

# Think, think...



## Freedom of Expression Weekly Newsletter (Issue 30/22 - August 5, 2022)

### What happened last week?

- The "Permanent State of Emergency Law", which remained in effect for three years after the State of Emergency and regulated the detainment period as 12 days for "collective crimes", has been repealed. From now on, the period of detainment will not exceed 24 hours, and for crimes allegedly committed "collectively", it will be a maximum of 4 days, provided that it is extended for one day for a maximum of three times with a decree to be issued by the Criminal Judicature of Peace. In addition, during this period, the state of emergency practices regarding dismissals from the public sector, which led to the dismissal of more than 134 thousand public officials, were lifted, and normal disciplinary procedures were restored. The state of emergency, which gives the Savings Deposit Insurance Fund the authority to appoint trustees to companies, will remain in effect for another 2 years.
- In the economic report prepared by the Republican People's Party (CHP), it was stated that the Central Bank sold 55 billion dollars in foreign exchange in 2022. [Please click here](#) for details.
- President Erdoğan appointed İsmail Altıntaş, General Manager of Procurement Services of the Ministry of National Defense, who was a candidate for parliamentary candidacy from the Justice and Development Party (AKP) in 2011, as the Chief Public Prosecutor of the Court of Accounts.
- 15th hearing of the Kobanê Case filed against 108 people, 21 of whom imprisoned, including Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) former Co-Chairs and Central Executive Committee members, on the grounds of the protest demonstrations that took place on October 6-8, 2014 against the ISIS attacks on Kobanê was held at the Ankara 22nd Assize Court. The court board insisted on taking the statement of detained politician Aysel Tuğluk, who has dementia, who could not even recognize her lawyer.
- Suspicions are growing that the Public Personnel Selection Examination (KPSS) questions are being sold over the internet. President Erdoğan appointed the State Supervisory Board to investigate the allegations; the Student Selection and Placement President was dismissed. The exam has been canceled. "Stolen questions" were added to the various inequalities in "interviews" and legality in public personnel recruitment.
- Republican People's Party (CHP) Chairman Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu visited the families who lost their relatives in the Roboski massacre, in which 34 villagers were killed as a result of the bombardment of the Turkish Armed Forces-affiliated warplanes in 2011, and promised to 'clarify the event'.
- The Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT) announced the July inflation as 2.37%; and the annual inflation rose to 79.6%. The annual inflation rate of the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce was 99%, while the Inflation Research Group announced that it was 176%. Turkey's foreign trade deficit increased by 144% in July and reached 10.5 billion dollars. In July, 18.6 billion dollars of exports and 29.1 billion dollars of imports were made.

- We Will Stop Femicides Platform [announced](#) that 188 women were murdered in the last 7 months, and 146 women were murdered suspiciously.
- Mücella Yapıcı, Çiğdem Mater, Hakan Altınay, Mine Özerden, Can Atalay and Tayfun Kahraman, who were sentenced to 18 years in prison in the Gezi Park Case, left behind their 100th day in prison. On their 100th day in prison, the Gezi Park Case detainees asked the justice system for answers to [100 unanswered questions](#) about prison conditions, the trial process and the final decree.
- 16 journalists arrested in Diyarbakır on June 8 in the largest mass detainment operation against Kurdish journalists in recent years left behind 50 days in prison. Media and Legal Studies Association (MLSA) summarized what happened during this time; [How and why were 16 journalists arrested in Diyarbakır?](#)



*Our weekly video programme, “[COGITO ERGO SUM](#)”, in which we follow the freedom of expression agenda, is on our [YouTube Channel](#) every week.*

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



### **Simultaneous attacks against cemevis in Ankara**

On July 30, the first day of the Muharram Fast, simultaneous attacks were carried out against cemevis in Ankara. In Mamak district of Ankara, one person attacked the Shah-ı Mardan Cemevi during worship; a woman was injured in a knife attack at the Turkmen Alevi Bektashi Association. There were attacks against

Tuzlucaıyır Democratic Alevi Associations (DAD), Ana Fatma Cemevi, Gökçebel Village Association, Turkmen Alevi Bektashi Association, and Batıkent Serçeşme Cemevi as well. The Alevi Bektashi Federation, European Alevi Unions Federation, Alevi Associations Federation, Alevi Foundations Federation, Hacı Bektash Veli Anatolian Culture Foundation, Democratic Alevi Associations and Pir Sultan Abdal Cultural Association made a joint statement and said, *"We are aware that the main purpose of these attacks is to create an atmosphere of chaos and conflict in the country. They want to feed off the chaos and conflict before the 2023 general elections... Your contemptuous and humiliating approaches that subject Alevi to all kinds of inhuman assimilation policies prepare the ground for these attacks. Accept our demands and give our places of worship legal status. Take your hand off our faith and belief centers. Do not describe us, get to know us!"* 44 political parties,

associations and initiatives, including our initiative, launched a joint statement and said, "The simultaneous attacks against Alevi institutions and cemevis are the continuation of the tradition of organized attacks against people of the opposition, citizens with different beliefs, identities and ideas, with the open/secret support/encouragement of the state. The social and political climate created by the policies of marginalization, ignorance, assimilation and impunity towards the Alevis both normalizes and encourages these attacks. This attack must be enlightened in all its aspects, the perpetrators must be caught as soon as possible, and the anti-democratic and anti-secular institutions that allowed these attacks to be carried out must be eliminated."



### **Dicle Fırat Journalists Association July Report**

The Dicle Fırat Journalists Association published the 'July 2022 Report on Rights Violations Against Journalists'. According to the report, at least 4 journalists were detained in one month; 1 journalist was arrested. In July, the prosecution of 5 journalists continued in 5

separate cases, an investigation was launched against 1 journalist and a new lawsuit was filed against 4 journalists. Two of the journalists on trial were sentenced to 2 years and 2 months in prison and a judicial fine of 10,110 TL. At least 1 media organization's website was shut down in the 1-month period. Access blocks were imposed against 16 news stories. [Please click here](#) for the full report.



### **PAKURD Chairman sentenced to 2-year 7-month in prison**

Kurdistani Party (PAKURD) Chairman İbrahim Halil Baran was sentenced to 2 years and 7 months in prison in the lawsuit filed upon the investigation in which he was detained in 2017 due to his social media posts and columns he wrote. Baran stated that he and his lawyer were not notified of the lawsuit filed against him at

the 7th Criminal Court of First Instance on the charge of "publicly insulting the state" and that the court didn't even refer to his testimony, and that they learned about the decision by chance.



### **12 detained during park watch**

In Istanbul, the Justice and Development Party (AKP)'s Çekmeköy Municipality wanted to demolish the park in Mehmet Akif Neighborhood, which is also an earthquake assembly area, and build a marketplace instead. The citizens, on the other hand, entered the

park to watch guard for 62 days to prevent construction. At the end of the 62 days, construction machines entered the park accompanied by riot police. Intervening against the

citizens, the police detained at least 12 people. BirGün reporter İsmail Arı, who followed the police intervention, was also prevented and threatened with detainment by the Çekmeköy District Deputy Police Director.



### Protest ban in Mardin

The Mardin Governorate banned all kinds of protests and demonstrations such as marches, press statements and leaflet distributions throughout the city for 15 days. "Protection of national security and public order" and the COVID-19 pandemic were cited as reasons for the ban, which excluded activities that the local

administration "deems appropriate". Thus, the protest and demonstration ban, which has been applied uninterruptedly throughout the city since October 17, 2019, has reached 1034 days.



### District governorate bans protest, workers demanding rights detained

Istanbul Ümraniye District Governorate argued that the company workers, who protested in front of the company they work for, because they could not get their rights, could create "noise pollution", and banned the protest for 1 month. The police intervened against the workers protesting in front of Yapı&Yapı

Construction and detained 11 people.



### 12 Furkan Foundation volunteers detained in Istanbul

Twelve of the Furkan Foundation volunteers, who carried out a simultaneous "freedom march" across the country for the President of the Furkan Foundation and its 19 imprisoned members, were detained in Istanbul on charges of "violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations". Two of the activists were released from the Prosecutor's Office, and 10 of them were released from the court where they

were "transferred for arrest".



### Kurdish songs not allowed

Artist Pervin Chakar's concert to be held in Mardin Artuklu University campus in May was not allowed due to the Kurdish songs in her repertoire. The artist said, "It shall not be questioned, what languages are in an artist's repertoire. This is a crime against humanity."



### **Police prevention against Gezi Park protest in front of Constitutional Court**

The police intervened against the members of the Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects (TMMOB) who wanted to make a statement in front of the Constitutional Court for the Gezi trial detainees. After the statement was not allowed, a brawl broke out between the chamber representatives and the police, who

went to Ahlatlıbel Park across the Constitutional Court building. The group, surrounded by the police, started a sit-in protest and read the press statement.



### **Police prevention against dismissed workers**

The sit-in protest held in front of the municipality by the dismissed workers at GSM Medya Social Health Services company for more than a week with the demand of re-employment, was prevented by the police on the grounds of the Governorate ban against protests and demonstrations. The company provides subcontracting services to the İzmir

Metropolitan Municipality.



### **KPSS protest prevented**

The press statement that was organized in front of Yediiklim Publishing House in Ankara by the members of the Turkish Workers' Party (TİP) on the allegations that the questions in the 2022 Public Personnel Selection Examination (KPSS) were leaked, was not allowed by the police.



### **Media blackout against investigation on doctor's murder**

Konya 5th Criminal Judicature of Peace imposed a media blackout against the investigation file of Dr. Ekrem Karakaya, who lost his life as a result of an armed attack against him in the hospital he was working at in

Konya. The same Criminal Judicature of Peace has previously imposed another media blackout against the news on the matter right after Karakaya's murder. The second decree was supposedly issued "to protect national security and public order and to ensure the proper conduct of the investigation."



### HDP Youth Assembly members arrested

Within the scope of an investigation carried out by the Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor's Office, people have been detained during the police operation against the houses of Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Istanbul Youth Assembly members and district executives on July 29. Among those detained, Peoples'

Democratic Party (HDP) Assembly member Livan Orman and four Youth Assembly members were detained on the allegation of "terrorist organisation membership" and seven people were released.



### Activity ban against club after resisting censorship by rectorate

After Boğaziçi University's student clubs announced that they would screen the censored films with a joint organization after the school administration banned the three films that Boğaziçi University Cinema Club wanted to show in the open-air cinema without any

justification, the university rectorate issued an activity ban against the Cinema Club for a month for "violating the rules of the organization of events". The rectorate further dismissed the club's board of directors.



### Access blocks

The website of Etkin News Agency was once again blocked from access by the Diyarbakır 4th Criminal Court of Peace on the grounds of the "protection of national security and public safety". Thus, the agency's website was censored for the 45th time in total. The news about Abdurrahim Boynukalın, a former Justice and Development Party (AKP) MP, who was part of the group that attacked Hürriyet Daily in

September 2015, was blocked from access by the Istanbul Anatolian 3rd Criminal Court of Peace on grounds of violation of personal rights. Boynukalın had also requested a censorship against all the news about the attack at that time, and the news were censored. Following 106 news stories related to the "child found in the garbage house in Bursa", which were previously blocked from access by two separate verdicts of the Bursa 3rd Criminal Judicature of Peace dated July 26 and 28, another access block decree was issued on the related news. This time, the news stories on the arrest of Pınar A., who kept the 9-year-old child locked at home, and the news that included the opinions of the child's brother, were blocked by the Bursa 3rd Criminal Judicature of Peace, again at the request of the Bursa Provincial Directorate of Family and Social Services. There was another decree that stated the news must be deleted, and a broadcast ban was imposed on the subject. The news about İsmail Yerlikaya, the Mersin Metropolitan Municipality Assembly Member from the Justice and Development Party (AKP), who was found to be using illegal water in his workplaces and

was fined, was blocked by the Mersin 4th Criminal Judicature of Peace with the allegation that his "commercial reputation was damaged".



### **RTÜK investigation against animation series due to featuring LGBTQI+ characters**

The Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK) launched an investigation on the Netflix series Jurassic World Camp Cretaceous, which was requested to be canceled because it featured LGBTQI+ characters. On the series, which is broadcast with a 18+ warning in

Turkey, the Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK) Chairman Ebubekir Şahin said, "We are determined not to allow content that may negatively affect children and young people and that disregard our values."



### **Constitutional Court issues rights violation decree for disciplinary penalty against peace academics**

The Constitutional Court ruled that the freedom of expression of academics, who were given a disciplinary penalty for signing the "Academics for Peace" petition, was violated. The decree was issued unanimously, also bearing the

signature of Supreme Court member İrfan Fidan, who personally conducted the investigation against 733 academics and ensured the arrest of 3 academics during his time as the Istanbul Deputy Chief Public Prosecutor. Fidan was elected as a member of the Supreme Court in November 2021, and without handling a single file there, he was appointed as a member of the Constitutional Court by President Erdoğan in January 2021.



### **Violation decree on 'administrative penalty' against union members**

The Constitutional Court ruled that the "right to organize meetings and demonstration marches" was violated with the administrative fines issued against those who participated in 29 separate protests organized in Aydın by the members of the Confederation of Public Workers' Unions (KESK) and its affiliated

Education and Science Workers' Union (Eğitim-Sen). In Aydın, between February 23, 2017 and March 25, 2017, 22 people who participated in 29 protests and demonstrations against their dismissals have been fined 227 TL for each protest.



### **Constitutional Court: Saying "trustee rector" is not a crime**

The Constitutional Court (AYM) ruled rights violation in the one-month suspension and

disciplinary penalty against Mersin University student İlknur Uyan on the grounds that the expressions "Rector Trustee" used in the protest against Mersin University Rector Ahmet Çamsarı were "statements that damaged honor and dignity". The Constitutional Court also ruled that İlknur Uyan be paid 13,500 TL for non-pecuniary damages.



### **Prof. Dr. Esin Davutoğlu Şenol threatened after targeting by anti-vaccine supporters**

Infectious diseases specialist Prof. Dr. Esin Davutoğlu Şenol announced that two calf tongues were left in front of her office, that she was threatened with death and that she escaped a murder attempt by chance. Şenol said that she received threats on social media from anti-vaccine accounts and has been filing

criminal complaints for a long time; saying, "The criminal complaints we have made are responded to as 'freedom of expression' or 'no address was found'... All of these are happening while the ministries and authorities such as the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Interior, which should follow up on the subject, remain bystanders to all the violent abuses against me and other scientists, and the judiciary does not follow up on the subject by accepting these as crimes." Despite saying that he had a list of death targets and sharing plans about how to kill whom, Mustafa Yücel, who was detained, was released after testifying. Yücel then shared on social media, "There is no stopping, just keep going". Prof. Dr. Esin Davutoğlu Şenol, on the other hand, reacted to the release of the suspect by saying, "Impunity is incitement to crime. What happens after this is the responsibility of those who released them." On the other hand, Yücel continued his threats by sharing photographs of journalists Zafer Arapkırlı and Ayşenur Arslan, as well as Turkish Medical Association (TTB) Central Council President Şebnem Korur Fincancı.



### **Investigation against academic in Northern Cyprus due to "insulting Erdoğan"**

An investigation was launched against academic Assoc. Prof. Hasan Ulaş Altıok on the charge of "insulting President Erdoğan". Altıok is charged with the allegation that he "published and distributed articles with the intention of disturbing the peace and friendship between the Republic of Turkey and the

Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, in order to humiliate, insult, hate and denigrate the President of the Republic of Turkey". On the other hand, a lawsuit was filed against a Cypriot citizen named Yudum Mişon on the grounds that he shared the photo of TRNC President Ersin Tatar laughing at the cameras on his social media account during the fire that took place in Mersinlik region and that he insulted him on social media.



**DÜŞÜNCE SUÇU DURUŞMALARI**

\* There are no hearings for the cases we are following next week due to the judicial recess.

*You may find all news of the week on [dusun-think.net](http://dusun-think.net) and the pdf format of the newsletter on [dusun-think.net/bultenler](http://dusun-think.net/bultenler).*