

Think, think...

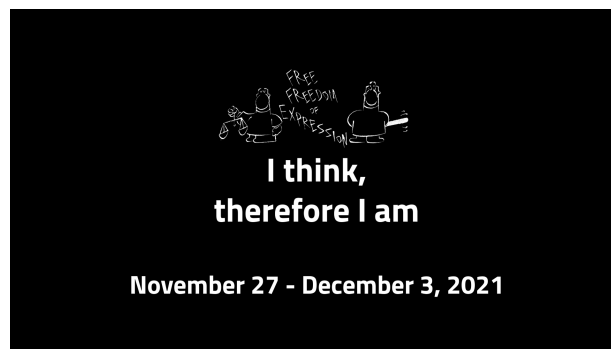


Freedom of Expression Weekly Newsletter (Issue 47/21 - December 3, 2021)

What happened last week?

- Mazlum İçli was arrested at the age of 14 and has been in prison for 7 years after being sentenced to life imprisonment on charges of killing 4 people, including Yasin Börü, in the Kobani events of October 6-8, 2014. It was recently "detected that he was at a wedding" at the time of the incident, which opened the trial [to debate](#)...
- The foundation management, which owns Cumhuriyet Daily, fired 8 trade union member journalists, 5 of whom were women, one week after signing a collective bargaining agreement with the union. In a press release, the dismissed journalists, trade unionists and their colleagues [called on the foundation management](#) to resign.
- The founding member of the Democracy and Progress (DEVA) Party, retired captain Metin Gürcan, was arrested by the court to which he was referred on charges of "political and military espionage". While the party's lawyer Parliament Member Mustafa Yeneroğlu, described what happened as a "legal monstrosity", he stated that there was not even a "sign of strong criminal suspicion" regarding the accusation attributed to Gürcan in the file. It was learned that Gürcan [was asked about](#) his meetings with the embassy officials of the two countries during his interrogation.
- Despite their trial, which resulted in non-prosecution, 21 Education and Science Workers' Union members in Diyarbakır were expelled from schools with a Statutory Decree on the basis that they were "affiliated with a terrorist organization".
- The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe gathered at the level of ambassadors. The necessary [two thirds majority was achieved](#) in the election held for the "initiation of the violation process" against Turkey, which did not implement the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) decree requiring the release of Osman Kavala, in the committee. The Council gave Turkey time until January 19 to present its opinion. The Council announced that they expect Selahattin Demirtaş to be released as soon as possible.
- After the resignation of Central Bank Markets General Manager Doruk Küçüksaraç, the U.S. dollar exchange rate regressed to 13 liras against the US dollar. According to the third quarter data of the Turkish Statistical Institute, Turkey grew by 7.4; whereas the expectation was 8.1... Every speech by Erdoğan continues to bring fluctuations in the foreign exchange markets.
- Minister of Treasury and Finance Lütfi Elvan resigned from his position. Nureddin Nebati, the deputy minister appointed to replace him, had been one of the first to announce his support for Albayrak, along with Minister of Commerce Mehmet Muş, at the time when Berat Albayrak resigned but no official statement had been made yet.

- CHP leader Kemal Kılıçdarođlu wanted to make a spontaneous visit to the Turkish Statistical Institute, after they could not receive an answer to their appointment requests, but the meeting could not be held yet again. Kılıçdarođlu reminded the authorities of the institution in front of the Turkish Statistical Institute building about their responsibilities that closely concern the lives of thousands of people. Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu accused Kılıçdarođlu of raiding places like terrorist organizations do! Meanwhile, the Turkish Statistical Institute announced the inflation data for November: According to the Institute, the monthly inflation rate is 3.51 percent, and the annual inflation rate is 21.31 percent!
- The commemoration organized by the Alparslan Türkeş Foundation in Ankara was raided by a group of Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) members, and a brawl ensued. Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) leader Devlet Bahçeli and party spokesman Semih Yalçın targeted Ankara Metropolitan Municipality Mayor Mansur Yavaş, who also comes from the same tradition as them. Both names threatened the mayor, who allocated a hall for the event, with the words, "he should be careful because he should know that the nationalists have their breath behind his neck"...
- A citizen named Çetin Kaya was killed in Istanbul Göztepe on the grounds that he did not comply with the "stop warning" of the police. While it was claimed that Kaya was killed with close range shooting as he was lying on the ground in handcuffs after being taken out of his vehicle, [it was claimed](#) that all CCTV records at the crime scene were deleted. After increasing reactions, it was announced that the police officer, who pulled the trigger, was arrested.
- According to the news compiled by BiaNet, which keeps a record of male violence; men killed at least 34 women and three children and raped two women in November. Men inflicted violence on at least 62 women, abused at least 11 children, harassed at least 16 women, and forced 56 women into sex labour.



Our weekly video program, “[COGITO ERGO SUM](#),” in which we track Turkey’s freedom of expression and thought agenda, is on our [YouTube channel](#) every Friday...

[Please click here](#) for all video newsletters...



25 detained in protest against economy

On Sunday, November 28, the police attacked the economy protests organised by Ankara Labour and Democracy Forces in front of Çankaya Municipality. 25 people, including Jin News reporter Öznur Değer, were beaten and detained.



RTÜK fines radio channel

The Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK) fined the Kafa Radyo due to the radio's show host Nihat Sırdar's expressions on air, who said, "It is unclear where the money collected goes" being considered "a violation of the principle of accuracy/impartiality."



Police officers receive no penalty after leaving Gezer paralyzed

4 police officers were acquitted after shooting and paralyzing Mehmet Emin Gezer, who was in front of the police station on October 7, 2014, to question what happened to the perpetrators of his brother, who was killed during the Kobanê protests. An objection was made against the decree of Midyat Assize Court that "there is no reason for penalisation" for four police officers, who were tried on the charge of "willful homicide attempt". The 1st Chamber of the Supreme Court of Appeals found the objection made by the lawyers of the defendant police officers, that "they should be acquitted", appropriate, ruling that the shooting of Gezer was an "inevitable mistake".



Documentary-maker Oktay Ince convicted

Video-activist and documentary filmmaker Oktay Ince was sentenced to 1 year, 2 months and 17 days in prison at the Izmir Kemalpaşa 1st Criminal Court of First Instance, where he was charged with "insulting the President" in accordance with Article 299 of the Turkish Criminal Code for his social media posts. The announcement of the verdict was

deferred.



Saymaz to pay back compensation received from Küçük with additional interest

The compensation case, in which journalist İsmail Saymaz won 18 thousand Turkish Liras from Türkiye Daily writer Cem Küçük, returned from appeal. According to the appeal decree, Saymaz will pay back 23 thousand Turkish Liras, including interest, in return for the compensation paid by Küçük. After İsmail Saymaz reached out to David

Keynes, the patent owner of ByLock, Küçük said, "Bylock is a file that the Turkish National Intelligence Agency is most sensitive to. Our organization is very upset. Shooter İsmail Saymaz will pay a heavy price like Mehmet Baransu."



DGF's October "Rights Violations Against Journalists" report launched

The October "Report on Right Violations Against Journalists" of Dicle Fırat Journalists Association has been launched. According to the report, 3 journalists were detained in October, 8 journalists faced investigations. 3 people were sentenced to 2 years, 6 months and 12 days in prison as well as a

fine of 16,660 Turkish Liras. [Please click here](#) for the full report.



Lawyer Hakan Mazman sentenced to imprisonment

Lawyer Hakan Mazman, who was on trial for "insulting the President" due to his social media posts, was sentenced to 1 year and 2 months in prison.



YouTuber arrested for street interview

Hasan Köksoy, who broadcasts street interviews in Antalya through his YouTube channel, announced that he was detained due to an interview he made. His lawyer Ömer Faruk Dağ announced the news on his Twitter account. There were also news on social media that the citizen, who gave the

interview to Köksoy, was also arrested.



Investigation over leaflet prepared by CHP

An investigation was launched against 7 Republican People's Party (CHP) members, including Istanbul Provincial Secretary Oğuz Kemal Yakar and Istanbul Provincial Deputy Chairman Mert Bahçetepe, on charges of "insulting the President". Party members testified because of the "SaBıKa Holding" brochure

prepared and distributed by the Republican People's Party (CHP), which dealt with fugitive Sezgin Baran Korkmaz of money laundering charges, as well as his political relations. There were also those detained during the distribution of the brochure in Ankara and Istanbul.



Writer Zekine Türkeri on trial

Journalist and writer Zekine Türkeri stood trial for the first time in the lawsuit filed against her on the charge of "terrorist organisation membership" based on her social media posts. The prosecutor presented their opinion in the first hearing, requesting Türkeri's penalisation. Istanbul 13th Assize Court scheduled the next hearing for March

15.



Imprisonment sentence against Peace Mother Özbek

72-year-old Makbule Özbek was sentenced to 7 years and six months of imprisonment in the lawsuit filed against her due to "terrorist organisation membership." Özbek has previously been arrested within an investigation conducted by Diyarbakır Chief Public Prosecutor's Office against the Democratic Society Congress and was

later released due to her health problems.



Özkefeli acquitted of charges related to social media post on Deniz Gezmiş

Atatürkist Thought Association Samsun Branch President Işık Özkefeli and United Public-Labour Samsun Representative Onur Gündüz were acquitted of the charge of "making propaganda for a terrorist organization" because of their social media posts on Deniz Gezmiş.



TRIALS OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Case Against Boğaziçi Protests</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against 52 students, who were detained on campus and released with judicial measures after the protest organized by Boğaziçi students against the trustee rector on February 1, on charges of "violating the Law No. 2911" and "depriving one of their liberty"...</p> <p>Court: Istanbul 49th Criminal Court of First Instance</p> <p>Verdict: Judicial measures against the students were lifted, and their requests to be excluded from the hearings were accepted. The court decided to write a letter of rogatory to receive the defense statements of the defendants abroad and to issue an arrest warrant for the defendants, who did not attend the hearing without an excuse. The case was adjourned to February 21.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Evrensel Daily and Ceren Sözeri Case</u></p> <p>The hearing of the 200 thousand TL compensation lawsuit filed by Turkuvaz Media Group official Serhat Albayrak against Evrensel Daily and the newspaper's writer Ceren Sözeri for her article, entitled, "Who caused the Justice and Development Party (AKP) to lose votes?"...</p> <p>Court: Istanbul Courthouse 2nd Commercial Court of First Instance</p> <p>Verdict: The court scheduled the next hearing for April 13.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Aziz Oruç, Ersin Çaksu Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against Aziz Oruç, Ersin Çaksu on charges of "publicly insulting the Turkish Nation, the State of the Republic of Turkey, the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, the government of the Republic of Turkey and the judicial organs of the state, the military or security organization of the state"...</p> <p>Court: Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance</p> <p>Verdict: The court adjourned the case to March 24, deciding for the arrest warrant against Çaksu to remain and to wait for the warrant's execution.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Journalist Deniz Yücel Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against Die Welt reporter Deniz Yücel on the charge of "insulting a public official" based on a tweet he shared on February 20, 2019 regarding the "Gezi Park Indictment"...</p> <p>Court: Istanbul 24th Criminal Court of First Instance</p> <p>Verdict: The prosecutor requested for the penalisation of Yücel and the case was adjourned to December 28.</p>

<p><u>Case Against “Bosphorus Leakage” News</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against Cumhuriyet Daily reporter Hazal Ocak, Editor-in-Chief Olcay Büyüktaş, Editor-in-Chief İpek Özbey and photo-journalist Vedat Arık on charges of “targeting those who took part in the fight against terrorism” and “violation of privacy” upon the complaint of Presidential Communications Director Fahrettin Altun due to the news article, titled "There is Leakage in the Bosphorus"...</p> <p>Court: Istanbul 26th Assize Court Verdict: The court adjourned the case by demanding the Personal Data Protection Law decree, dated June 9, with an emphasis on “press freedom” as well as the detection report of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Boğaziçi Zoning Directorate on the structure in question, adjourning the case to March 31.</p>	<p><u>Reyhan Çapan Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against Reyhan Çapan, former Editor-in-Chief of Özgür Gündem, on charges of "propagandizing for an organization through the press" and "printing or publishing the statements of terrorist organizations", by combining 18 separate indictments against her...</p> <p>Court: Istanbul 2nd Assize Court Verdict: The court adjourned the case to March 16, deciding to wait for the execution of the arrest warrant.</p>
<p><u>Newspaper Distributors Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against newspaper distributors Mikail Tunçdemir and Ferhat Duman on the charge of "willfully aiding a terrorist organization" and "propagandizing for a terrorist organization"...</p> <p>Court: Van 5th Assize Court Verdict: The case was adjourned to March 3.</p>	<p><u>Ankara 2012 Newroz Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed seven years ago against rights advocates, including Temel Demirer and Mahmut Konuk, due to the 2012 Newroz celebrations in Ankara...</p> <p>Court: Ankara Courthouse 23rd Criminal Court of First Instance Verdict: The case was adjourned to February 10.</p>
<p><u>MEBYA-DER Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against 18 members and directors of the Association for Assistance and Solidarity with the Bereaved in the Cradle of Civilizations (MEBYA-DER) on the charge of "terrorist organization membership"...</p> <p>Court: Van 3rd Assize Court Verdict: Information on the court verdict could not be reached.</p>	

HEARINGS NEXT WEEK

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Kenan Kırkaya Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist Kenan Kırkaya and 8 others on the charge of "terrorist organization membership" for being the moderator of the show, "Glance at Ankara" on Med Nuce TV Channel, which broadcasts in Turkish in Belgium, was tried together with 8 people...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">December 7, Tuesday at Ankara 14th Assize Court</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Levent Tüzel Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against former Labour Party (EMEP) Chairman and former Parliament Member Levent Tüzel on the charge of "terrorist organisation membership" for taking part in the Democratic Society Congress councils and participating in the congress activities...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">December 7, Tuesday at Diyarbakır 5th Assize Court</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Gökhan Yavuzel Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against writer Gökhan Yavuzel on the charge of "public incitement towards hatred and enmity" for an article with a culture and art content...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">December 7, Tuesday at Ankara 7th Criminal Court of First Instance</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Aziz Oruç Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist Aziz Oruç, who was arrested in December 2019 in the Doğubeyazıt district of Ağrı, People's Democratic Party (HDP) Doğubeyazıt District Co-Chair Abdullah Ekelek, former municipal assembly member Muhammet İkrım Müftüođlu and 5 others on charges of "terrorist organisation membership," "making propaganda for a terrorist organisation" and "aiding a terrorist organisation"...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">December 8, Wednesday at Ağrı 2nd Assize Court</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Vartinis Massacre Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed regarding the Vartinis Massacre, in which 9 people, including 7 children, were killed on October 3, 1993 in Altınova town of Korkut district in Muş...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">December 9, Thursday at Kırıkale 1st Assize Court</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>RedHack Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalists Tunca Öđreten, Mahir Kanaar, Derya Okatan, Ömer Çelik, Eray Sargın and Metin Yoksu on charges of "making terrorist organisation propaganda," "prevention and disruption of informatics system, destruction or changing of data," "acting on behalf of a terrorist organisation without membership" and "terrorist organisation membership" due to covering the emails belonging to Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, Berat Albayrak, leaked by RedHack...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">December 9, Thursday at Istanbul 29th Assize Court</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Çetin Kurşun Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist Çetin Kurşun on the charge of “illegal organisation membership”...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">December 9, Thursday at Mardin 2nd Assize Court</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Case Against 2021 Pride March</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against 8 people, who were detained during the 2021 Istanbul Pride Parade after it was banned by Beyoğlu District Governorate, on the charge of “violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations”...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">December 10, Friday at Istanbul 16th Criminal Court of First Instance</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Beyza Kural Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against police officers K.A., N.D. and Y.Ş., who prevented journalist Beyza Kural from performing her profession, on the charge of “violation of the freedom to labour” in accordance with Articles 117/1 and 119/1-e of the Turkish Criminal Code...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">December 10, Friday at Istanbul 3rd Criminal Court of First Instance</p>	

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