

# Think, think...



## Freedom of Expression Weekly Newsletter (Issue 15/24, April 26, 2024)

### What happened last week?

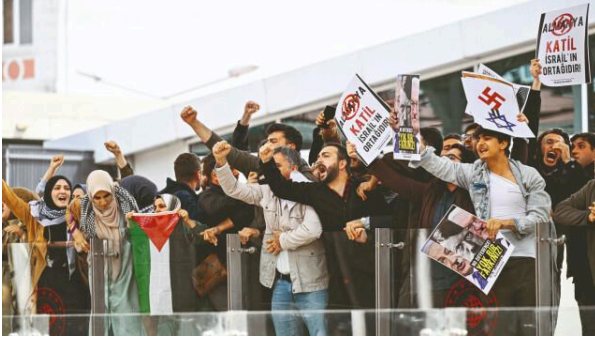
- Although trustees have not yet been appointed in the provinces and districts where the DEM Party won mayorships, the frequent publication of disinformation news about these municipalities in the mainstream media is considered as "preparation for trusteeship". In Batman and Erzurum Hınıs, where DEM Party candidates won the mayorships by a landslide, the party offices were also raided by the police.
- The verdict was announced after 6 years in the ongoing lawsuit regarding the train accident that took place in Çorlu district of Tekirdağ in 2018, in which 25 people, including 7 children, lost their lives and 328 people were injured. As a result of the case, 4 public officials were arrested for negligent homicide and sent to prison.
- German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier visited Turkey to mark the 100th anniversary of relations between the two countries. Steinmeier met with President Erdoğan as well as Ekrem İmamoğlu and Mansur Yavaş. Steinmeier was protested both in Istanbul and Ankara for Germany's stance on the Gaza massacre.
- In the investigation into the October 10, 2015 Ankara Station massacre in which 109 people lost their lives, it was revealed that the phones of ISIS member Yakub Şahin, who escorted the vehicle bringing suicide bombers to Ankara, were tapped 3 days before the massacre.



### Police blockade at Book Fair

Between April 19 and 28, the police detained Sebih Yoldaş, who was manning the stand of Pirtukakurdi Publishing House at the book fair in Izmir. The police also confiscated Seid Veroj's "Kurdistan (1919-1920)", Sedat Ulugana's "Kurdistan Fedaisi Muşlu Hilmi Yıldırım" and Newşîrwan Mistefa Emîn's "Kurdistan

Government", all of which were on the stand of the publishing house and were not subject to any confiscation order.



## Intervention against Steinmeier protest

German President Steinmeier, who is visiting Turkey to mark the 100th anniversary of Turkey-Germany relations, was protested at Istanbul Sirkeci Train Station. Police intervened the group of Özgür Der activists; many protesters were detained.



## 9 journalists detained in house raids

Nine journalists were detained in house raids in Istanbul, Ankara and Urfa. Mezopotamya Agency (MA) reporter Mehmet Aslan was detained in Ankara, MA reporter Esra Solin Dal, Yeni Yaşam newspaper employee Enes Sezgin and newspaper employees Saliha Aras, Yeşim Alıcı, Beste Argat Balcı and Şirin Ermiş were detained in Istanbul, Yeni Özgür

Politika newspaper employee Erdoğan Alayumat and former MA employee Doğan Kaynak were detained in Urfa. Journalists Esra Solin Dal, Erdoğan Alayumat and Mehmet Aslan were referred to the court with a request for arrest after their statements to the prosecutor's office.



## Trial of reporter Asena Tunca and 76 activists begins

The trial of 76 Left Party members and BirGün newspaper reporter Asena Tunca, who were detained during the protest organized by Left Party members against the Red Crescent and the government in Kadıköy after the Kahramanmaraş earthquakes, started. The trial of the

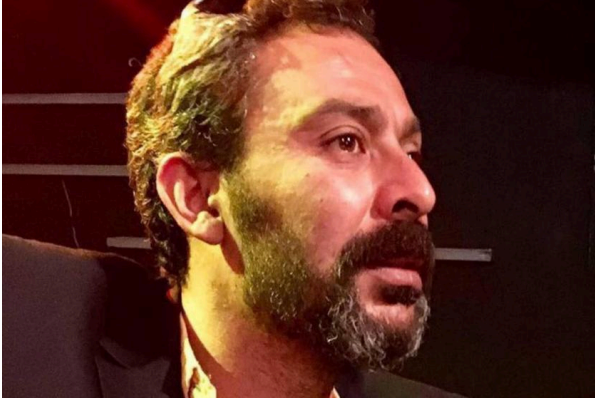
defendants, who appeared before the Istanbul 14th Criminal Court of First Instance for the first time on charges of "violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations", will continue on September 27.



## Journalist Nimet Ölmez acquitted

Journalist Nimet Ölmez, who faced a judge on charges of "insult" for her social media posts upon the complaint of AKP Hakkari

Provincial Chair Zeydin Kaya, was acquitted.



probation period given to the journalist.

### **Mehmet Salih Turan case dismissed**

The verdict was announced in the retrial of the case against journalist Mehmet Salih Turan due to "making propaganda for a terrorist organization" through his social media posts, which was returned by the Constitutional Court on the grounds that his rights were violated. Istanbul 32nd High Criminal Court decided to dismiss the case due to the expiration of the



Court of Cassation.

### **Bakur verdict upheld on appeal**

Gaziantep Regional Court of Appeals upheld the decision of Batman 2nd Assize Court, which sentenced Çayan Demirel and Ertuğrul Mavioğlu, the directors of the documentary "Bakur/North", to 4 years and 6 months in prison each for "terrorist propaganda". The lawyers appealed to the



## **TRIALS OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION**

### **Lawsuit Against Evrensel Newspaper**

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...

### **Emine Şenyasar Trial**

The lawsuit filed against Emine Şenyasar, 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"...

**Court:** Şanlıurfa 5th Criminal Court of First Instance

**Hearing outcome:** The prosecutor asked for the case to be dismissed as a similar trial is

<p><b>Court:</b> Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance</p> <p><b>Hearing outcome:</b> The hearing was adjourned due to the judge's leave of absence.</p>	<p>ongoing at the 4th Criminal Court of First Instance. The court will resume the trial on May 9.</p>
<p><b><u>Case against detained journalists</u></b></p> <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><b>Court:</b> Ankara 71st Criminal Court of First Instance</p> <p><b>Hearing outcome:</b> The trial will continue on September 19.</p>	<p><b><u>Lawsuit Against Journalists</u></b></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 in Mezopotamya Agency, the protests they followed and their social media posts...</p> <p><b>Court:</b> Ankara 4th High Criminal Court</p> <p><b>Hearing outcome:</b> The trial will continue on July 3.</p>
<p><b><u>Sezgin Kartal Case</u></b></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><b>Court:</b> Istanbul 22nd High Criminal Court</p> <p><b>Hearing outcome:</b> The trial will continue on June 25.</p>	<p><b><u>KCK Press Trial</u></b></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><b>Court:</b> Istanbul 3rd High Criminal Court</p> <p><b>Hearing outcome:</b> The trial will continue on October 3.</p>
<p><b><u>Gülen Community Media Trial</u></b></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><b>Court:</b> Istanbul 25th High Criminal Court</p> <p><b>Hearing outcome:</b> The prosecutor requested sentences for all defendants on charges of "knowingly and willingly aiding an illegal organization" and "membership in an illegal organization". The trial will continue on September 24.</p>	<p><b><u>Case Against Bosphorus Protests</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against 7 students due to "inciting public hatred and hostility" on the grounds of the Kaaba image and LGBTI+ flags in an exhibition organized as part of the protests against Melih Bulu, who was appointed rector of Boğaziçi University...</p> <p><b>Court:</b> Istanbul 21st Criminal Court of First Instance</p> <p><b>Hearing outcome:</b> The file was sent to the prosecutor's office to prepare the final opinion. The next hearing is scheduled for September 27.</p>

## HEARINGS NEXT WEEK

### **Eren Keskin & Gllistan Yarkin Trial**

The lawsuit filed against IHD Co-Chair/TIHV Founders' Founding Member Eren Keskin and IHD Commission Against Racism & Discrimination member Gllistan Yarkin for the Armenian Genocide commemoration organized in 2021...

**Thursday, May 2;** Istanbul 51st Criminal Court of First Instance

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You can also access the pdf format of the bulletin at [dusun-think.net/bultenler](http://dusun-think.net/bultenler).