

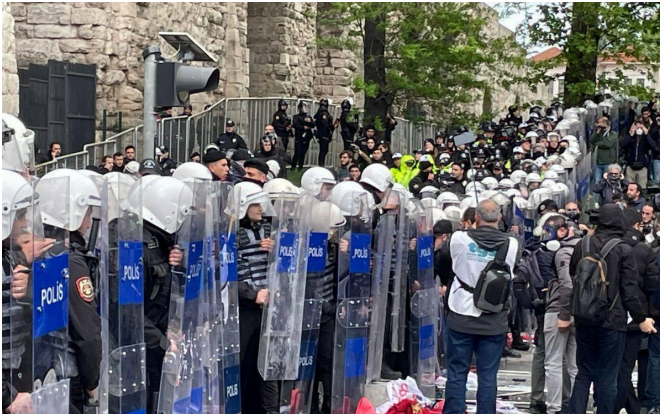
Think, think...



Freedom of Expression Weekly Newsletter (Issue 17/24, May 10, 2024)

What happened last week?

- According to the news compiled by Bianet from local and national newspapers, news websites and agencies; men killed at least 30 women and 2 children in April. The deaths of at least 24 women were reported in the press as "suspicious" in April. Men killed 119 women in the first four months of the year.
- Doğan News Agency reporter Rojda Altıntaş said in a statement on the case of Eylem Tok's smuggling of her murder suspect son abroad, "I have been subjected to various pressures by the patronage of the media organization I am affiliated with and other circles within the scope of my attempts to access and publish new information." The agency owner published the recordings of a phone call made to him by the driver of the Demirören family.
- The 10th Chamber of the Council of State annulled a circular banning citizens from recording the audio and video recordings of police officers on duty at social events on the grounds that it "violates the privacy of police officers".
- The indictment was accepted immediately after MHP Chairman Devlet Bahçeli demanded that the indictment for the murder of Sinan Ateş, the former chairman of the Grey Wolves Ocakları, be accepted "immediately". While the Ateş family and their lawyers described the acceptance of the indictment as a legal massacre, the indictment did not reveal any trace of MHP officials allegedly involved in the murder.
- Mazlumder released a statement evaluating the decision of non-prosecution in the investigation into the suspicious death of Palestinian citizen Nabeel Hasan in prison.
- In 2022, a lawsuit was filed against the women who were harassed by Hanifi Zengin, former Director of Istanbul Security Branch, during a protest against the arrest of Şebnem Korur Fincancı.



49 May 1 protesters arrested

In the police operations following the May Day demonstration in Taksim, which was prevented by police force, 49 of the 77 people detained on different dates were arrested on charges of "violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations", "making propaganda for an illegal

organization" and "resisting a public officer".



were released on judicial control conditions.

Judicial control conditions for two detained journalists

Seven people, including journalists Nurcan Yalçın and Derya Us, who were detained in a police operation in Diyarbakır on charges of "being a member of an illegal organization" and "opposing the law on the prevention of financing of an illegal organization"



Concert canceled at Gaziantep University

On May 7, the concert of the music group Dolu Kadehi Ters Tut, which was planned to be held on Gaziantep University campus, was canceled by the University Rectorate after the Provincial Youth Branch of the Yeniden Refah Party (YRP) made statements targeting the music group for allegedly making "LGBTI propaganda".



Verdict in the case of HDK's Afrin statement

Ankara 29th Assize Court announced the verdict in the ongoing trial of politicians charged with "public incitement to hatred and hostility" and "making propaganda for a terrorist organization" for their press statement on Turkey's Afrin operation. The court decided to separate the case file of Kurdish politician Mehmet Arslan,

while the case of Peoples' Democratic Congress (HDK) Co-Spokesperson Prof. Dr. Onur Hamzaoğlu, formerly known as Onur Hamzaoglu, formerly known as Onur Hamzaoglu, formerly known as Onur Hamzaoglu. Onur Hamzaoglu, Socialist Party of the Oppressed (ESP) Deputy Chairwoman Fadime Çelebi, Socialist Re-Liberation Party (SYKP) Co-Chair Ahmet Kaya, Greens and Left Future Party Co-Chairs

Naci Sönmez and Özlem Eylem Tuncaeli and Democratic Regions Party (DBP) Deputy Co-Chair Hacer Özdemir.



Prison sentence for artist Pınar Aydınlar

In the lawsuit filed against singer Pınar Aydınlar due to "making illegal organization propaganda" through the songs she sang at the 21st Munzur Culture and Nature Festival and posts made on social media accounts opened

in her name and not managed by her, she was sentenced to 1 year, 6 months and 22 days in prison.



Verdict in the Özgürlükçü Demokrasi Case

The verdict was announced in the retrial of journalists İhsan Yaşar, İshak Yasul, Mehmet Ali Çelebi, Mizgin Fendik, Pınar Tarlak, Reyhan Hacıoğlu and Hicran Urun on charges of "illegal organization membership", "printing or publishing publications of terrorist organizations", "inciting the public to

hatred and hostility", "making illegal organization propaganda" and "praising crime and criminal". Istanbul 23rd High Criminal Court acquitted journalist Mizgin Fendik, sentenced Mehmet Ali Çelebi to 3 years and 9 months, Reyhan Hacıoğlu, İhsan Yaşar, İshak Yasul, Hicran Urun to 3 years, 1 month and 15 days in prison for aiding an illegal organization. The court separated Pınar Tarlak's case due to other ongoing trials and lifted the ban on journalists' travel abroad.



Zehra Doğan acquitted in retrial

Journalist-painter Zehra Doğan, who was imprisoned for more than 2 years for her news reports and paintings during the curfews in Mardin's Nusaybin district, was acquitted in a retrial held at Mardin 2nd High Criminal Court following the Supreme Court of Appeals' decision on retrial.



TRIALS OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

<p><u>Closure Case Against Tarlabası Community Center</u></p> <p>Since 2006, Tarlabası Community Center has been working to solve the social and economic problems of Tarlabası residents and has been the target of smear campaigns that include ethnic discrimination and homophobic hatred...</p> <p>Court: Istanbul 18th Civil Court of First Instance Hearing outcome: The trial will continue on October 21.</p>	<p><u>Lawsuit Against Protest on Housing Issue</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against 7 university students who were detained during a protest in Ankara in 2021 to draw attention to students' housing problems, on charges of "violating Law No. 2911 on Meetings and Demonstrations" and "resisting to prevent the execution of duty"...</p> <p>Court: Ankara 37th Criminal Court of First Instance Hearing outcome: The trial will continue on November 7.</p>
<p><u>Left Party Declaration Trial</u></p> <p>2023 general elections, the lawsuit filed against four members of the SOL Party for "insulting the President" due to the leaflet they distributed before the general elections...</p> <p>Court: Bolu 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance Hearing outcome: <u>No hearing information was available.</u></p>	<p><u>Şebnem Korur Fincancı Trial</u></p> <p>The 100 thousand TL non-pecuniary damages lawsuit filed by the Ministry of National Defense against Turkish Medical Association (TTB) Central Council President Şebnem Korur Fincancı for her statement that "it is necessary to investigate the allegations that the Turkish Armed Forces used chemical weapons"...</p> <p>Court: Ankara 2nd Civil Court of First Instance Hearing outcome: The trial will continue on July 4.</p>
<p><u>Ferhat Tunç Trial</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against artist Ferhat Tunç due to "insulting the President" through his social media posts...</p> <p>Court: İstanbul Büyükçekmece 14th Criminal Court of First Instance Hearing outcome: The trial will continue on January 21.</p>	<p><u>Ankara Pride March Trial</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against 42 people, who were beaten and detained during the Pride March in Ankara in July last year, due to "violating Law No. 2911 on Meetings and Demonstrations"...</p> <p>Court: Ankara 52nd Criminal Court of First Instance Hearing outcome: The trial will continue on July 3.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Ercan Aktaş Case</u></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>Court: Istanbul Bakırköy 2nd Assize Court Hearing outcome: The court decided to await the execution of the arrest warrant against Aktaş and set October 2 for the hearing.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>20 journalists on trial</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against 20 journalists accused of "being a member of an illegal organization" and facing up to 15 years in prison...</p> <p>Court: Diyarbakır 4th Assize Court Hearing outcome: The court ruled to maintain the ban on journalists abroad and set the next hearing for November 19.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Lawsuit Against HDP MPs</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed in 2015 against then HDP Co-Chair Figen Yüksekdağ, Group Deputy Chairpersons İdris Baluken and Çağlar Demirel, and MPs Altan Tan, Ahmet Yıldırım, Ertuğrul Kürkçü, Mehmet Ali Aslan and Saadet Becerikli due to "resisting to prevent the execution of duty", "insulting a public officer" and "insulting the President" for their statements in Silvan district of Diyarbakır after the curfew...</p> <p>Court: Diyarbakır Silvan Criminal Court of First Instance Hearing outcome: The trial will continue on September 19.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Lawsuit against May 1 (2022)</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against 15 people who were detained as a result of police intervention against those who wanted to march to Taksim Square in Istanbul for May 1 Labor Day in 2022...</p> <p>Court: Istanbul 29th Criminal Court of First Instance Hearing outcome: The hearing on the case was rescheduled for a later date.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Lawsuit Against Journalists</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed in 2015 and 2018 against journalists Haluk Kalafat and Elif Akgül, who were charged with "publicly degrading the Turkish nation" (Article 301 of the Turkish Penal Code) due to their news articles published on bianet about research books on the Armenian Genocide...</p> <p>Court: Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance Hearing outcome: The trial will continue on July 2.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Barış Terkoğlu Trial</u></p> <p>The "defamation" lawsuit filed against Terkoğlu with the complaint of Süheyb Öğüt, the ex-husband of Sabah newspaper writer Hilal Kaplan, based on the interview titled 'Pelikancıların İstanbul Savaşı'...</p> <p>Court: Anadolu 27th Criminal Court of First Instance Hearing outcome: The prosecutor asked for the journalist's acquittal. The trial will continue on May 17th.</p>

HEARINGS NEXT WEEK

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>İlyas Salman Trial</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against the artist for "insulting" President Erdoğan by calling him a "cheap man"...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday, May 14; Istanbul Anadolu 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Mehmet Şah Oruç Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist Mehmet Şah Oruç, who was detained and arrested on April 25 as part of an investigation conducted by the Diyarbakır Chief Public Prosecutor's Office, due to "being a member of an illegal organization"...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday, May 14; Bitlis 2nd Assize Court</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Lawsuit Against Yeni Yaşam Newspaper</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against Yeni Yaşam newspaper Editor-in-Chief Mehmet Ferhat Çelik and Managing Editor Osman Akın on charges of "insult" and "slander" due to the news articles titled "Sedat Peker'den işşalar" (Revelations from Sedat Peker), "Peker published bribery documents" (Peker published bribery documents) and "Albayraks are involved" (Albayraks are also involved) published on the bribery and corruption allegations that came to the agenda with the revelations of mafia leader Sedat Peker...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday, May 14; Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Hayri Demir Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist Hayri Demir due to "membership in a terrorist organization" and "terrorist organization propaganda" on the grounds of his journalistic activity in northern Syria...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, May 15; Ankara 15th High Criminal Court</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Barış Terkoğlu Trial</u></p> <p>The "defamation" lawsuit filed against Terkoğlu with the complaint of Süheyb Öğüt, the ex-husband of Sabah newspaper writer Hilal Kaplan, based on the interview titled 'Pelikancıların İstanbul Savaşı'...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Friday, May 17; Anadolu 27th 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.