

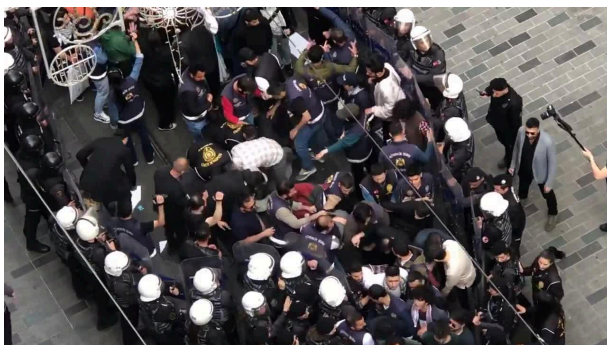
Think, think...



Freedom of Expression Weekly Newsletter (Issue 14/24, April 19, 2024)

What happened last week?

- Following public outcry, the AKP government restricted trade relations with Israel to 54 product groups. Although long denied, the government also acknowledged that many products for the "construction and defense industries" were sold to Israel during the Gaza offensive. Journalists and researchers, however, note that despite the government's decision to restrict trade, many shipments leaving Turkish ports are still going to Israel.
- The [Constitutional Court](#) ruled that the "obligation for those convicted of terrorism offenses to attend trials in a uniform", which was introduced by a Decree Law issued during the state of emergency declared after July 15, 2016, is unconstitutional.
- The Constitutional Court ruled that the disciplinary penalties stipulated in Article 54 of the Law on Higher Education Council (YÖK) for university students' actions of "distributing leaflets, hanging banners or posters without permission inside the institution" and "organizing meetings in closed or open spaces belonging to the higher education institution without permission from the authorities" are unconstitutional.
- The expected verdict in the Kobani trial against 108 politicians, 18 of whom are under arrest, including former HDP Co-Chairs Figen Yüksekdağ and Selahattin Demirtaş, was not reached in this hearing. The next hearing, where the court is expected to announce its verdict, will be held on May 16.
- FreeWeb Turkey [published](#) its weekly bulletin on Turkey's censorship agenda.



Police intervention against Palestine protest

The police intervened in the demonstration of One Thousand Youth for Palestine activists in Taksim, Istanbul, demanding the

cessation of trade between Israel and Turkey. Many activists were detained and police violence was caught on camera.



Decision of non-prosecution in Şükran Ekinci investigation

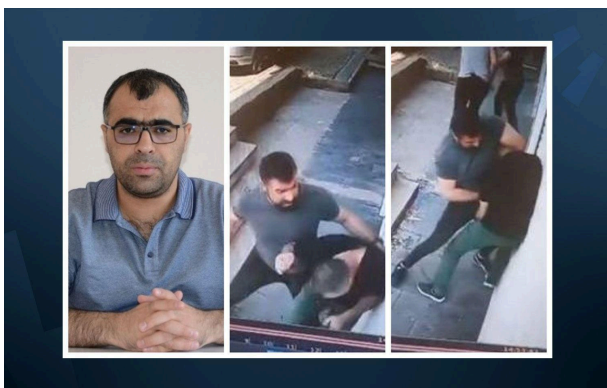
A decision of non-prosecution was issued in the investigation against Artı TV news anchor Şükran Ekinci, who shared a news report on her social media account claiming that the number of workers who lost their lives in a landslide at a gold mine in Erzincan İliç in February was much higher than the official figure. The prosecutor's

office had claimed that Ekinci had committed the crime of "publicly disseminating misleading information", which is widely accepted as a censorship law.



METU rectorate's de facto ban on journalist

Journalist Hayri Demir, one of the speakers at the 8th Media Days organized by the METU Media Community, announced that his speech was effectively banned as a result of threats by the METU rectorate to "shut down the community".



Insistence on impunity in attack on journalist

An appeal by the journalist's lawyers to a higher court to defer the sentence of imprisonment given to former Tatvan Mayor Emin Geylani's bodyguards, police officer Engin Kaplan and boxer Yücel Baysalı, for the beating of journalist Sinan Aygül, was rejected.



Intervention in labor strike

Gendarmerie intervened the workers who went on strike at Lezita factory in Kemalpaşa, Izmir; 18 workers were detained and 8 workers were hospitalized.



Trial of journalist Furkan Karabay begins

The first hearing of the lawsuit filed against journalist Furkan Karabay due to "insult and slander" upon the complaint of President Erdoğan's former lawyer Mustafa Doğan Ünal was held at Istanbul 5th Criminal Court of First Instance. The next hearing of the lawsuit, in which Karabay's FETÖ Exchange news and related social media posts are

accused, will be held on November 5.



TRIALS OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Ayşe Kara Case

The retrial of journalist Geşbun Ayşe Kara due to "being a member of an armed terrorist organization"...

Court: Diyarbakır 5th Assize Court
Hearing Outcome: The trial will continue on July 16th.

Lawsuit Against Amasra Commemoration

The lawsuit filed against 26 people who were detained in Amasra while trying to commemorate the mining disaster in which 41 miners lost their lives, due to "violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations"...

Court: Ankara 65th Criminal Court of First Instance
Hearing Outcome: The trial will continue on September 26th.

<p align="center"><u>Trial of Journalists Protesting Arrest of Colleagues</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalists Pınar Gayıp, Zeynep Kuray, Eylem Nazlıer, Serpil Ünal, Esra Soybir and Yadigar Aygün due to "violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations"...</p> <p>Court: Istanbul Anatolian 22nd Criminal Court of First Instance</p> <p>Hearing Outcome: The trial will continue on June 13.</p>	<p align="center"><u>Cartoonist Zehra Ömeroğlu Trial</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against Zehra Ömeroğlu on charges of "obscenity" due to a cartoon on Covid effects published in Leman magazine...</p> <p>Court: Istanbul 1st Criminal Court of First Instance</p> <p>Hearing Outcome: The trial will continue on September 26.</p>
<p align="center"><u>Cihan Kolivar Case</u></p> <p>Cihan Kolivar, President of the Bread Producers' Union, said "Bread is the staple food of stupid societies. Since our society is saturated with bread, such rulers have been in charge for 20 years." The lawsuit filed against him for "insulting the President", "publicly insulting a section of the public" and "publicly insulting the Turkish nation"...</p> <p>Court: Istanbul 17th Criminal Court of First Instance</p> <p>Hearing Outcome: The trial will continue on September 27.</p>	

HEARINGS NEXT WEEK

<p align="center"><u>Mehmet Salih Turan Case</u></p> <p>The retrial of the case filed against journalist Mehmet Salih Turan due to "making propaganda for a terrorist organization" through his social media posts and returned from the Constitutional Court on the grounds that his rights were violated...</p> <p>Wednesday, April 24; Istanbul 32nd High Criminal Court</p>	<p align="center"><u>Emine Senyashar Trial</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against Emine Şenyaşar, whose two sons and husband were killed in the incidents in Urfa's Suruç district before the 2018 general elections, due to "publicly insulting the government, judicial organs of the state, military or police organization"...</p> <p>Thursday, April 25; Şanlıurfa 5th Criminal Court of First Instance</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;"><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 style="text-align: center;">Thursday, April 25; Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Lawsuit Against Journalists</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against 12 journalists, including 9 journalists arrested in the operation against Mezopotamya Agency and JinNews, on charges of "illegal organization membership" based on 149 news articles published by Mezopotamya Agency, the protests they followed and their social media posts...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thursday, April 25; Ankara 4th High Criminal Court</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Case against detained journalists</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalists Sibel Yükler, 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 style="text-align: center;">Thursday, April 25; Ankara 71st Criminal Court of First Instance</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>KCK Press Trial</u></p> <p>The KCK Press Trial, in which 46 journalists and media workers have been on trial since 2012 on charges of "illegal organization membership" based on their journalistic activities such as interviews they conducted, photographs they took, press releases they followed, and news notes...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thursday, April 25; Istanbul 3rd High Criminal Court</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Sezgin Kartal Case</u></p> <p>On January 10, Working Journalists' Day, the lawsuit filed against journalist Sezgin Kartal, who was detained by breaking the door of his house and arrested due to "illegal organization membership"...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thursday, April 25; Istanbul 22nd High Criminal Court</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>"Gülen Community Media Trial"</u></p> <p>The retrial of journalists Ahmet Memiş, Ali Akkuş, Cemal Azmi Kalyoncu, Gökçe Fırat Çulhaoğlu, Ünal Tanık, Yakup Çetin, Yetkin Yıldız on charges of "aiding an illegal organization", "insulting the President", "insulting the institutions and organs of the state"...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thursday, April 25; Istanbul 25th High Criminal Court</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.