

Think, think...



Freedom of Expression Weekly Newsletter (Issue 21/24, June 7, 2024)

What happened last week?

- Hakkari Co-Mayor Mehmet Sıddık Atış was dismissed on the grounds of a lawsuit filed against him in 2014; the Ministry of Interior appointed a trustee to replace Atış. The lawsuit filed against Atış was finalized immediately after his dismissal and he was sentenced to 19 years and 6 months in prison. President Erdoğan said this was only the first step. While there is almost no Kurdish politician who has not been prosecuted, allegations that trustees will be appointed to the Mardin and Van municipalities have already begun to be publicized.
- While the appointment of a trustee to Hakkari Municipality was protested all over the country, DEM Party MPs who protested the decision with banners in the General Assembly of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey were physically and verbally attacked by the AKP group.
- CHP Chair Özgür Özel visited Emine Şenyaşar, whose husband and two sons were murdered by the bodyguards and relatives of AKP MP İbrahim Halil Yıldız, and who has been holding a “Justice Watch” in front of the Urfa Courthouse since March 2021.
- At the 8th Anatolian Media Awards ceremony organized by the Federation of Anatolian Publishers, journalists were presented their awards by Erdoğan!



13 detained due to Socar protest

Thirteen activists from the group 1000 Youth for Palestine, who were protesting in front of the headquarters of the Azerbaijani energy company SOCAR in Istanbul over its continued gas supply to Israel, were detained in a police raid on their homes. The activists were released

after interrogations at the prosecutor's office and court.



Detentions at trustee protests in Istanbul and Van

5 people were detained in Van and 6 people were detained in Istanbul while protesting the appointment of a trustee to Hakkari Municipality. The detainees were released after statement procedures at the police.



Third indictment prepared for Istanbul May Day protests

With the third indictment prepared by Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor's Office, Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor's Office demanded prison sentences from 3 years and 8 months to 15 years and 6 months for 12 people, 8 of whom were arrested, on charges of “Violation of the Law on

Meetings and Demonstrations”, “Resisting to prevent the execution of duty”, “Damage to property” and “Intentional injury to the extent of bone fracture”. In the previous two indictments, a total of 567 years of imprisonment was requested for 42 people.



Investigation against artist Kadir Çat

An investigation was launched against artist Kadir Çat, who performed at the Newroz celebrations in Hakkari Çukurca, due to “terrorist organization propaganda”. The artist had also performed the song “Comrade Kemal Pir” in Aydın in 2023 and was acquitted in the lawsuit filed against

him on the same charge.



4 earthquake victims detained in Hatay

In Hatay, which was devastated after the February earthquakes, the police attacked citizens protesting the declaration of their living spaces as “reserve areas” and opening them to construction; 4 people were detained.



Convictions for 13 protesters

13 people who were on trial on the charges of “violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations No 2911” and “resisting to prevent duty” for participating in the commemoration of İbrahim Kaypakkaya in Tuzluçayır, Ankara in May 2021, were sentenced to 5 months each. The conviction was converted into a judicial fine.



TRIALS OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Pehlivan and Yurtoğlu Trial</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against Cumhuriyet daily columnist Barış Pehlivan and the newspaper's former Managing Editor Ozan Alper Yurtoğlu due to “insulting the President” and “insulting a public official”...</p> <p>Court: Istanbul 15th Criminal Court of First Instance</p> <p>Hearing outcome: The trial will continue on September 26.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Insult Case Against HSK Member</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist Barış Pehlivan and former Cumhuriyet Editorial Coordinator Mustafa Büyüksipahi for “insulting a public official” due to their news reports on Hamit Kocabey, a member of the High Council of Judges and Prosecutors...</p> <p>Court: Ankara 19th Criminal Court of First Instance</p> <p>Hearing outcome: The trial will continue on July 3.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Pınar Gayıp Trial</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against ETHA editor Pınar Gayıp due to “illegal organization membership”...</p> <p>Court: Istanbul 26th High Criminal Court</p> <p>Hearing outcome: The trial will continue on December 8.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Özgür Gündem // Eren Keskin, Hüseyin Aykol, Reyhan Çapan Trial</u></p> <p>Eren Keskin, Hüseyin Aykol, Reyhan Çapan and Hasan Başak are among the defendants in the lawsuit filed against Özgür Gündem newspaper, which was shut down by a decree law...</p> <p>Court: Istanbul 14th High Criminal Court</p> <p>Hearing outcome: The trial will continue on October 8.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Sedef Kabaş Trial</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist Sedef Kabaş, accused of “insulting the President” due to her criticism of the vaccination policy during the pandemic and 25 tweets between 2016 and 2021, including the question “Where is the 128 billion dollars?”...</p> <p>Court: Istanbul Anatolian 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance Hearing outcome: The trial will continue on November 7.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Ferhat Tunç Trial</u></p> <p>The 2017 trial of artist Ferhat Tunç, who was charged with “inciting the public to hatred and hostility” due to his social media posts criticizing the referendum...</p> <p>Court: Istanbul Büyükçekmece 4th Criminal Court of First Instance Hearing outcome: The trial will continue on October 23.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Av. Eyüp Akıncı Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against him due to “publicly disseminating misleading information” for his social media post criticizing the bribery allegations at Küçükçekmece Courthouse...</p> <p>Court: Küçükçekmece 23rd Criminal Court of First Instance Hearing outcome: The trial will continue on July 5.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>The Case Against Saturday Mothers</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against those detained during the Saturday Mothers' sit-in on the day of the UEFA final match in Istanbul...</p> <p>Court: Istanbul 39th Criminal Court of First Instance Hearing outcome: The trial will continue on October 4.</p>

HEARINGS NEXT WEEK

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Abdurrahman Gök Case</u></p> <p>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...</p> <p>Tuesday, June 11; Diyarbakır 5th High Criminal Court</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Safiye Alağaç Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist Safiye Alağaç on charges of “membership in a terrorist organization”, citing the news she wrote and JinNews' editorial policy as “evidence”....</p> <p>Tuesday, June 11; Diyarbakır 5th High Criminal Court</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Dicle Müftüođlu Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against Dicle Müftüođlu, Co-Chair of Dicle Fırat Journalists' Association (DFG), who was arrested due to “illegal organization membership” after being detained in an operation organized on April 29 as part of an Ankara-based investigation...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thursday, June 13; Diyarbakır 5th High Criminal Court</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Lawsuit Against Journalists for Reporting the Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalists İzel Sezer and Batuhan Batan due to “insult” accusation due to the news published on the website İleri Haber about President Erdoğan's former lawyer Mustafa Dođan İnal, who allegedly negotiated bribes, and the lawsuit filed against journalists İzel Sezer and Batuhan Batan due to the same accusation...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thursday, June 13; Istanbul 25th Criminal Court of First Instance</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Haydar Ergül Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against Democratic Modernity magazine editor Haydar Ergül and 18 Kurdish politicians due to “terrorist organization membership”...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thursday, June 13; Istanbul 22nd High Criminal Court</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Trial of journalists protesting the arrest of their colleagues</u></p> <p>Journalists Pınar Gayıp, Zeynep Kuray, Eylem Nazlıer, Serpil Ünal, Esra Soybir and Yadigar Aygün were charged with “violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations”...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thursday, June 13; Istanbul Anadolu 22nd 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.