists attacked the Kurdish students, whom they constantly threatened after the Newroz celebrations in Bodrum, with sharp tools, as the students were heading to their dormitories at night. Instead of the attackers, 5 Kurdish students, who were attacked, were detained.

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

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

March was a very active month in terms of violations of freedom of expression, meeting, demonstration and association, as every year. The main reason for this action is, of course, the approach of the political power to these freedoms. However, March 8 and Newroz celebrations always lead to March passing more actively. The general intolerance of the political power towards the freedoms of expression, assembly, demonstration and association, which are indispensable for a democratic society, increases even more when it comes to women, LGBTQI+s and Kurds.

According to the findings of the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TIHV) Documentation Center, in March 2022, 656 people, including 98 children, were detained as a result of torture and ill-treatment practices, and 4 people were injured in 56 police interventions against peaceful meetings and demonstrations organised across the country. 5 people were also arrested. In addition, at least 77 people, including 4 children, were detained with house raids

after attending Newroz celebrations, long after the celebrations. 57 of them were released on condition of judicial measures. The data for the special days mentioned above are as follows:

- The police intervened in peaceful meetings and demonstrations held in Ankara, Istanbul, Izmir, Antalya, Adana and Diyarbakır on the occasion of March 8 International Women's Day and detained 83 people, including 1 child, with torture and ill-treatment. In addition, the General Directorate of Security announced that legal actions have been initiated against a total of 12 people, 3 in Izmir and 9 in Ankara, during the March 8 events.
- During and after the Newroz celebrations, at least 606 people, including 101 children, were detained and 5 were arrested with house raids. As a result of 14 interventions carried out in Adana, Ağrı, Hakkari, Diyarbakır, Istanbul, Kocaeli, Konya, Manisa, Mardin and Van, 522 people, including 97 children, were detained and 4 people were arrested.
- In the house raids carried out after Newroz in Antalya, İzmir, Mardin and Tekirdağ, 77 people, including 4 children, were detained and 57 people were released on condition of judicial measures.
- In Diyarbakır, 2 children were detained with their mothers on the grounds of their clothes, their fingerprints were taken. Again, blood samples were taken from 42 children detained in Diyarbakır upon the order of the Prosecutor's Office.

In addition to these, the most striking case in March 2022 was the police violence against Furkan Foundation members in Adana. During the intervention against the march, which was planned to be held on March 20, 2022 by the Furkan Foundation, many people were subjected to police violence and were detained. At least 15 people, including the founder of the foundation, Alparslan Kuytul, were detained by the police in a warehouse belonging to a market and were subjected to torture and other ill-treatment. So much so that Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu had to confirm this situation. Süleyman Soylu said, *"Our security forces have always patiently and proportionately responded to all the provocations, insults and abuses of the Kuytul-ists. However, today, the use of disproportionate force, despite all provocation, insults and abuse, should not have been our method."*

However, what Süleyman Soylu cannot see or ignore is the fact that the "prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment", which is accepted as absolute by the universal Law of Human Rights, has been violated with the use of disproportionate force. The nature and limit of the disproportionate use of force has been a long-debated issue in the international field of human rights. As a result of these debates, the United Nations (UN) Special Rapporteur on Torture clarified the issue in his 2017 special report, titled, "The Prohibition of the Use of Force Outside of Detainment Areas as well as Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment". In the 47th paragraph of the report, it is stated: *"The use of force by law enforcement officers in order to inflict pain and suffering on a person who cannot escape in open spaces and in public demonstrations is **in the nature of torture and other ill-treatment.**"*

According to the findings of the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TIHV) Documentation Center, between 2018 and 2021, at least 13,965 people were detained with torture and other ill-treatment practices, as a result of the illegal and uncontrolled use of violence, which goes far beyond the police's authority to use force defined in universal law and state laws. 266 people were injured. For this reason, as human rights organizations, we have been saying that torture has spilled over into the streets for years.

In March 2022, at least 1 journalist was threatened across the country, 2 journalists were attacked, 1 journalist was subjected to physical violence by the police, and 4 journalists were detained.

An investigation was launched against 45 social media accounts, citing social media posts on oil prices. Access to the websites of 2 news agencies was banned 4 times, and the website of 1 newspaper was banned once.

After the decision of the Press Advertisement Agency in 2019 not to post advertisements on Evrensel Daily, as of March 14, 2022, no advertisements have been placed in the newspaper for 910 days.

In March, the police raiding 1 Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) district building and attacks against a district building by racist groups stand out as violations of freedom of association.

In March, new investigations and lawsuits were opened against journalists, writers, non-governmental organization executives and human rights advocates. Some of the ongoing cases have been concluded and many people have been sentenced to judicial fines or imprisonment sentences. Of these, I would like to put special emphasis on one investigation and one case:

- According to the news in the press on March 17, 2022, Anti-Terrorism Department of the General Directorate of Security filed a criminal complaint against the President of the Turkish Medical Association (TTB) and the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TIHV) Board of Directors Şebnem Korur Fincancı at the Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office on the grounds of an interview she gave to previously shut-down Journalists and Writers Foundation President Erkam Tufan Aytav on his YouTube channel. A few days later, an investigation was started. Physicians and all other healthcare professionals have been fighting for rights under the leadership of TTB for a while, setting an example for the whole society. Demanding, criticizing and objecting to the actions of political decision makers is a requirement of being a citizen in a democratic society. Immediately after the peaceful actions and activities carried out by the TTB on March 14-15, 2022, which received great interest and support from the society, the police officers' making a criminal complaint on social media by exceeding the limits of their duties, customs and limits, is nothing but openly targeting Fincancı and, through her name, the TTB, creating pressure.

- In the last days of March, a lawsuit was filed against the members of the board of directors of the Ankara Branch of the Chamber of Architects. The board of directors of the Chamber of Architects gave an award to Jin TV in the field of international television journalism as part of the "Emre Madran Press Awards in the Conservation Area" in 2021. The Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office, on the other hand, is preparing an indictment with the allegation of "making propaganda for a terrorist organization". The hearing of this case, which was accepted by the Ankara 25th Assize Court, will be held on June 23, 2022.

In March, the bans of civil administrators (governorates and district governorates) continued. In this context, the Cizre District Governorate canceled the Kurdish play "Mem û Zin", which was going to be staged at the Cizre Municipality Cultural Center by the Şermola Theater, without giving any reason.

Another interesting prevention was the prohibition of meetings and demonstrations related to seriously ill prisoners by the Kağıthane District Governorate. According to the statements in the District Governorate's announcement, as of March 31, 2022, meetings and demonstrations to be organized by the organizations named Prisoners Solidarity Initiative (TDI), TUAYDER, Relatives of Sick Prisoners etc. to be held in front of the Istanbul Çağlayan Courthouse, in its garden, in its surroundings, and in all open areas throughout the Kağıthane District have been prohibited for 15 days "due to the inconvenience of general security and public order".

Again, with the decisions made in March in Van, which we mentioned in each session, the meeting and demonstration ban that has been implemented since November 21, 2016 has reached 1969 days without interruption. However, there is a similar situation in Mardin. With the decisions made in March, the meeting and demonstration ban that have been implemented in Mardin since October 17, 2019 has reached 897 days.

Freedoms of assembly and demonstration are freedoms that can be restricted to a certain extent in accordance with international law. However, the size and nature of the restrictions must in no way affect the essence of the right. Through these two examples, we can say that the prohibitions on meetings and demonstrations completely eliminate the essence of the right.