

Think, think...



Freedom of Expression Weekly Newsletter (Issue 20/24, May 31, 2024)

What happened last week?

- The security barriers set up in Galatasaray Square were removed after 300 weeks. In the 1000th week of their struggle for the disappeared, the Saturday Mothers continued their protests in the square with thousands of participants, saying “we will not give up until we find our loved ones”.
 - Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor's Office demanded a total of 567 years of imprisonment in two separate indictments prepared against 42 people arrested for May 1...
 - The trial of Vezir Mohammad Nourtani, the Afghan worker whose burnt body was found on October 10 last year, began in Zonguldak. It was claimed that the body of the migrant worker was burned to prevent the closure of the unlicensed mine. During the 12-hour first hearing, arrested defendants Enver Gideroğlu and Hakan Körnöş, the owners of the mine, blamed each other for the burning of Nourtani.
 - Minister of Justice Yılmaz Tunç announced that an investigation has been launched against Oktay Tabur, the head of Izmir Judicial Justice Commission, due to the long-barreled weapons and pistols in the photograph he took with members of the higher judiciary in the rest room of the courthouse. Minister of Justice Tunç also announced that Tabur, who is also known for overseeing the Pastor Brunson case, has been dismissed as the head of Izmir Judicial Justice Commission.
 - Antep Regional Court of Appeals Penal Department 3 upheld the prison sentences of 62 people, including political party executives and rights defenders. Through the investigation initiated by Antep Public Prosecutor's Office on July 14, 2020, 91 people including members and executives of Democratic Society Congress (DTK), Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), Democratic Regions Party (DBP), Socialist Refoundation Party (SYKP), Peace Mothers' Assembly, Human Rights Association (İHD) were detained. The lawsuit filed against 91 people at Antep Heavy Penal Court No 2 on the grounds of “being an illegal organization member” and “making propaganda for an illegal organization” was concluded on January 6, 2022. The court sentenced 62 people to 339 years and 7 months in prison for “being an illegal organization member” and “making propaganda for an illegal organization”.
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Police intervention against earthquake victims

On February 6, the police attacked the Justice Watch of earthquake victims who lost their relatives in the February 6 earthquakes in front of the Human Rights Monument in Ankara; banners and banners were confiscated and earthquake victims were removed from the area.



10 detained at DEM Party statement

The police intervened the statement that DEM Party Istanbul Provincial Organization wanted to make in front of Bakırköy Prison about the poor conditions in prisons and sick prisoners who are not released; 10 people,

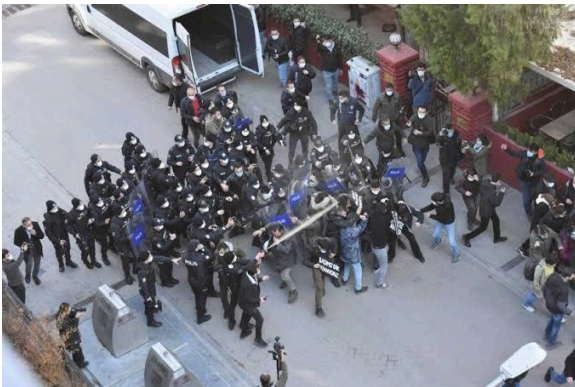
including the provincial co-chair of the party, were detained.



Decision on violation of prohibition of ill-treatment

The Constitutional Court ruled that the right to “prohibition of ill-treatment” of Gülistan Koçyiğit, HDP Deputy Group Chair Gülistan Koçyiğit, who was beaten while protesting the dismissal of Diyarbakır, Van and Mardin Mayors by the Interior Ministry

on August 20, 2019 in Diyarbakır, was violated and ruled for 100 thousand TL compensation.



Case Against Bosphorus Protests

Ankara Penal Court of First Instance No 74 acquitted 13 people who were detained in 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”.



Artist Emel Çiftçi acquitted

Artist Emel Çiftçi was acquitted in the lawsuit filed against her on charges of “membership in an illegal organization” and “leading an illegal organization” in connection with investigations launched in Ankara and Batman based on a secret witness statement. The artist, who was undergoing cancer treatment, was also imprisoned for a while within the scope of the related case.



Trial begins for those detained in earthquake protest

106 of the detained citizens who gathered in Kadıköy district of Istanbul on February 26 to commemorate the victims of the February 6 earthquakes and to protest the state's disaster policies appeared before the judge for the first time on charges of 'opposing the Law No. 2911 on Meetings and Demonstrations'. The trial at the Anatolian Courthouse 8th Criminal Court of First Instance will continue on December 24.



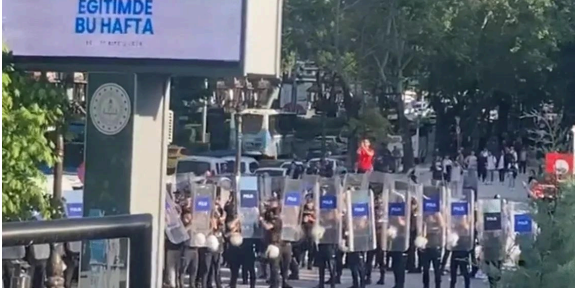
4 arrested youth released

4 young people who were arrested for “resisting the police” during a demonstration 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 released from prison upon an appeal.



5 of May 1st protesters released

5 members of Bin Genç for Palestine (Thousand Young for Palestine), who were detained after participating in May 1st and arrested for chanting 'murderer Israel, collaborator Erdoğan', were released after 25 days in prison following an appeal by their lawyers.



11 teachers detained in front of the Ministry

Eleven members of the Private Sector Teachers' Union who gathered in front of the Ministry demanding a meeting with the Minister of National Education were beaten and detained.



3 educators exiled for commemorating Roboski massacre

Three school principals in Şanlıurfa who shared a commemoration photo on the anniversary of the Roboski massacre on their WhatsApp status messages were first detained by the gendarmerie on New Year's Eve and released with a ban on leaving the

country. Afterwards, the Provincial Directorate of National Education launched an administrative investigation against them and exiled them to different districts. The indictment prepared against one of the principals due to “making illegal organization propaganda” through his social media posts was accepted by Urfa 2nd High Criminal Court. The first hearing of the case will be held on September 18.



Administrative fine imposed on İkizköy mukhtar canceled

Muğla 2nd Administrative Court annulled the administrative fine of 40,189 TL imposed on İkizköy Mukhtar Nejla Işık, who hung a banner against the felling of trees to open a mining site in Akbelen Forests.



IBB security beat citizens

Activists who wanted to protest against the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality's decision to allow the felling of trees to solve the parking problem of Medipol Hospital in Acibadem, Istanbul, were beaten and their banners were torn down by municipal security personnel.



Journalist Melisa Gülbaş appeared before the judge

Journalist Melisa Gülbaş appeared before the judge in the first hearing of the lawsuit filed due to “insulting a public official” upon the complaint of Dr. Mehmet Turan, a faculty member at Boğaziçi University Computer Engineering Department. The next hearing of the case, which continues at Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance, will be held on November 14. The journalist's article in

Gerçek Gündem, which was the subject of the accusation, was about the trustee administration's moving of TETAM, a research center at Boğaziçi University, “with garbage bags”.



TRIALS OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

The case against the “We can't make ends meet” protest

The lawsuit filed against 24 people, including JinNews reporter Öznur Değer, who were detained during the “We Can't Make ends meet” protest organized by Ankara Labor and Democracy Forces in 2021, on the charge of “violating Law No. 2911 on Meetings and Demonstrations”...

Court: Ankara 18th Criminal Court of First Instance

Hearing outcome: A decision hearing is scheduled for June 26.

Pelin Özkaptan Case

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...

Court: Istanbul 13th High Criminal Court
Hearing outcome: The prosecution requested that Özkaptan be sentenced on the charge of “making propaganda for an illegal organization”. The next hearing is scheduled for October 9.

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| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Sultan Eylem Keleş Case</u></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>Court: Istanbul 56th Criminal Court of First Instance Hearing outcome: The case was not heard because the trial judge was on leave.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Veli Saçılık (217/A) Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against Veli Saçılık due to “publicly spreading misleading information” through his earthquake post...</p> <p>Court: Ankara 10th Criminal Court of First Instance Hearing outcome: The case was not heard because the trial judge was on leave.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Özgür Gündem Editors-in-Chief on Watch Trial</u></p> <p>The retrial of Özgür Gündem Editors-in-Chief on Duty Şebnem Korur Fincancı, Erol Önderoğlu and Ahmet Nesin, whose acquittal verdicts against them were overturned on appeal...</p> <p>Court: Istanbul 13th High Criminal Court Hearing outcome: The trial will continue on October 10.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Pehlivan & Üçok Case</u></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>Court: Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance Hearing outcome: The trial will continue on November 21.</p> |

HEARINGS NEXT WEEK

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| <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>Tuesday, June 4; Ankara 19th Criminal Court of First Instance</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>Wednesday, June 5; Istanbul Büyükçekmece 4th Criminal Court of First Instance</p> |
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| <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>Thursday, June 6; Istanbul 26th High Criminal Court</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>Thursday, June 6; Istanbul 14th High Criminal Court</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Av. Eyüp Akıncı Trial</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against him due to “publicly disseminating misleading information” for his social media post criticizing the bribery allegations in Küçükçekmece Courthouse...</p> <p>Friday, June 7; Küçükçekmece 23rd Criminal Court of First Instance</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>Friday, June 7; Istanbul 39th 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.