

Think, think...



Freedom of Expression Weekly Newsletter (Issue 9/24, March 1, 2024)

What happened last week?

- The Constitutional Court annulled 37 powers in President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's Presidential Decree No. 1, issued immediately after his election as president in 2018, as "unconstitutional". The Constitutional Court gave the law-maker 9 months to make regulations on the canceled powers.
- Ankara has decided to entrust Rosatom with the construction of the second nuclear power plant in Turkey, Sputnik News Agency reported, citing Alexei Lihachev, General Director of the Russian State Nuclear Power Corporation (Rosatom). Turkish authorities have not yet commented on the issue.
- In the March 31 local elections, Simurg Sarsilmaz, a model who announced her candidacy for Diyarbakır Kaynarca Neighborhood mukhtar, announced that she withdrew her candidacy due to the threats she received.
- The 8th Judicial Package has started to be discussed at the General Assembly of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey. If the proposal, the first four articles of which were accepted in the General Assembly, is enacted into law, judicial fines will be increased and convictions with no time served will now be punishable by imprisonment.
- With the application of the General Directorate of National Lottery Administration, the access ban on the live streaming platform Kick, which was blocked on February 20 due to "illegal betting and contributing to the financing of terrorism", was lifted.



4 detained at DEM party event

The police intervened the "people's meeting" event of Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party Şırnak mayoral candidates; 4 people were detained.



Journalist Nadiye Gürbüz acquitted

Etkin News Agency (ETHA) editor Nadiye Gürbüz was acquitted of all charges of "illegal organization membership and making propaganda for an illegal organization" at Istanbul 25th High Criminal Court.



12 people detained in Istanbul

The police intervened the people who wanted to make a press statement in Kadıköy, Istanbul to protest the detention of the executives of the Socialist Party of the Oppressed and Socialist Cultural Centers; 12 people were detained.



Journalist Yağmur Kaya acquitted

The verdict was announced in the lawsuit filed against journalist Yağmur Kaya due to "targeting people who took part in the fight against terrorism" upon the complaint of retired lieutenant general Musa Çitil for her interview with Human Rights Association (IHD) Co-Chair Eren Keskin. The journalist

was acquitted of the charges in the trial held at Aydın 2nd High Criminal Court.



HRA executive board member detained

Human Rights Association (IHD) Central Executive Board (MYK) and Istanbul Prison Commission member Mehmet Acettin is detained through an investigation by Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor's Office. It is learned that the investigation is on the charge of "financing an illegal organization".



Trial of Saturday Mothers begins

The first hearing of the lawsuit filed against those detained during the Saturday Mothers' sit-in protest on the day of the UEFA final match in Istanbul started at Istanbul 39th Criminal Court of First Instance. The trial will continue on June 7.



Erdem Gül sentenced to 5 years in prison

Erdem Gül, former Ankara correspondent of Cumhuriyet newspaper and Mayor of Adalar, was sentenced to 5 years in prison in the retrial over the "MİT trucks" news. Istanbul 14th High Criminal Court charged Erdem Gül with "knowingly and willingly aiding and abetting an armed terrorist

organization" for the news report on the interception and search of 3 MİT trucks heading to Syria on January 19, 2014.



Dicle Müftüoğlu released

Dicle Müftüoğlu, co-chair of the Dicle Fırat Journalists Association (DFG), who was arrested on April 29 in an operation organized through an Ankara-based investigation and charged with "illegal organization membership", was released with the condition of "leaving the country". The next hearing of the ongoing trial at Diyarbakır 5th High Criminal Court will be held on June 13.



Sedat Yılmaz acquitted

Mezopotamya Agency (MA) editor Sedat Yılmaz was acquitted of "illegal organization membership" and "establishing and leading an illegal organization" charges at Diyarbakır 4th Assize Court. Journalist Yılmaz's travel ban was also lifted.



Three journalists detained in Van

Journalists Arif Aslan, Oktay Candemir and Lokman Gezgin were detained in police raids on their homes as part of an investigation by the Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office. The journalists were released after "three days of detention" on charges of "financing terrorism".



Verdict announced in Eskişehir Pride March trial

The lawsuit filed against 8 people who were beaten and detained during the 2022 Eskişehir Pride March due to "opposing the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations No. 2911" was concluded with acquittal.



Verdict in May 1, 2022 case

18 people who were detained during the police intervention against those who wanted to march to Taksim Square in Istanbul for the May 1 Workers' Day in 2022 were acquitted in their trial on charges of "violating Law No. 2911 on Meetings and Demonstrations".



TRIALS OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Deniz Yücel Trial</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against Die Welt reporter Deniz Yücel due to "insulting the president" and "insulting the state"...</p> <p>Court: Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance</p> <p>Hearing outcome: The trial will continue on June 27.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Eren Keskin & Gülistan Yarkın Trial</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against IHD Co-Chair/TIHV Founders' Founding Member Eren Keskin and IHD Commission Against Racism & Discrimination member Gülistan Yarkın for the Armenian Genocide commemoration organized in 2021...</p> <p>Court: Istanbul 51st Criminal Court of First Instance</p> <p>Hearing outcome: The trial will continue on March 26.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Mehmet Emin Aktar Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against former Diyarbakır Bar Association President and lawyer Mehmet Emin Aktar due to "targeting people who took part in the fight against terrorism"...</p> <p>Court: Diyarbakır 5th Criminal Court of First Instance</p> <p>Hearing outcome: The trial will continue on May 23.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Journalists' "insult" case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalists Can Bursalı, Barış Terkoğlu and Nevzat Çiçek due to "insult" and "slander" upon the complaint of President Erdoğan's former lawyer Mustafa Doğan İnal...</p> <p>Court: Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance</p> <p>Hearing outcome: The trial will continue on July 4.</p>

HEARINGS NEXT WEEK

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Case Against Bosphorus Protests</u></p> <p>The trial of the case against 13 people who were detained during the protest in Ankara on January 8, 2021, about the appointment of a trustee rector to Boğaziçi University, on the charge of "violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations No 2911"...</p> <p>Tuesday, March 5; Ankara 74th Criminal Court of First Instance</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Gerçek gündem Trial</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against former editor-in-chief Faruk Eren and editor Furkan Karabay of the online news website Gerçek gündem due to "targeting people who took part in the fight against terrorism" upon the complaint of Constitutional Court member İrfan Fidan...</p> <p>Tuesday, March 5; Ankara 4th High Criminal Court</p>
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Sibel Tekin Case

The lawsuit filed against documentary director Sibel Tekin due to "illegal organization membership" after she was reported and arrested while shooting for her documentary "Life Starting in Darkness" about the permanent daylight saving time...

Tuesday, March 5; Ankara 26th High Criminal Court

**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.**