



Think... think...

What happened in Turkey in June 2018

*** The results of the June 24 elections announced Recep Tayyip Erdoğan as the “*first leader of the Presidential government system*” with 52.5 percent of votes. Justice and Development Party (AKP) became the first party in the Parliament with 41.85 percent of the elections for Parliament members, whereas could only win the majority in the Parliament due to its alliance with the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP). Main opposition party Republican People’s Party (CHP) lost votes, Good Party received 9.89 percent of the votes. 191 Parliament members were elected from the alliance formed by CHP. People’s Democratic Party (HDP) exceeded the threshold, becoming the third party in the Parliament after AKP and CHP.

*** Supreme Electoral Council (YSK) decided for ballot boxes in 19 provinces to be moved due to “*security reasons.*” YSK Chairman stated, “There are 144 thousand electors assigned to the moved ballot boxes.” The application made at the Constitutional Court for the annulment of the Electoral Law was denied. Republican People’s Party (CHP) had demanded the annulment of provisions such as moving ballot boxes which violate election safety, the process of determining ballot board presidents and the acceptance of unsealed ballot envelopes.

*** Only weeks before the elections, the government made statements implying a future operation on Qandil camp of the PKK. “*Now it’s time for Qandil, for Sinjar,*” Erdoğan said. It was later announced that the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) had organized an airstrike on Northern Iraq. Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım stated that they are in the effort to take a big region in Northern Iraq, until Qandil, under control. Yıldırım further indicated that their target is to make Kobane, Kamışlı and Haseke “*safe zones*” after the consensus reached with the U.S. on Manbij.

*** Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe (OSCE) election monitoring board announced their preliminary report on the June 24 elections. Underlining unequal conditions for candidates during campaigns, OSCE representatives pointed out the effects of the State of Emergency on the campaign process and that transparency and impartiality were not provided in the elections.

*** Human Rights Association (IHD) and the Human Rights Violation of Turkey (TIHV) reported the violations experienced during the entire election propaganda. According to the report, HDP was attacked and experienced right violations for 93 times, Good Party and CHP for 12 times, Felicity Party for 8 times, AKP for 2 times. Four people have lost their lives in the incidents and 90 were injured or beaten.

*** Erdoğan promised to revoke the State of Emergency, which almost left two years behind. The formula for the government to continue its authority due to the State of Emergency with regulations made in the Anti-Terror and Domestic Security Laws has become an agenda.

*** The increase in the U.S. Dollar was slowed down after the steps taken by the Central

Bank; President Erdoğan claimed the responsible for the increase as the “interest lobby.” Calling for people to change their foreign currencies into Turkish Liras, Erdoğan said, “Some people talk about the currency exchange rates and so on. Leave those aside. You can not strike us with exchange rates. You can not strike us with such manipulations.” Now Erdoğan is preparing to have a bigger role on the economy. On the other hand, Deputy Prime Minister Mehmet Şimşek and Central Bank Chairman Murat Çetinkaya met investors in London. Reuters reported that the two names softened Erdoğan’s harsh statements; giving signals for a new increase in interests.

*** Bahçeli launched an advertisement, targeting journalists, writers, research company owners and academics criticising himself and his party during the electoral process.

*** People’s Democratic Party (HDP) Co-Chair Pervin Buldan announced that Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu has called her on the phone and claimed HDP responsible of a murder committed in Ağrı, saying, “*We will let you know your place. No more right to live for you.*” Making a statement on the matter, Soylu admitted having threatened and targeted HDP. Interior Minister made statements targeting the Republican People’s Party (CHP) as well. Accusing CHP on HDP exceeding the electoral threshold, Soylu announced that he has ordered Governors not to include CHP in the protocol during funerals of soldiers and police officers. “*There are the funerals of PKK terrorist organization members. We let them hold the funerals of those carcasses quite frequently. If they are together in the ballots, they will be together in the funerals as well,*” said Soylu.

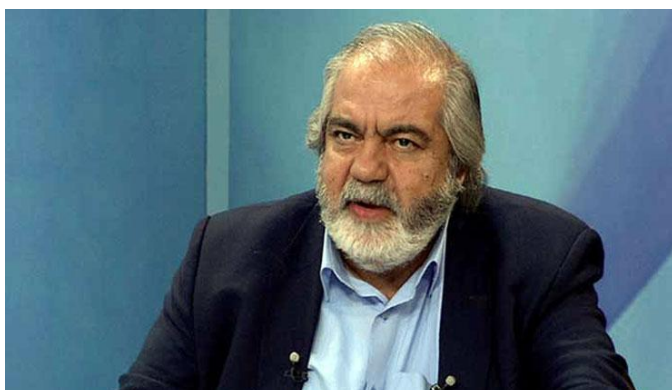
*** 16th Istanbul LGBTI+ Pride March to be organized within the 26th Istanbul LGBTI+ Pride Week was banned by the governorate once again as the previous three years.

*** Court of Appeals issued the release of Mehmet Altan, who was arrested for 21 months despite a Constitutional Court decree on him.

*** Human Rights Advocate and businessman Osman Kavala applied to the European Court of Human Rights due to being remained under arrest for seven months, awaiting an indictment to be prepared against him.

*** The number of files concluded at the State of Emergency Applications Monitoring Committee reached 21,500 with only 1300 applications concluding positively. 87,405 applications are still under examination by the committee.

*** Reporting lawsuits and investigations against lawyers, Human Rights Association (IHD) expressed that the lawyers involved in 78 separate case files are “*under judicial pressure.*” Announcing the violation report against the rights advocates as well, the Human Rights Association announced 225 separate lawsuits and investigations filed against IHD members and executives during the State of Emergency. For further information; <http://www.ihd.org.tr/>



Mehmet Altan released

2nd Criminal Chamber of Istanbul Regional Court of Justice issued the release of journalist Mehmet Altan, who was recently sentenced to heavy life imprisonment in the case he was

on trial related to the July 15 Coup Attempt. The verdict referred to the right violation verdict issued by the Constitutional Court (AYM) on Altan and that the verdict is binding.

The other defendants in the case, e.g. Ahmet Altan, Nazlı Ilıcak, Fevz, Yazıcı, Yakup Şimşek and Şükrü Tuğrul Özşengül will remain arrested. The appeal proceeding will start on September 21st. The Constitutional Court had issued Altan's release due to "right violation" after 21 months under arrest; whereas Istanbul 26th Assize Court has not complied with the decree.



OSCE: "Elections were not transparent and impartial"

Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe (OSCE) election monitoring board announced their preliminary report on the June 24 elections. Underlining unequal conditions for candidates during campaigns, OSCE representatives

pointed out the effects of the State of Emergency on the campaign process and that transparency and impartiality were not provided in the elections. The observers further indicated that they have experienced worry of safety in Turkey for the first time.

The report stated that Erdoğan and the Justice and Development Party (AKP) used government resources disproportionately by obtaining unlawful advantage through pro-government public and private media organizations. Freedom of meeting and expression were also indicated to have been restricted under the conditions of State of Emergency. Emphasizing the significant influence of the restrictions on basic rights and freedoms on the elections, OSCE monitoring board coordinator Ignacio Sanchez Amor stated, "*We are hoping that such restrictions in Turkey will be revoked as soon as possible.*" Indicating that the observers were prevented from examining ballot boxes, Amor criticized the denial of German Leftist Party MP Andrej Hunko and Swedish MP Jaber Karim Amin inside the country border. "*It is unacceptable that our two members were prevented from observing the elections based on claims of terrorism,*" Amor stated.



IHD and TIHV launch right violations report

Turkey went through the elections to vote for the 13th President of the Republic and the 27th session Parliament members. The unofficial elections results announced Recep Tayyip Erdoğan as the "*first leader of the Presidential government system*" with 52.5 percent of votes.

Justice and Development Party (AKP) became the first party in the Parliament with 42.5 percent of the elections for Parliament members, whereas could only win the majority in the Parliament due to its alliance with the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP). Main opposition party Republican People's Party (CHP) lost votes, Good Party received 10 percent of the votes. 191 Parliament members were elected from the alliance formed by CHP. People's Democratic Party (HDP) exceeded the threshold, becoming the third party in the Parliament after AKP and CHP.

On the other hand, Human Rights Association (IHD) and the Human Rights Violation of Turkey (TIHV) reported the violations experienced during the entire election propaganda. According to the report, HDP was attacked and experienced right violations for 93 times, Good Party and CHP for 12 times, Felicity Party for 8 times, AKP for 2 times. Four people have lost their lives in the incidents and 90 were injured or beaten.

26 HDP members and 2 Felicity Party members were exposed to torture and mistreatment during the election campaigns. The report further stated that all of the 33 people who were exposed to torture and mistreatment outside of custody centers were members of HDP. 387 people were taken into custody during this process, with 361 of them HDP members. 15 people were arrested, with 13 of them HDP members. Independent MP candidate Mahmut Konuk, on the other hand, was taken into custody for exactly 11 times on separate dates. 17 events organized by HDP and 2 by CHP and Good Party were banned.

IHD further announced denouncements on violations during the voting procedure in Urfa, Erzurum, Diyarbakır, İzmir, Siirt, İstanbul, Ankara, Batman, Siirt, Mardin and Denizli. 10 people, including journalists and members from the French Communist Party board to track the elections in four provinces, were taken into custody.



MHP leader Bahçeli targets journalists and writers

Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) Chairman Devlet Bahçeli targeted people who have allegedly “defamed, accused and imputed” his party with a full-page advertisement published on daily newspapers. Bahçeli published a list of names consisting of journalists,

writers, research company executives and academics who have criticized him or his party during the electoral process and wrote, “If people like you haven’t existed, how the truth, dignity, integrity, morality and humanity would be evident and easily distinguishable... We will never forget what these people have done, written, destroyed with their comments.”

Publishing a declaration on the matter, Turkish Journalists Association stated that it is impossible to talk about democracy in Turkey in case political party representatives lists to target journalists and writers who write news and commentaries they don’t like.

Turkish Journalists Union indicated that Bahçeli has a right to respond against the criticisms, stating, “... whereas, it is out of line to accuse our colleagues with conducting a ‘defamation campaign..’ We are not afraid of those who target journalists by publishing name lists.”



Three more “Peace Academics” convicted of ‘propaganda’

The lawsuits filed against retired Prof. Dr. Büşra Ersanlı from Marmara University, research member Sezen Çilengir from Istanbul University and dismissed research member Emre Tansu Keten from Marmara University concluded with conviction of ‘terrorist

organization propaganda’ due to signing the petition, entitled, “We will not partake in this crime.”

Istanbul 32nd Assize Court sentenced the three academics to one year and three months of imprisonment each. Deferring the announcement of the verdict against two academics, the court issued the immediate execution of the sentence against Ersanlı due to her “lack of remorse” and “potential to commit future offense.” 256 academics have stood trial so far in the period of trialing that started in December, with 16 cases concluded. 16 scientists were sentenced to one year and three months of imprisonment each; the sentences against Ersanlı and Prof. Dr. Zübeyde Füsün Üstel from Galatasaray University were not deferred.



CHP MP Eren Erdem arrested

25th and 26th session Republican People’s Party (CHP) Istanbul MP Eren Erdem was arrested after being taken into custody after being taken into custody in Ankara following the order of Istanbul 35th Assize Court.

Istanbul 35th Assize Court has recently accepted the indictment against Erdem with an imprisonment claim for up to 22 years due to the allegation of aiding Fethullah Gülen community structure; the first hearing of the case was scheduled to September 19th and Erdem was banned from travelling abroad. The indictment against Erdem charges the MP due to the allegation of possessing and distributing the summaries on the National Intelligence Trucks operation as well as supporting Zaman Newspaper by going to the office on the day the operation against the newspaper was held. CHP did not show Erdem as candidate in the June 24 elections.



Erdoğan's freedom definition: "You are as free to be able to ask me such a question"

President Erdoğan replied to the criticism of one student, who participated in the suhoor programme organized at the Presidency complex in Beştepe, Ankara on 'press freedom.'

"You are as free to be able to ask such a question to a President at his own place," Erdoğan said.

After the student reminded him of journalists who were arrested or dismissed from profession, Erdoğan said, "If one is insulting the President or the Prime Minister, this is not freedom... If a journalist is arrested in accordance with the law, are you still going to call that 'the freedom of the journalist'? Who tells you that journalists are not free? Prove me."

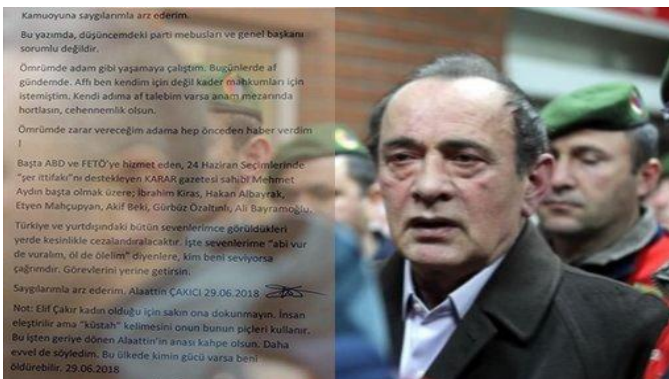


Arrested Boğaziçi University students released

Students arrested due to protesting the Afrin operation at Boğaziçi University were released in the first hearing of the case against them. The proceeding of 22 students, with 14

arrested, started at Istanbul 32nd Assize Court due to 'making terrorist organization propaganda.' The court issued the release of arrested defendants with a ban on travelling abroad, due to "the period under arrest" and "ongoing active education as students."

A group of students had celebrated the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) operation in Afrin on Northern Syria by distributing Turkish delights at Boğaziçi University; another group of students reacted against the celebration by opening a banner with the writing, "There is no delight in occupation, in massacre." Tensions had followed the incident with President Erdoğan using the expression "terrorist" to describe the protesting students and stating what's necessary will be done. The police had then taken the students into custody by raiding their homes and student residences.



Çakıcı orders attack against journalists

Criminal organization leader Alaattin Çakıcı, described by the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) leader Devlet

Bahçeli as a 'nationalist' and a 'hero', made a statement from prison, targeting writers of Karar Newspaper. Çakıcı's message was published on the social media with his signature and ordered Karar Newspaper's owner and six other journalists to be attacked.

The message stated, *"I have always given prior notice to people I will later hurt."* Karar Newspaper was described in the message as a newspaper that *"serves the U.S. and FETÖ,"* *"supported the alliance of malignity in the June 24 elections."* Calling out to those who told him, *"Brother, tell us to shoot and we shoot, tell us to die and we die"* and by mentioning the names of seven journalists, Çakıcı said, *"Whoever loves me, this is my call. They shall fulfill their duties."*

A special security service was assigned to the journalists and police was sent to the newspaper building. Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office started an investigation on the matter. An official investigation was announced to have been started due to "threat with death" and "incitement to commit crimes by threatening with the aim of creating fear and worry among people."



Press cases

Pressure on journalists and media institutions continued in June with lawsuits filed and sentences issued. According to the data compiled from the press, three media workers were arrested and investigations against nine journalists have turned into lawsuits within the one-month period. According to the data shared by Republican People's Party (CHP)

Media Committee member Barış Yarkadaş, there were 182 journalists in Turkish prisons in June. Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) leader launched an advertisement, targeting journalists who criticized himself and his party during the electoral campaigns; criminal organization leader Alaattin Çakıcı threatened journalists. Here are some of the prominent news of the one-month period:

Investigation against journalist due to social media posts on Suruç

An investigation was opened against journalist Sedat Sur due to his social media posts on the incidents in Suruç, in which four people have lost their lives. *"I tried to prevent information pollution, disinformation, whereas they've opened an investigation against me,"* Özgürüz reporter Sur said.

The electoral campaign visit of Justice and Development Party (AKP) MP candidate İbrahim Halil Yıldız on June 14th has turned into an attack against the shop owners in Suruç, leading to four people losing their lives in the following turmoil. Relatives of AKP MP Yıldız killed Hacı Esvet Şenyaşar together with his sons Adil and Celal; Yıldız's brother lost his life as well. The journalist wrote on the social media: *"We reach out to everyone in Suruç, politicians, shop owners, from all parts of society - we want to know what happened."* Sur further shared the expressions of some witnesses of the attack, as well as Republican

People's Party (CHP) Suruç District Chairman Servet Göre's statement: *"A father was slaughtered at the hospital together with his son after going there after his wounded son."*

Reasoned decision announced in Cumhuriyet Case

The reasoned decisions were announced regarding the imprisonment sentences issued against Cumhuriyet newspaper writers and executives due to 'aiding an illegal organization.' Istanbul 27th Assize Court based the conviction on the defendants' activities of journalism.

The court expressed that some headlines, columns and news articles published on the issues of the newspaper were included in the case file as crime evidence and based the conviction on the changes in the newspaper's publishing policy, which it described as "dramatic." On the other hand, the court claimed that this change is not criticized, the change is referred solely due to indicate connections with aiding illegal organizations. The court also tweezed the news in question by evaluating them out of context, just as it was in the indictment and the Prosecutor opinion on the case; indicating that these news established criteria for the final evaluation towards the conviction of aiding an illegal organization.

Judicial fine against DIHA Managing Editor Müftüoğlu

Diyarbakır 5th Assize Court sentenced Dicle News Agency (DIHA) Managing Editor Dicle Müftüoğlu to a judicial fine corresponding to 1041 days of imprisonment. Müftüoğlu was on trial due to 'publications legitimizing terrorist organization methods including violence, force or threat' regarding 20 news published by the agency in 2015. The agency has previously been shut down with an emergency decree. On trial within the same case, the agency's Executive Board Chairman Zekeriya Güzüpek was acquitted; Müftüoğlu's sentence was deferred. In case the journalist is sentenced to a penalty within a different case file within the next five years, the judicial fine will be additionally executed.

Lawsuit against Cumhuriyet reporter Canan Coşkun

A lawsuit was filed against Cumhuriyet Newspaper reporter Canan Coşkun following her coverage of lawyers testifying at the Prosecutor's Office on 20 September 2017 after being taken into custody within an investigation against DHKP-C, with the title, *"14 lawyers of Nuriye and Semih arrested."* The indictment of the case at Istanbul 26th Assize Court charges the journalist with *"reporting news in a way that would endanger the purpose of investigation"* and *"revealing witnesses and targeting them for terrorist organizations."* Defending herself in the first hearing of the case, Coşkun will stand trial in the second hearing on 10 July 2018.

Lawsuit against column due to 'insulting Erdoğan'

A lawsuit was filed against Evrensel Newspaper writer Kamil Tekin Sürek due to his column, entitled, *"Fascist Dictatorship."* The indictment, accepted by Bakırköy 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance, charges Sürek with insulting President Erdoğan with his expressions: *"In fascist dictatorships, lawsuits would be filed against you with your slightest criticism against the government, you would be dismissed from profession and even be*

announced a terrorist. However, any illegal act of the people in power are not subject to trialing. How do we know this? From the history. Hitler, Mussolini, Salazar, Franco, Pinochet, Saddam, bin Ali all governed their countries like this."

Lawsuit against journalists over sharing news on social media

A lawsuit was filed against seven journalists, who shared a news article on the operation conducted in Sur during the curfews and clashes on the social media, with the allegation of 'targeting those partaking in the fight against terrorism.'

The indictment accepted by Diyarbakır 9th Assize Court claims imprisonment sentences against the defendants for up to three years due to sharing the news published on February 2016, with the title, "*The name of the siege is 'Flag 12', led by Musa Çitil*" on the social media. The defendant journalists are DIHA News Director Ömer Çelik, DIHA reporters Çağdaş Kaplan, Hamza Gündüz, Selman Çiçek and journalist A.Vahap Taş as well as Özgür Gündem's Managing Editor İnan Kızılkaya and owner Kemal Sancılı, who shared the news on the official social media account of previously shutdown Özgür Gündem Newspaper. An additional imprisonment sentence for up to five years was claimed against Çiçek with the allegation of 'making illegal organization propaganda' with his social media posts.

Investigation against FOX TV news

Bakırköy Chief Public Prosecutor's Office started an investigation against the FOX TV news on Mersin Public Hospital due to 'denigrating government institutions,' 'insult' and 'slander.' FOX TV news anchor Fatih Portakal and managing director İbrahim Onur Kumbaracıbaşı are suspects in the investigation started following the complaint of the Ministry of Health. Bakırköy 1st Criminal Judicature of Peace issued a disclaimer text to be broadcasted on FOX TV screens related to the news.



Courtrooms

Artists, writers, MPs, social media users were in courtrooms again in June, faced with charges such as 'insulting Erdoğan,' 'making illegal organization propaganda' and 'illegal organization membership.' Conscientious objectors were penalized due to 'violating the Law on Military Service;' electoral activities were charged with 'illegal organization

propaganda' and sit-in protests with 'denigrating the Turkish National Anthem.' Here are some of the prominent news of this month:

Former HDP MP Ferhat Encü sentenced to imprisonment within TCK 301

Former People's Democratic Party (HDP) Şırnak MP Ferhat Encü was convicted in another file after losing his seat at the Parliament on February 6th following the definitive

imprisonment sentence against him. Idil 1st Criminal Court of First Instance sentenced Encü to 10 months of imprisonment due to 'public denigration of the government of the Republic of Turkey, judicial institutions of state, military or security organizations of state' by not allowing his house in Idil district of Şırnak to be searched during curfews. The sentence was turned into a judicial fine.

Penalty against conscientious objector Şendoğan Yazıcı

Artvin Borçka Criminal Court of First Instance sentenced conscientious objector Şendoğan Yazıcı to 62 days of imprisonment due to 'violating the Law of Military Service.' The sentence was turned into 640 TL of judicial fine.

The court recognized the right to conscientious objection in the reasoned decision, which differed from similar cases. However, it was claimed that Yazıcı did not apply to the administration with an official letter while announcing his conscientious objection, therefore "not using his right to conscientious objection in accordance with the legal procedure." The court further indicated that international conventions are binding even in case they conflict with domestic law, in accordance with Article 90 of the Constitution; and that despite a clear provision in the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) on the matter, that the right to conscientious objection was recognized in precedents of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR).

Cartoonist Nuri Kurtcebe arrested due to 'insulting Erdoğan'

Cartoon artist Nuri Kurtcebe was arrested due to insulting Erdoğan with a cartoon he drew in 2015. Following the appeal court approval of the imprisonment sentence against him for 1 year, 2 months and 15 days, Kurtcebe was sent to Yalova Prison and was released on probation two days later. 69-year-old Kurtcebe has previously drawn cartoons for humour magazines like *Gırgır* and *Limon* as well as newspapers like *Hürriyet* and *Cumhuriyet*. He was lately publishing daily comics under the title, "*Reverse Corner*" on *Aydınlık* Newspaper.

Nine HDP members released after arrest during election period

The indictment against 10 People's Democratic Party (HDP) members, who were arrested on May 3rd by Istanbul 5th Criminal Judicature of Peace with the allegation of 'making illegal organization propaganda' after being taken into custody with a raid organized against the electoral meeting in HDP Güngören district building in Istanbul on April 28th, was completed. Accepting the indictment, Istanbul 23rd Assize Court issued the release of nine people, including HDP Istanbul Provincial Co-Chair Cengiz Çiçek. The party's Güngören District Co-Chair Ömer Özkan remains arrested; the first hearing of the case will be held on August 3rd.

Artist Jiyan arrested over saying "Kurdistan"

Koma Rosîda's solist Jiyan was arrested due to 'making illegal organization propaganda' by saying "Kurdistan" as part of the song lyrics she was singing while performing at the People's Democratic Party (HDP) Ağrı Provincial Organization rally in Patnos. The host of

the rally Ali Ümran Daşkaya was taken into custody as well due to using the expression, “*Democracy martyrs*” in his speech. Daşkaya was later released with judicial control.

Investigation against leaflet due to ‘insulting President’

An investigation was started against Labour Party (EMEP) members due to ‘insulting Erdoğan’ after distributing the leaflets prepared by the party following the June 24 elections, with the title, “Order/Capital Parties Can’t Resolve Issues of People.” Eight EMEP Kadıköy District Organization members were summoned to testify within the investigation.

Lawsuit against sit-in protest due to ‘denigrating Turkish National Anthem’

A lawsuit was filed against architect Alev Şahin, who is performing a sit-in protest in Düzce for more than a year to get her job back after being dismissed from profession with an emergency decree, with the allegation of “public denigration of the Turkish National Anthem.” Şahin was acquitted in the first hearing of the case at Düzce 5th Criminal Court of First Instance. The indictment of the case charged Şahin due to not standing up while another group making a press statement to support the Olive Branch Operation sang the Turkish National Anthem.

Investigation against Conscientious Objection Association Co-Chair

Diyarbakır Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office started an investigation against Conscientious Objection Association Co-Chair Merve Arkun due to the press statement made by the association in Diyarbakır for 15 May 2016, World Conscientious Objectors Day. Arkun is charged with ‘making illegal organization propaganda’ within the investigation.

Imprisonment against those protesting Social Fabric Foundation Chairman Nurettin Yıldız

16 people were sentenced to imprisonment varying from 1 year to 1 year and 8 months due to ‘violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations No. 2911’ after protesting Social Fabric Foundation Chairman Nurettin Yıldız, who attracted reactions after his statements legitimizing abuse and pedophilia. Sinop 1st Criminal Court of First Instance decided for the deferral of the sentence against 12 defendants; 13 were acquitted. Yıldız had arrived in Sinop on 12 May 2016 for the conference, “*The patience of these times,*” and faced protests.



Social media operations

Custodies, investigations and lawsuits against social media posts continued with full speed in June. According to the data announced by the Ministry of the Interior, the number of social media users subject to legal proceeding within the last month has become close to 1500. Social media

users were charged with ‘making illegal organization propaganda,’ ‘insulting government authorities,’ ‘inciting people towards resentment, hatred and hostility’ and ‘intending against the indivisible integrity of state.’ A blog writer’s Twitter post, saying, *“I am the servant of West”* referring to his son Batı [West] and the following search at her home for evidence on ‘terrorist organization membership’ once again revealed the tragic and funny dimensions of the events.

Lawsuit against translator Sebla Küçük due to ‘Afrin’ posts

A lawsuit was filed against translator Sebla Küçük with the allegation that she has made ‘terrorist organization propaganda’ through her social media posts on the Olive Branch Operation.

The indictment, accepted by Istanbul 35th Assize Court, asserts that Küçük made ‘illegal organization propaganda by praising the methods of armed terrorist organization’ through the posts she made by translating news of foreign journalists as well as of Reuters News Agency during the operation. The first hearing of the case will be held on November 22nd with an imprisonment claim for up to 7 years and six months. Küçük also published the speeches of former Halkbank Deputy Director Hakan Atilla during his proceeding in the United States on the social media by translating them from foreign sources.

Summary against CHP MP Tanrıkulu due to ‘illegal organization propaganda’

A summary was prepared against Republican People’s Party (CHP) Istanbul MP Sezgin Tanrıkulu with the allegation of ‘making illegal organization propaganda’ through his social media posts. The summary charged the MP with sharing a photo of people tortured and searched naked during an operation in Muğla with the expression, *“This photo will never be forgotten and these human rights violations will be recorded on you permanently”* as well as other posts in which Tanrıkulu wrote *“No to War”* during the ‘Olive Branch Operation’ period. Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office asserted that Tanrıkulu *“displayed a terrorist organization as innocent and good-willed in both the national and the international media by praising it, legitimizing its activities and thus making terrorist organization propaganda”* through the related posts.

Imprisonment sentence against photographer due to ‘illegal organization propaganda’

Award-winning photographer Uygur Önder Şimşek, who shoots for international press organizations, was sentenced to 2 years and six months of imprisonment in the case he was on trial in Bursa due to his social media posts, which involved the photographs he has taken. Reporters Without Borders Germany Director Christian Mihr reacted against the sentence, saying, *“It is absurd to charge a photographer with making terrorist organization propaganda due to the photographs he has taken at zones of war and crisis.”* Photos of Şimşek in many crisis and clash zones including Syria, Iran and Turkey have been published on worldwide-famous international media organizations such as Time, Der Spiegel, Washington Post and New York Times.

Imprisonment sentence against social media post involving word “Kurdistan”

Erzincan 2nd Assize Court sentenced Erzincan University student S. B. to 1 year and 3 months of imprisonment due to 'making illegal organization propaganda' by sharing a photo of a heart with the word, "Kurdistan," on the social media.



Access bans

Istanbul 11th Criminal Judicature of Peace brought access bans on the news covering the lawsuit in which two police officers are on trial due to forgery of documents after changing the testimonials of Onur Yaser Can, who later committed suicide due to the torture he was exposed to under

custody. 11 news URLs were banned with the decree, including the news article published on our website on 26 May 2015 with the title, "Recusation Claim at Onur Yaser Can Case." The Criminal Judicature of Peace claimed that the related news "attack personal rights" of the case judge Mahmut Lütfü Yenihal.

Istanbul 9th Criminal Judicature of Peace brought an access ban on the news regarding vocal artist Sevim Tanürek's death. Tanürek had lost her life in 1998 after being hit by a car which was driven by President Erdoğan's son Burak Erdoğan. The case of Tanürek's death was recently reawakened due to the speeches of Republican People's Party (CHP) Presidential candidate Muharrem İnce and President Erdoğan targeting each other at electoral rallies. Access to news published on many news websites including Diken, Cumhuriyet, Ahval and Yeniçağ restating how the Sevim Tanürek murder happened by quoting İnce on his rally speech implying that Burak Erdoğan has caused Tanürek's death was banned.

Istanbul 7th Criminal Judicature of Peace brought an access ban on the column written by Evrensel Newspaper writer Erol Aral published three years ago with the title, "İlhan is the Yaşar of which tunnel?" Aral was claimed to have violated the personal rights of Prof. Dr. Yaşar Hacısalıhoğlu while criticizing the professor's opinions presented at the show he participated on CNN Turk.

You may find details and more on <http://www.dusun-think.net/?dil=en> and read our weekly bulletins on <http://www.dusun-think.net/?s=bulten>