

# Think, think...



## Freedom of Expression Weekly Newsletter (Issue 22/24, June 14, 2024)

### What happened last week?

- Human Rights Association Van Branch shared with the public its report on the violations of rights that occurred during the bans on protests and events, which were extended every 15 days in succession between November 21, 2016 and July 24, 2022.
- Ramazan Kartalmış, a lawyer and former mayor of Diyarbakır's Ergani district, was taken into custody after he applied to the Ergani Chief Public Prosecutor's Office a month ago, stating that he knew there was an investigation against him, that his daughter was preparing for her university entrance exam and that he would come if called to testify.
- During a joint press conference with Spanish Prime Minister Sanchez in Madrid, President Erdoğan responded to a question about Kavala and Demirtaş, who have not been released from prison despite European Court of Human Rights rulings, with the same untruthful statements. Erdoğan called both names "terrorists" registered by judicial verdicts, while continuing his disinformation about Demirtaş, who was "acquitted of charges of murdering Yasin Börü and his friends" in the Kobani trial just weeks ago. Erdoğan also "scolded" the press member who asked the question!
- 3 police officers charged in the murder case of former Diyarbakır Bar Association President Tahir Elçi were acquitted. Releasing a statement on the verdict, 75 bar associations said: 'We will continue our legal struggle to ensure that the perpetrator(s) of Tahir Elçi's murder do not go unpunished.'



### Police attack on Eskişehir Pride march

On June 9, LGBTI+ activists and citizens gathering for the Pride March in Eskişehir were attacked by the police. While 10 people who were detained in the attack were released after their statements, the court issued a ban on leaving the country and a signature requirement for 4 activists who were referred for arrest.



### **Investigation against mayor for insulting Erdoğan**

An investigation was launched against Mümin Erol of the DEM Party, who took office after winning the local elections, due to "insulting the President" for taking down the photograph of Recep Tayyip Erdoğan hanging in the office room.



### **Verdict in "KCK Academy" Case**

Istanbul 22nd High Criminal Court announced its verdict in the "KCK academy" case in which 17 defendants including Democratic Modernity magazine editor Haydar Ergül, journalist Ahmet Birsin, Jineoloji magazine employee Şeyma Kantarcı and HDP members and executives who were detained during house raids on July 28, 2017 in Istanbul were charged with "illegal organization membership". The court sentenced HDP member Münevver İlingi to 6 years and 3 months in prison for "illegal organization membership" and acquitted 13 defendants.



## **TRIALS OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION**

### **Abdurrahman Gök Trial**

The lawsuit filed against Mezopotamya Agency editor Abdurrahman Gök, who was charged

### **Safiye Alağaç Trial**

The lawsuit filed against journalist Safiye Alağaç due to "membership in a terrorist

<p>with "illegal organization membership" and "propaganda" based on his phone calls with news sources, social media posts and news reports...</p> <p><b>Court:</b> Diyarbakır 5th Assize Court  <b>Hearing outcome:</b> The court decided to continue the travel ban on Gök and the trial will continue on October 22.</p>	<p>organization" on the grounds that the news she wrote and the editorial policy of JinNews were presented as "evidence"....</p> <p><b>Court:</b> Diyarbakır 5th Assize Court  <b>Hearing outcome:</b> The trial will continue on October 22.</p>
<p><b><u>Dicle Müftüoğlu Trial</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against Dicle Müftüoğlu, Co-Chair of Dicle Fırat Journalists' Association (DFG), who was arrested due to "illegal organization membership" after being detained in an operation organized on April 29 as part of an Ankara-based investigation...</p> <p><b>Court:</b> Diyarbakır 5th Assize Court  <b>Hearing outcome:</b> The court decided to continue the travel ban on Müftüoğlu and adjourned the case to October 24.</p>	<p><b><u>Lawsuit Against Journalists for Reporting the Case</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalists İzel Sezer and Batuhan Batan due to "insult" accusation due to the news published on the website İleri Haber about President Erdoğan's former lawyer Mustafa Doğan İnal, who allegedly negotiated bribes, and the lawsuit filed against journalists İzel Sezer and Batuhan Batan due to the same accusation...</p> <p><b>Court:</b> Istanbul 25th Criminal Court of First Instance  <b>Hearing outcome:</b> The trial will continue on December 17.</p>
<p><b><u>Trial of Journalists Protesting Arrest of Colleagues</u></b></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalists Pınar Gayıp, Zeynep Kuray, Eylem Nazlıer, Serpil Ünal, Esra Soybir and Yadigar Aygün due to "violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations"...</p> <p><b>Court:</b> Istanbul Anatolian 22nd Criminal Court of First Instance  <b>Hearing outcome:</b> The trial will continue on October 31.</p>	

## HEARINGS NEXT WEEK

*Hearings will be suspended this week due to an administrative holiday.*

**All news of the week is available at [dusun-think.net](http://dusun-think.net);  
You can also access the pdf format of the bulletin at [dusun-think.net/bultenler](http://dusun-think.net/bultenler).**