

Think, think...



Freedom of Expression Weekly Newsletter (Issue 20/22 - May 20, 2022)

What happened last week?

- SADAT (International Defense Consulting Construction Industry and Trade Inc.) is on the agenda again after Republican People's Party (CHP) Chairman Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu went to its headquarters and made a statement in front of it. Reminding that SADAT trains people on issues such as unlawful warfare, sabotage and terrorism, Kılıçdaroğlu said, "Those who engage in an illegal operation with the order of the Palace can also do these things inside the country with the same instruction. No matter who they are, if anything happens that will overshadow the election and shake the security of the election, the responsible is SADAT and the Palace." President Erdoğan said, "I have nothing to do with SADAT executives, even remotely." However, the appointments made by Erdoğan and photographs of him, refute him.
 - The USDTRY rate continues to rise continuously for 10 days. The dollar reached 16 TL and the Euro 17 TL.
 - The Turkish Statistical Institute (TUIK) announced the unemployment rates for the first quarter of 2022. The broadly defined unemployment rate is 22.6 percent; The number of unemployed was 8 million 367 thousand.
 - Two people, who sold 70 kg of metal coins he collected in Istanbul, to a scrap dealer for 70 liras per kilogram, were detained on charges of "violating the Law on the Protection of the Value of Turkish Currency".
 - Erdogan did not give up on his stubbornness for Atatürk Airport. He put into practice the project of demolishing Atatürk Airport, which was selected as the 3rd most valuable airport in the world 4 years ago, and making it a national garden.
 - Finland and Sweden have applied for NATO membership. "Sweden is definitely a center of terror, a nest of terror," Erdoğan said, "We told our related friends that we would say 'no' to Finland and Sweden joining the NATO."
 - AKP Group Deputy Chairman Cahit Özkan was dismissed from office after becoming a target of criticism in his own party because of his statements on a TV show, which said, "The United Arab Emirates saw that it could not bring Turkey to its knees, that it could not prevent Turkey's independence, and that, without relying on Turkey, without walking with Turkey, some things emerge against their own interests in the regional and global sense, then the United Arab Emirates surrendered - that's how I read the situation."
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Closure case against Tarlabası Community Center

The first hearing of the closure case filed against Tarlabası Community Center, which has been working to solve the social and economic problems of Tarlabası residents since 2006 and has been the target of smear campaigns containing ethnic discrimination and homophobic hatred, was held at the Istanbul

18th Civil Court of First Instance on the charge of “opposition to law and general morality”. The hearing was adjourned to November 2.



Lawsuit against journalist Nurcan Yalçın

The lawsuit filed against journalist Nurcan Yalçın started at the Diyarbakır 5th Assize Court on the charge of “wilfully aiding a terrorist organisation” on the grounds of the interviews she made during the curfews in Diyarbakır’s Sur district. The Prosecutor's Office requested that Yalçın be imprisoned for up to 15 years in their opinion on the merits given at the first hearing. The second hearing of the case will be held on July 5.



Lawsuit against protest on “Freedom for Ill Prisoners”

The lawsuit filed against 16 people, who were detained during the police intervention in the "Freedom for Ill Prisoners" vigil to be held in front of the Yenibosna Forensic Medicine Institute on February 3, 2022 by the Solidarity with Prisoners Initiative, started at the Bakırköy 51st Criminal Court of First Instance on

charges of "violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations No. 2911". The second hearing of the case will be held on October 27.



Investigation against “Cow Feast”

The Ankara University Rectorate announced that a judicial and administrative investigation has been started on the "Cow Feast", which has been a tradition of the Faculty of Political Sciences for nearly 90 years. After the pro-government media outlets targeted students with the allegation that "religious values are insulted", the Rectorate claimed that the Cow

Prayer performed by a student in the guise of an imam during the Cow Festival "does not comply with the principles of the faculty and university".



Imprisonment sentence against journalist Reyhan Çapan

Previously shut-down Özgür Gündem Daily's Editor-In-Chief Reyhan Çapan, who had been sentenced on the charge of "making propaganda for a terrorist organisation" through the news item published in the newspaper's July 12, 2015 issue with the headline, "Retaliation Decision by the KCK"

stood trial once again at the Istanbul 13th Assize Court following the reversal decree of the Court of Cassation. This time, Çapan was sentenced to 2 years and 6 months in prison on the charge of "printing the statements of a terrorist organisation".



Investigation against journalist over news coverage on Parliamentary question

Republican People's Party (CHP) Izmir Parliament member Özcın Purçu announced that eight journalists were summoned to testify by the Prosecutor's Office after covering the parliamentary question submitted by him with the request for the Minister of National Education and the Vice President to answer it,

regarding the increase in the foreign student quota at Dokuz Eylül University. Purçu announced that the Press Advertisement Institute also requested a defense from the representatives of 8 newspapers due to the news in question.



Imprisonment sentence against Korkusuz writer Bayraktarođlu

Korkusuz Daily writer Memduh Bayraktarođlu [announced](#) that he was sentenced to 1 year and 20 days in prison on the charge of "insulting the President". Bayraktarođlu was on trial for his comment, "Erdogan licked the ice cream," about the images of President Erdoğan eating ice cream with Russian President Vladimir

Putin.



Aynur Dođan's concert cancelled

Kocaeli Derince Municipality of the Justice and Development Party (AKP) canceled the concert of Kurdish artist Aynur Dođan, which was planned to be held on May 20. Announcing the cancellation of the concert on

its Twitter account, Derince Municipality's statement said, "As a result of a detailed examination, it was determined that the event was not appropriate, and it was canceled by our municipality."



Greek artist Tsahouridis' concert removed from program

Greek artist Matthaios Tsahouridis' concert, which was organized for the ceremony held in the city as part of Trabzonspor's championship celebrations, was removed from the program by the sports club management after the artist was targeted with racist hate speech by Victory

Party Chairman Ümit Özdağ and in some pro-government media outlets.



Ministry cancels K-Pop band concert

The concert of South Korean K-Pop band Mirea organized in Ankara as part of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism's Capital Culture Road Festival on the occasion of the 65th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between Turkey and Korea, was canceled by the Ministry after the band became the target of homophobic hateful publications in some media outlets and on social media.



Metin and Kemal Kahraman concert banned

The concert to be held by Metin and Kemal Kahraman, composers and performers of folk music from Dersim, known for their Zazaki, Turkish and Kurmanci folk songs, was banned one day before the concert with a decree issued by the Muş Governorate.



Peace mothers acquitted

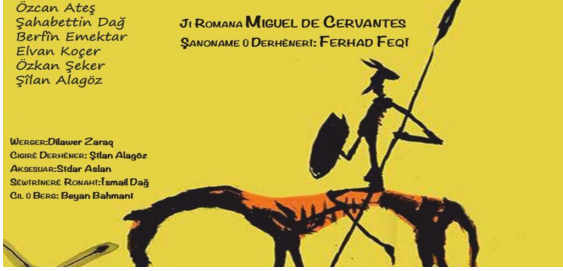
The lawsuit filed against 17 'Mothers for Peace' at the Istanbul Büyükçekmece 9th Criminal Court of First Instance on the charge of "violating the Law No. 2911" due to the press statement they made in Esenyurt Cumhuriyet Square on May 13, 2019 to draw attention to the hunger strikes in prisons,

resulted in acquittal.



Stêrka Karwan concert cancelled

The concert of the Stêrka Karwan music group, known for its synthesis of Kurdish melodies and western music forms, within the Spring Festival organized at Bitlis Eren University, was canceled by the Rectorate.



Prevention against Kurdish “Don Quixote” play

Kocaeli Çayırova Municipality of the Justice and Development Party (AKP) canceled the contract of the theater play of Amed City Theater with the hall and thus prevented the staging of it. The play was “Don Quixote,”

which was adapted from Cervantes’ work into Kurdish.



Drawing removed from exhibition after targeting

The drawing, titled, "Monsterland" by Ersin Karabulut, which was exhibited in Kadıköy Gashouse Museum [Gazhane], was removed from the exhibition by the management of the Cartoon Istanbul Festival after being targeted

by Justice and Development Party (AKP) Parliament member Rümeysa Kadak, Presidential advisor Ismail Cesur, as well as by pro-government media outlets.



Protest ban in Urfa

The Şanlıurfa Governorate banned all demonstrations and events across the province for 2 days. The governorate also banned the entry of persons and vehicles coming to Urfa from the provincial borders in order to organize a protest/event or to support a planned protest/event.



3 activists detained in Balıkesir

Three LGBTQI+ activists, who tried to go to the area where a press statement was organized in Eskişehir due to the May 17 International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Transphobia and Interphobia, were detained because they were holding a rainbow flag. The law enforcement prevented the press statement

and claimed that any press statement to be held was subject to "permission" by the Governorate.



Compensation against BirGün Daily

Istanbul 23rd Civil Court of First Instance has ruled that Birgün Daily and reporter Ismail Arı pay a total of 200 thousand TL in compensation in the lawsuit filed by President Erdoğan's son-in-law Selçuk Bayraktar and his brother Haluk Bayraktar for the news published in the newspaper with the headline, "TÜBİTAK is working for the son-in-law's foundation".



High school students detained over "insulting Erdoğan"

Two high school students in Istanbul were detained at their schools on the charge of "insulting the President" for participating in the Feminist Night March on March 8 and chanting slogans such as "Tayyip, run, women are coming" and "Jump, jump, you are Tayyip if you don't".



Saturday mother Hanife Yıldız detained

Hanife Yıldız, mother of Murat Yıldız, who disappeared in custody 27 years ago, was detained on charges of "insulting a public official" because of the speech she gave in the press statement organized by the Saturday Mothers as part of the Week of the Missing.



Constitutional Court: "It is not a crime to call AKP thief or murderer"

The Constitutional Court has ruled that the deferred sentence on the charge of "insulting a public official" due to the banner hung on the Freedom and Solidarity Party (ÖDP) Trabzon Provincial Presidency building, that read, "'thief, murderer, get out AKP" before the Justice and Development Party's (AKP)

Trabzon rally was a violation of freedom of expression.



Call to kill LGBTQI+s in Eskişehir

LGBTQI+ activists and rights advocate lawyers filed a criminal complaint to the Prosecutor's Office regarding the leaflet, titled, "Explaining the illegality of the Livata incident with verses and hadiths", which was distributed anonymously in Eskişehir and included a call to kill LGBTQI+s. Making a statement in front of the Eskişehir Courthouse, the rights

defenders said, "The Prosecutor's Office must take immediate action regarding the leaflets that contain violence and death threats... We will personally follow this legal process so that the perpetrators and those who protect them are penalized."



Journalists threatened

Journalist Seyhan Avşar announced that she was threatened because she covered the news of Barış Duyu, one of the men of criminal organization leader Alaattin Çakıcı, being caught with 16 kilograms of heroin and writing in his statement that he had been working for the Turkish intelligence for many years. The news in question was broadcast on Halk TV with the headline, "[Shooter for Çakıcı caught](#)

[with heroin](#)". Kısadalga.net reporter Hale Gönültaş, who reported on the footage of an ISIS member who was detained with a raid in Istanbul, threatening those who oppose sharia with death with a knife in her hand, also announced that she had been receiving threats.



Human Rights Association Branch Co-Chair threatened

Human Rights Association Hakkari Branch Co-Chair Yusuf Çobanoğlu was threatened by an unidentified person who called him from a secret number on May 15, "We will clean up - you and people like you. We will gather all terrorist organization members like you. They

reported you to us from the center, it's almost time."



TRIALS OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Ali Sönmez Kayar Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against 9 people, including Etkin News Agency (ETHA) reporter Ali Sönmez Kayar, Socialist Party of the Oppressed (ESP) members and executives, on the charge of “terrorist organisation membership”...</p> <p>Court: Istanbul 32th Assize Court Verdict: The hearing was adjourned to October 11.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Engin Eren Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against 75 people, including previously shut-down Dicle News Agency’s Batman reporter Engin Eren, on charges of “terrorist organisation membership”, “aiding a terrorist organisation”, “participating in illegal meetings or demonstrations,” “violating the Law on Military Forbidden Zones and Security Areas”, “use of force or threat in order to prevent a public officer from performing their duty” on the grounds of the “human shield protest” organized in the rural area of Sason district in Batman in 2015...</p> <p>Court: Batman 2nd Assize Court Verdict: The hearing was adjourned to June 3.</p>
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HEARINGS NEXT WEEK

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Barış Barıştıran Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against previously shut-down Özgür Gün TV worker and journalist Barış Barıştıran, who was tried and acquitted on the charge of "making propaganda for a terrorist organization" for broadcasting live from the 2016 general assembly of the Democratic Society Congress (DTK), once again after the reversal decree of the appeal court...</p> <p>May 24, Tuesday at Diyarbakır 8th Assize Court</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Özgür Gündem Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against previously shut-down Özgür Gündem Daily’s Editor-In-Chief Eren Keskin and Managing Editor Reyhan Çapan on charges of “violating the Press Law No. 5187” on the grounds of five news items published in the newspaper in the years 2013 and 2014...</p> <p>May 24, Tuesday at Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Yılmaz Odabaşı Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against poet Yılmaz Odabaşı on the charge of “public incitement to hatred and enmity” on the grounds of a social media post...</p> <p>May 24, Tuesday at Antalya Alanya 6th Criminal Court of First Instance</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Eren Tutel Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against BirGün Daily’s sports editor Eren Tutel on the charge of “insulting a public official” on the grounds of his news regarding the Turkish Wushu Federation...</p> <p>May 24, Tuesday at Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance</p>

<p align="center"><u>Case against Villagers Opposing Wasteland Construction</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against three of the villagers, who opposed the wasteland construction planned to be made in Caferbey Village of Salihli by the Manisa Metropolitan Municipality, on charges of “threat” and “insult”...</p> <p align="center">May 25, Wednesday at Manisa Salihli 1st Criminal Court of First Instance</p>	<p align="center"><u>"Unpermitted" Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against street artist with the alias “Unpermitted” on charges of “public denigration of the Turkish flag” and “insulting the President” on the grounds of his drawings on the panels with the paintings of Devrim Erbil on them, as well as his Twitter posts...</p> <p align="center">May 26, Thursday at Istanbul 20th Criminal Court of First Instance</p>
<p align="center"><u>Bakur Documentary Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against “Bakur” documentary directors Çayan Demirel and Ertuğrul Mavioglu, who were previously prosecuted on the charge of “making propaganda for a terrorist organisation” and were sentenced to 4 years and 6 months of imprisonment each, once again after the reversal decree of the appeal court...</p> <p align="center">May 26, Thursday at Batman 2nd Assize Court</p>	<p align="center"><u>ETHA Reporters Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against Etkin News Agency (ETHA) editor Semiha Şahin, reporter Pınar Gaip and four others on charges of “terrorist organisation membership” and “making propaganda for a terrorist organisation”...</p> <p align="center">May 26, Thursday at Istanbul 23rd Assize Court</p>
<p align="center"><u>Vice News Reporters Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against Jake Hanrahan, Philip Pendlebury, Mohammed Ismael Rasool on charges of “violating the Law on the Prevention of Financing of Terrorism,” “wilfully aiding and abetting a terrorist organisation,” “terrorist organisation membership” and “making propaganda for a terrorist organisation”...</p> <p align="center">May 26, Thursday at Diyarbakır 8th Assize Court</p>	<p align="center"><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 organisation”...</p> <p align="center">May 26, Thursday at Van 4th Assize Court</p>
<p align="center"><u>Burhan Ekinci Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist Burhan Ekinci on the charge of “making propaganda for a terrorist organisation” through his Twitter posts...</p> <p align="center">May 26, Thursday at Istanbul 30th Assize Court</p>	<p align="center"><u>Murat Güzel Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against Leftist Party executive Murat Güzel on the charge of “making propaganda for a terrorist organisation” through a social media post...</p> <p align="center">May 27, Friday at Ankara 27th Assize Court</p>