

Think, think...



Freedom of Expression Weekly Newsletter (Issue 25/24, July 12, 2024)

What happened last week?

- Speaking at the NATO summit, President Erdogan announced that Syrian President Assad had been called two weeks ago to meet in Turkey or in a third country and repeated the call.
- The 9th Judicial Package, which will continue the obligation for women to take their husbands' surname after marriage, was approved by the Justice Commission of the Turkish Grand National Assembly despite all objections.
- The members of the Central Council elected at the 76th Grand Congress of the Turkish Medical Association (TTB) held on June 28-30 made the distribution of duties at their first meeting after receiving their mandates. According to the distribution of duties, Dr. Alpay Azap became the President of the TMA.



Attorney Eyüp Akıncı acquitted

Lawyer Eyüp Akıncı was acquitted at the Küçükçekmece 23rd Criminal Court of First Instance on charges of "publicly disseminating misleading information" due to his social media post criticizing bribery allegations at the Küçükçekmece Courthouse.



Five detained at Palestine protest

5 protesters were detained during a sit-in protest in front of the Presidential Complex in Beştepe, Ankara, demanding a halt to the energy trade between Turkey and Israel through BOTAŞ.



Verdict announced in İhsan Çaralan case

Evrensel newspaper writer İhsan Çaralan, whose sentence was suspended due to "making illegal organization propaganda", "publicly inciting to commit crime" and "praising crime and criminal" for participating in Özgür Gündem's "Editor-in-Chief on Watch" campaign, appeared before the judge in his retrial. Istanbul 14th High Criminal Court ruled for the case to be dismissed since 5 years have passed since the previous verdict of deferral of the announcement of the verdict.



Emoji case

A lawsuit was filed against S.K., who put a "victory sign" emoji over the portraits of Atatürk, the Turkish flag and Erdoğan in the background of the photo he took at the Şanlıurfa Ceylanpınar Municipality building after the local elections and shared on his social media account, with the allegation of "action aimed at humiliating and ignoring the signs of sovereignty of the state". S.K. will appear before the judge at the Ceylanpınar Criminal Court of First Instance on September 17.



Hayko Bağdat sentenced to prison

The verdict was announced in the case against journalist Hayko Bağdat on charges of "insulting the President" and "public incitement to hatred and hostility". Istanbul 50th Criminal Court of First Instance acquitted Bağdat on the charge of "public incitement to hatred and hostility" and sentenced him to 1 year, 2 months and 17 days in prison on the charge of "insulting the President". The court postponed the sentence.



RTÜK decision suspended

The administrative court issued a "stay of execution" on the Radio and Television Supreme Council's decision to revoke Açık Radyo's broadcasting license. The Radio and Television Supreme Council had revoked the broadcasting license of Açık Radyo on the grounds that the 5-day broadcasting suspension it had imposed on the radio station due to the "Armenian genocide" statement made by a guest on the radio had not been implemented.



Activist criticizing lynchings arrested

On June 30, LGBTI activist Iris Mozalar, who tweeted criticizing the lynch attacks against migrants after a Syrian man allegedly abused a child in Kayseri, was arrested on charges of "inciting the public to hatred and hostility" (TCK 216/1) after her interrogation at

Istanbul 9th Criminal Judgeship of Peace.



TRIALS OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Hakki Boltan Trial</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist Hakki Boltan, who was charged with "insulting the President" and "insulting a public officer for his duty" for a statement he made in 2016 about journalist Rohat Aktaş, who was killed during the curfew period...</p> <p>Court: Diyarbakır 12th Criminal Court of First Instance</p> <p>Hearing outcome: The trial will continue on January 28.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Can Dündar Trial</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist Can Dündar, accused of "obtaining confidential state information for espionage purposes" due to the Mit Trucks news...</p> <p>Court: Istanbul 14th High Criminal Court</p> <p>Hearing outcome: The trial will continue on October 17.</p>
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HEARINGS NEXT WEEK

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Ayşe Kara Case</u></p> <p>The retrial of journalist Geşbun Ayşe Kara on charges of "being a member of an armed terrorist organization"</p> <p>Tuesday, July 16; Diyarbakır 5th High Criminal Court</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Ramazan Ölçen Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against Ramazan Ölçen, the owner of Azadiya Welat newspaper, which was shut down by a state of emergency decree, due to "being an illegal organization member".</p> <p>Wednesday, July 17; Diyarbakır 11th Assize Court</p>
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You can also access the pdf format of the bulletin at dusun-think.net/bultenler.