

Think, think...



Freedom of Expression Weekly Newsletter (Issue 11/24, March 15, 2024)

What happened last week?

- Three days later, President Erdoğan issued another presidential decree canceling the expropriation of 190 parcels of agricultural land in İkizköy, Çamköy and Karacahisar around Akbelen Forest for use as a lignite mine site, which he had signed on March 12.
- The European Court of Human Rights announced its decision in the case of [Kanatlı vs. Turkey](#): The Court ruled that the lack of a public service option in return for compulsory military service was a violation of Article 9 of the Convention.
- The microphone was taken away from a young man who wanted to ask a question about the "Gaza-Israel war" to AKP Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality mayoral candidate Murat Kurum, who participated in a panel discussion on HaberTürk channel. The host of the program, Mehmet Akif Ersoy, made a statement in response to the reactions, citing that "the question was not in accordance with the format of the program explained to the participants".
- Armenian academic Ani Sarukhanyan, who has been working at Ankara University's Caucasian Languages and Cultures Department for five years, announced that the university administration did not extend her contract without any justification. Sarukhanyan [released a video](#) expressing the discrimination she has suffered...
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9 thousand lira fine for police brutality

Following the Constitutional Court's violation decision on the police violence against Beyza Kural, former reporter of Bianet news website, the verdict was announced in the lawsuit filed against three police officers for "violation of freedom of work and labor". The court sentenced the police officers to a judicial fine of 9

thousand Turkish Liras and deferred the announcement of the verdict. The court filed a criminal complaint against the accused police officers for assault and preventing the exercise of freedom of thought.



Detained for street interview

Mehmet Şah Karataş, a citizen who spoke during a street interview conducted by the YouTube channel Kendine Muhabir on the upcoming local elections in Güngören, Istanbul, was detained immediately after the interview on charges of "inciting the public to hatred and hostility". Karataş stated that he was beaten in the police car

and that 20 thousand TL he was carrying was confiscated by the police officers; he filed a criminal complaint.



TRIALS OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Mehmet Salih Turan Case

Retrial of the case against journalist Mehmet Salih Turan due to "making propaganda for a terrorist organization" through his social media posts, which was reversed by the Constitutional Court on the grounds that his rights were violated.

Court: Istanbul 32nd Assize Court

Hearing outcome: The trial will continue on April 24.

Abdurrahman Gök Case

The lawsuit filed against Mezopotamya Agency editor Abdurrahman Gök, who was charged with "illegal organization membership" and "propaganda" based on his phone calls with news sources, social media posts and news reports...

Court: Diyarbakır 5th High Criminal Court

Hearing outcome: The court decided to continue Gök's travel ban and set the next hearing for June 11.

Haydar Ergül Case

The lawsuit filed against Democratic Modernity magazine editor Haydar Ergül and 18 Kurdish politicians due to "membership in a terrorist organization"...

Court: Istanbul 22nd High Criminal Court

Hearing outcome: The trial will continue on June 13.

HEARINGS NEXT WEEK

<p><u>Lawsuit Against Evrensel Newspaper</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against Evrensel newspaper's Managing Editor Görkem Kınacı and Publisher Kürşat Yılmaz due to "insult" and "slander" for the news article titled "The bribery network in the stock exchange extended to the palace" and the article titled "Peker revelations reaching to the palace cannot be cleaned with a brave prosecutor" published in Evrensel newspaper about the bribery and corruption allegations that came to the agenda with the revelations of mafia leader Sedat Peker...</p> <p>Tuesday, March 19; Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance</p>	<p><u>Case Against HDP Statement</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against 11 members of the party's then-Central Executive Committee (MYK) on charges of "denigrating the state" (Article 301 of the Turkish Penal Code) due to HDP's April 24, 2021 statement titled "Face the shame of the Armenian Genocide!"...</p> <p>Thursday, March 21; Ankara 48th Criminal Court of First Instance</p>
<p><u>Rozerin Gültekin and Ergin Çağlar Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against Jinnews reporter Rozerin Gültekin and Mezopotamya Agency reporter Ergin Çağlar, who were detained during the Gemlik March to protest the visit ban on Abdullah Öcalan.</p> <p>Thursday, March 21; Bursa 18th Criminal Court of First Instance</p>	

All news of the week is available at dusun-think.net;
You can also access the pdf format of the bulletin at dusun-think.net/bultenler.