

Think, think...



Freedom of Expression Weekly Newsletter (Issue 18/24, May 17, 2024)

What happened last week?

- The court announced its verdict in the trial of 108 Kurdish and socialist politicians known as the "Kobani Case". Former HDP co-chairs Selahattin Demirtaş and Figen Yüksekdağ were sentenced to 42 and 30 years in prison respectively. While the files of 72 defendants whose testimonies could not be taken were separated; Gültan Kışanak, Sebahat Tuncel, Ayla Akat Aka were released from prison considering the time they spent in prison. Mardin Mayor Ahmet Türk was sentenced to 10 years in prison. Altan Tan, Sırrı Süreyya Önder and Ayhan Bilgen were acquitted. All defendants were acquitted of the murder of "Yasin Börü and his friends" for which Erdoğan's propaganda was at the forefront.
- After 37 rounds of negotiations, Ömer Kerkez was elected President of the Court of Cassation. The election of the president of the Supreme Court of Cassation, one of the three pillars of the higher judiciary, became the subject of a political triangle between the AKP, MHP and the Brotherhood in front of the eyes of the entire public. Opinions on which group Ömer Kerkez represents turned into a snake story, just like the elections! Meanwhile, Erdoğan appointed Muhsin Şentürk, who withdrew from the race in the 35th round of the presidential elections, as the Chief Public Prosecutor of the Court of Cassation. Şentürk was the president of the 3rd Chamber of the Court of Cassation, which signed the Can Atalay decision.
- Erdoğan pardoned the arrested generals accused of the February 28 postmodern coup attempt! With the decision published in the Official Gazette, the sentences of Aydan Erol, Çevik Bir, Çetin Doğan, Fevzi Türkeri, Cevat Özkaynak, Yıldırım Türker and Erol Özkasnak, who were convicted in the February 28 Case, were lifted.
- The Istanbul 13th High Criminal Court rejected the retrial request of Osman Kavala, convicted in the Gezi Trial, which has become one of the symbolic cases of the Turkish legal system(!).
- The elections are behind us, the government has announced "austerity measures" that will remain in force until the next elections... But according to most economists, the mountain has given birth to a mouse! The package announced by Mehmet Şimşek did not include any concrete steps other than the purchase and leasing of cars and representation expenses of the public sector.



Protest ban in Van

Van Governorate banned all meetings and demonstrations in the city for 6 days between May 10-15 on the grounds of public security.



Newspaper distributor sentenced to prison

Azime Bozkurt, Dersim (Tunceli) distributor of Yeni Yaşam newspaper, was sentenced to 2 years and 1 month in prison at Tunceli 2nd Assize Court on charges of "aiding an illegal organization".



Tarlabası Community Center case dismissed

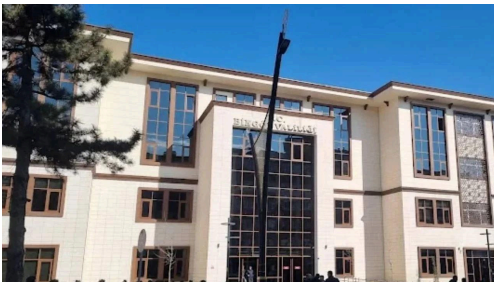
Since 2006, the lawsuit filed against the Tarlabası Community Center, which has been working to solve the social and economic problems of Tarlabası residents and has been the target of ethnic discrimination and anti-LGBTI+ hateful smear campaigns by the ruling media, was rejected.

Istanbul Governorate had filed a lawsuit at the Istanbul 8th Civil Court of Peace with the demand to determine the spontaneous termination of the association on the grounds that "the realization of the association's purpose has become impossible".



Students detained in Emre Akman protest

University students who protested on İstiklal Street against the brutal stabbing of Ata Emre Akman, a university student who also worked as a moto courier in Balıkesir, in the middle of the street on the evening he made a delivery, were detained.



Protest ban in Elazığ and Bingöl

Elazığ and Bingöl Governorates banned all meetings and demonstrations in both cities for 4 days between May 16-19 on the grounds of public security, immediately after the verdict in the Kobani case was announced.



DEM Party members detained in Çeşme

DEM party members and executives Ali Güleser, Ali Akkuş, Koray Türkay, Nuran Dokçu, Cesim Kaya, Hüsnü Çetin were detained when they wanted to hold a press statement in Çeşme, İzmir to protest the court's decision in the Kobane case.



Barış Terkoğlu acquitted

Journalist Barış Terkoğlu was acquitted in the "insult" lawsuit filed by Süheyb Öğüt, the ex-husband of Sabah newspaper columnist Hilal Kaplan, on the grounds of his interview titled "Pelikancıların İstanbul Savaşı".



TRIALS OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

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| <p><u>Lawsuit Against Yeni Yaşam Newspaper</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against Yeni Yaşam newspaper's Editor-in-Chief Mehmet Ferhat Çelik and Managing Editor Osman Akın due to "insult" and "slander" through 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), which were published on the bribery and corruption allegations that came to the agenda with the revelations of mafia leader Sedat Peker...</p> <p>Court: Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance</p> <p>Hearing outcome: The hearing was adjourned due to the judge's leave of absence.</p> | <p><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 an illegal organization member"...</p> <p>Court: Bitlis 2nd Assize Court</p> <p>Hearing outcome: The trial will continue on September 26.</p> |
| <p><u>Cow Feast Trial</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against 10 students and graduates who organized the traditional 'Cow Feast' of Ankara University Faculty of Political Sciences with the allegations of "publicly insulting the religious values adopted by a section of the public" and "insulting the President"...</p> <p>Court: Ankara 68th Criminal Court of First Instance</p> <p>Hearing outcome: The trial will continue on September 26.</p> | <p><u>Hayri Demir Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist Hayri Demir due to "membership to a terrorist organization" and "terrorist organization propaganda" on the grounds of his journalistic activity in northern Syria...</p> <p>Court: Ankara 15th High Criminal Court</p> <p>Hearing outcome: The trial will continue on September 18.</p> |

İlyas Salman Trial

The lawsuit filed against the artist due to "insult" for calling President Erdoğan a "cheap man"...

Court: Istanbul Anatolian 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance

Hearing outcome: The hearing was adjourned to a later date after reviewing the file.

HEARINGS NEXT WEEK

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| <p><u>Akif Beki Trial</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist Akif Beki upon the complaint of Ahmet Mahmut Ünlü, one of the leaders of the İsmailağa Community.</p> <p>Tuesday, May 21; Istanbul Anadolu 26th Criminal Court of First Instance</p> | <p><u>Lawsuit against Emre Orman</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist Emre Orman on the allegation of "resisting the police to prevent them from doing their duty" during the commemoration of the Madımak Massacre in Sancaktepe in 2023...</p> <p>Tuesday, May 21; Istanbul Anadolu 20th Criminal Court of First Instance</p> |
| <p><u>Gezi Trial (Partial retrial)</u></p> <p>The retrial of Ali Hakan Altınay, Yiğit Ali Ekmekçi and Ayşe Mücella Yapıcı, whose sentences of 18 years each in the Gezi Trial were overturned by the 3rd Criminal Chamber of the Court of Cassation, took place at Istanbul 13th High Criminal Court.</p> <p>Wednesday, May 22; Istanbul 13th High Criminal Court</p> | <p><u>Gözde Bedeloğlu Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against BirGün newspaper writer Gözde Bedeloğlu due to "insulting a public officer because of his duty" upon the complaint of MHP MP Sermet Atay...</p> <p>Thursday, May 23; Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance</p> |
| <p><u>Mehmet Emin Aktar Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against former Diyarbakır Bar Association President and lawyer Mehmet Emin Aktar due to "targeting people who took part in the fight against terrorism"...</p> <p>Thursday, May 23; Diyarbakır 5th 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.