

Think, think...



Freedom of Expression Weekly Newsletter (Issue 1/24, January 5, 2024)

What happened last week?

- The 3rd Criminal Chamber of the Court of Cassation did not recognize the second violation decision of the Constitutional Court (AYM) against imprisoned MP Can Atalay. Arguing that the Constitutional Court's decision "has no legal value", the Court of Cassation decided not to comply with the decision.
 - The parliamentary proceedings demanding lifting the legislative immunity of 9 deputies from DEM Party, CHP and TIP were submitted to the Presidency of the Parliament.
 - Deputy Justice Minister Ramazan Can was caught on camera at the Justice Academy responding to "torpil" requests one by one and directing them to his personal staff; it was also revealed that he asked a court president to move the date of a hearing forward. Minister of Justice Yılmaz Tunç said, "There may be references, there may be requests, but merit is taken into consideration when evaluating."
 - Annual inflation in December was 64.77 percent according to the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) and 127.21 percent according to the Inflation Research Group of academics and economists.
 - According to Türk-İş data, the hunger limit was 14 thousand 431 TL in December, while the poverty line rose to 47 thousand 9 TL. The cost of living for a single worker rose to 18,796 TL per month.
 - The "Super Cup" final between Galatasaray and Fenerbahçe in Riyadh was canceled after Saudi Arabia refused to allow "Peace at home, peace in the world" banners and Atatürk t-shirts. Describing the crisis as "an insidious operation against Turkey's interests," President Erdoğan said, "We are aware of the attempts to tear our country away from our brotherly countries with various provocations and malicious discourses," and targeted opposition parties.
 - According to a report prepared by the Center for Socio-Political Field Research, there were at least 208 racist and marginalizing attacks against Kurds, Alevis and refugees in 2023.
 - According to the data of the We Will Stop Femicide Platform, at least 315 women were murdered and 248 women were found dead in suspicious circumstances in 2023.
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Lawsuit against journalists protesting the arrest of their colleagues

A lawsuit was filed against journalists Sibel Ykler, Deniz Nazlım and Yıldız Tar, who were beaten and detained in front of cameras when they wanted to attend a press statement in Ankara for 16 colleagues arrested in Diyarbakır in 2022, on charges of "violating Law No. 2911 on Meetings and Demonstrations". The first

hearing will be held at Ankara 71st Criminal Court of First Instance on January 9.



Lawsuit against Gar Massacre commemoration

Ankara 33rd Criminal Court of First Instance started the trial of 17 people who were detained on their way to a commemoration event organized on the seventh anniversary of the 2015 massacre in front of Ankara Train Station, in which 103 people were killed, on charges of "violating Law No. 2911 on Meetings and Demonstrations". The second hearing of the

trial will be held on April 25.



Investigation into news on tree massacre in Akbelen

An investigation was launched against Gazete Duvar reporter Osman aklı for "making illegal organization propaganda" after he reported on the massacre of trees in the Akbelen Forest in Muğla Milas district and the law enforcement violence against life defenders.



Investigation against striking journalists

An investigation was launched against 8 journalists working in Sputnik's Turkey bureau, who have been on strike since August, and the executive board of the Journalists' Union of Turkey following a complaint by the employer. Sputnik claimed that the strike, which was legal and lawful, violated "Law No. 2911 on Meetings and Demonstrations" and accused the

journalists and the union of violating freedom of work and labor and disturbing peace and tranquility.

Sinan Ateş cinayeti dosyasındaki bilirkişi raporuna T24 ulaştı: Ateş'in adresini Ülkü Ocakları Başkanı istemiş!

Sinan Ateş cinayetinde tetkiciyi kaçırma iddiasıyla da suçlanan Tolgahan Demirbaş'ın telefonundan kurtarılan veriler, bilirkişi raporuyla soruşturma dosyasına girdi. Bilirkişi raporunda görseller eşliğinde değerlendirilmesi yapılan telefon verileri, Ateş cinayeti öncesindeki çarpıcı yazışmaları ve aylar önce planlandığı anlaşılan suikastten önceki haberleşmeleri ortaya koyuyor



Investigation into the news on Sinan Ateş's murder

Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office launched an investigation against T24 news portal for the news article titled "[T24 accessed the expert report in the Sinan Ateş murder case: Ateş's address was asked for by the head of the Grey Wolves' Quarries!](#)" and launched an investigation on the grounds of "violation of confidentiality".



Journalist Furkan Karabay arrested

Furkan Karabay, editor of the news website Gerçek Gündem, who reported on allegations of corruption and bribery in the trial transcript of a case against the organized crime syndicate known as the "Sarals", was arrested on charges of "targeting a person involved in the fight against terrorism".



DFG's 2023 Report: 280 journalists on trial

Dicle Fırat Journalists' Association (DFG) announced its 2023 Report on Violations of Rights against Journalists. According to the association's data; 119 journalists were detained and 36 journalists were arrested in a one-year period. 75 journalists were investigated, 66 journalists were prosecuted and 280 journalists appeared in court in the cases against them. In the finalized cases, 44 journalists were

sentenced to a total of 48 years, 9 months and 14 days in prison and 147 thousand 486 TL in fines.



TRIALS OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

<p>The lawsuit filed against Hüseyin Aykol, Zana Kaya, Editor-in-Chief İnan Kızılkaya and Kurdish politician Hatip Dicle for "insulting the state" (Article 301 of the Turkish Penal Code)...</p> <p>Court: Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance</p> <p>Verdict: The next hearing will be held on June 27.</p>	<p>The lawsuit filed against Ramazan Yurttapan, Managing Editor of Demokratik Modernite magazine, and editor Haydar Ergül, who were charged with "insulting the President" for the article titled "Neo-Ottomanism is the Most Corrupt Form of the Turkish State"...</p> <p>Court: Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance</p> <p>Verdict: The next hearing will be held on June 27.</p>
<p>The lawsuit filed against artist Ferhat Tunç due to "making illegal organization propaganda" through his social media posts...</p> <p>Court: Istanbul 37th High Criminal Court</p> <p>Verdict: The next hearing will be held on April 4.</p>	

HEARINGS NEXT WEEK

<p>The lawsuit filed against journalists Sibel Yüklér, Deniz Nazlım and Yıldız Tar, who were detained while protesting the arrest of their colleagues, due to "violating Law No. 2911 on Meetings and Demonstrations"...</p> <p>Tuesday, January 9, Ankara 71st Criminal Court of First Instance</p>	<p>The lawsuit filed against 17 people, including journalists Eylem Sonbahar, Sema Karakurt and Metin Cihan, who were detained during the protest against the G20 Summit in Antalya in 2015, due to "resisting to prevent the execution of duty".</p> <p>Tuesday, January 9, Antalya 25th Criminal Court of First Instance</p>
<p>The lawsuit filed against Cumhuriyet newspaper's Editor-in-Chief Mustafa Büyüksipahi and the newspaper's Managing Editor Mustafa Birol Güger, who were charged with "insulting a public official" due to the news on the awarding of the tender for state land in Bodrum to the company of Sedat Varank, the cousin of Minister of Industry and Technology Mustafa Varank...</p> <p>Tuesday, January 9, Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance</p>	<p>The lawsuit filed against conscientious objector Ercan Aktaş on charges of "discouraging people from military service", "insulting the state and state leaders" and "making illegal organization propaganda" due to his social media posts...</p> <p>January 10, Wednesday, Istanbul Bakırköy 2nd Assize Court</p>
<p>The lawsuit filed against journalists Pınar Gayıp, Eylem Nazlıer, Zeynep Kuray, Esra Soybir, Serpil Ünal and Yadigar Aygün, who were detained during a protest organized in Istanbul in April for their detained and arrested colleagues, on charges of "violating Law No. 2911 on Meetings and Demonstrations"...</p>	<p>The lawsuit filed against the Co-Editor-in-Chief Hüseyin Aykol and Managing Editor Reyhan Çapan due to "making illegal organization propaganda" and "praising crime and criminals" through news articles published in the shut-down Özgür Gündem newspaper...</p>

January 10, Wednesday, Istanbul Anatolia 22nd Criminal Court of First Instance	Thursday, January 11, Istanbul 13th High Criminal Court
The lawsuit filed against Yeni Yaşam newspaper writer Ahmet Güneş due to "making illegal organization propaganda" through his social media posts...	
Thursday, January 11, Istanbul 25th High Criminal Court	

**All news of the week is available at dusun-think.net;
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