

# Think, think...



## Freedom of Expression Weekly Newsletter (Issue 19/24, May 24, 2024)

### What happened last week?

- The by-law, which binds the declaration of mobilization and state of war to the decision of the Council of Ministers, was amended and the authority was given to the President. While the new regulation was criticized for giving the authority to one person, party spokesperson Ömer Çelik, who made a statement after the AKP Central Executive Committee meeting, stated that the amendment aimed to adapt to the new geopolitical order.
  - The “influence agent regulation”, which is expected to be included in the 9th judicial package expected to be on the agenda of the Turkish Grand National Assembly in June, continues to be discussed. NGOs and rights defenders are concerned that the regulation, which stipulates that “*those who conduct or have conducted research on Turkish citizens or institutions and organizations or foreigners in Turkey in line with the strategic interests or instructions of a foreign state or organization to the detriment of the security or domestic or foreign political interests of the state will be punished with imprisonment*”, will make civil society and journalists working for foreign media agencies even easier targets.
  - The AKP is preparing to bring to the parliamentary agenda a regulation that will allow “street dogs to be put to sleep if they cannot be adopted”. While animal rights defenders state that this regulation is a massacre that will result in the violation of the right to life, the opposition, which is thought to be afraid of public reaction, is criticized for not reacting to the draft bill sufficiently. While central and local governments do not allocate resources from their budgets for sterilizing stray animals, controlling their numbers or increasing the number of shelters, the introduction of the most brutal method for the solution of the problem, which has an important sensitivity in society, raises concern.
  - Saturday Mothers' search for justice is in its 1000th week. Galatasaray Square, the symbol of the mothers' search for justice, was completely banned for a long time - despite judicial rulings - and partially opened to the Saturday Mothers' protests for a while. AKP deputy group deputy chairperson Özlem Zengin announced on her social media account that she had met with the Istanbul Governorate and that the square would be opened to the Saturday Mothers' protests in the 1000th week.
  - The opening of the sea season has once again brought to the agenda the occupation of the coasts, the use of which is given to public service by the Constitution, by private businesses. The “Coastal Movement” called on citizens to take their towels and seek their rights on all occupied coasts and swim in the sea.
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### **20 detained at Kaypakkaya commemoration**

20 of the youth protesting in Kadıköy on the anniversary of the death of İbrahim Kaypakkaya, one of the revolutionary youth leaders of the 68 generation who was killed under torture, were detained.



### **Number of arrests in May 1 Istanbul protests rises to 74**

A 3rd wave police operation was carried out against the groups who wanted to celebrate May 1st in Taksim Square in Istanbul. Istanbul Governorate announced that 27 of the 39 protesters for whom arrest warrants were issued were detained. All of the protesters referred to the court were arrested, raising the number of those

arrested for the May 1, 2024 Istanbul rally to 74.



### **Ferit Aslan acquitted in first hearing**

Journalist Ferit Aslan appeared before a judge on charges of “publicly disseminating misleading information” (TCK 217/A) for the news report “A judge in Mardin raided a school with police and had three students detained”. Mardin 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance acquitted him in the first hearing, following the “prosecutor's opinion”.



### **Akif Beki acquitted**

Journalist Akif Beki was acquitted of insult charges at Istanbul Anatolian 26th Criminal Court of First Instance upon the complaint of Ahmet Mahmut Ünlü, one of the leaders of the İsmailağa Community.



### **Retrial of M. Ali Ertaş begins**

Mehmet Ali Ertaş, Managing Editor of the Kurdish daily Xwebûn, appeared before the judge at Diyarbakır 9th Assize Court. Ertaş was sentenced to 1 year and 3 months in prison for “making illegal organization propaganda.” The Constitutional Court found a violation of rights and ruled that the journalist should be retried.



## **TRIALS OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Gözde Bedeloğlu Trial</u></b></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><b>Court:</b> Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance <b>Hearing outcome:</b> The trial will continue on November 12.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Emre Orman Trial</u></b></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><b>Court:</b> Istanbul Anatolian 20th Criminal Court of First Instance <b>Hearing outcome:</b> The trial will continue on October 17.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Gezi Trial (Partial retrial)</u></b></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><b>Court:</b> Istanbul 13th High Criminal Court <b>Hearing outcome:</b> The court rejected the acquittal request and set the next hearing for October 9.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Mehmet Emin Aktar Trial</u></b></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><b>Court:</b> Diyarbakır 5th Criminal Court of First Instance <b>Hearing outcome:</b> The trial will continue on June 28.</p>

## HEARINGS NEXT WEEK

<p><b><u>Case Against Bosphorus Protests</u></b></p> <p>The trial of the case against 13 people who were detained during the protest in Ankara on January 8, 2021, about trustee rector appointment to Boğaziçi University, on the charge of “violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations No 2911”...</p> <p><b>Tuesday, May 28;</b> Ankara 74th Criminal Court of First Instance</p>	<p><b><u>Pelin Ozkaptan Trial</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against the journalist due to “making propaganda for a terrorist organization” through two posts he made on his Twitter (X) account on 27 June 2019 and 27 June 2022...</p> <p><b>Tuesday, May 28;</b> Istanbul 13th High Criminal Court</p>
<p><b><u>Sultan Eylem Keleş Trial</u></b></p> <p>In 2020, the lawsuit filed against journalist Sultan Eylem Keleş, who was prevented and detained by the police while covering a protest organized in Istanbul by BİMEKS workers who did not receive their rights, along with 4 other workers, on charges of “resisting to prevent the execution of duty” and “insult”...</p> <p><b>Tuesday, May 28;</b> Istanbul 56th Criminal Court of First Instance</p>	<p><b><u>Veli Saçılık (217/A) Trial</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against Veli Saçılık due to “publicly spreading misleading information” through his earthquake post...</p> <p><b>Tuesday, May 28;</b> Ankara 10th Criminal Court of First Instance</p>
<p><b><u>Pehlivan &amp; Üçok Trial</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist Barış Terkoğlu and former IYI Party Deputy Chairman Ahmet Zeki Üçok due to “insulting a public officer in a chain”...</p> <p><b>Thursday, May 30;</b> Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance</p>	

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You can also access the pdf format of the bulletin at [dusun-think.net/bultenler](http://dusun-think.net/bultenler).