

# Think, think...



## Freedom of Expression Weekly Newsletter (Issue 26/24, July 19, 2024)

### What happened last week?

- MHP leader Bahçeli visited the Special Operations Directorate in Gölbaşı, which was bombed by coup plotters on the night of July 15. Head of Special Operations Süleyman Karadeniz kissed Bahçeli's hand during the welcome.
- Turkish Football Federation elections were held amid controversy. Mehmet Büyükekşi, the president at the center of the controversy, handed over the presidency to former Trabzonspor president İbrahim Hacıosmanoğlu. Servet Yardımcı, who withdrew as a candidate, had publicly stated that Büyükekşi's team had threatened him and the delegates with the political backing of the government, but despite this statement, the FIFA did not take any action regarding the elections.
- Erdoğan appointed Metin Kıratlı, former Presidential Administrative Affairs Director Metin Kıratlı as a member of the Constitutional Court. Kıratlı had previously been on the agenda with a salary of 23 thousand TL from the Presidency's Administrative Affairs Directorate, 24 thousand TL from his position as a member of the Board of Directors of Borsa Istanbul and 38 thousand TL from his position as a member of the Council of Higher Education, and his name was also mentioned in the revelations of mafia leader Sedat Peker.
- The draft law, which envisages the killing of stray dogs and was submitted to the Parliament by the AKP, started to be discussed in the Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Affairs Commission. Animal Rights activists were not allowed to attend the commission meetings.
- Human Rights Association Diyarbakır Branch - covering Kurdish provinces - announced the first six months report of 2024. According to the report, 58 women were killed by men in the first six months. At least 34 meetings and demonstrations were intervened by law enforcement officers. At least 2 meetings and demonstrations were canceled by governorships and district governorships. Regional governors issued 56 bans on meetings and demonstrations.



**A letter from Abdullah Kaya, a freelance journalist living in Diyadin district of Ağrı!**

*I am constantly threatened by Uğur Çamlı, the police chief of Diyadin in Ağrı.*

*On May 9th, I was detained and taken to the police station because I reported on a village guard who entered the election area with a*

*long-barreled gun during the parliamentary elections. There he attacked me, shouting “I’ll tear your head off, I’ll have your head in my hands”. The police intervened and took him to his room with difficulty.*

*On June 4, 2024, a press statement was held in front of the DEM Party building to protest the Hakkari trustee. When I went to watch it as a journalist, he threatened me and took me away from there in the presence of the municipality and district co-chairs.*

*On July 17 at 5:30 p.m., I was on my way home with bags in my hand. Police chief Uğur Çamlı was standing in front of the police station on the main street. A taxi passed me quickly, almost brushing against me. When I looked to the right, towards the vehicle, the police chief shouted “Don’t stare at me, I’ll rip your head off” and attacked me. “I was looking at the vehicle, not at you,” I told him, but to no avail. Fortunately, about ten policemen came running and took the police chief inside.*

*I had had enough. If anything happens to me because I have revealed what happened, Diyadin Police Chief Uğur ÇAMLI is solely responsible.*

*Abdullah (Abdülhalik) Kaya  
Journalist*



### **Evacuations in Istanbul May 1 protests case**

23 more protesters, who were arrested after the May 1, 2024 protests in Istanbul and charged with three separate indictments, were released during the first hearing held at Istanbul 44th Criminal Court of First Instance. Previously, 8 people were released in the first hearing held at Istanbul 25th Criminal Court of First Instance. The detention of 6 protesters, who were also arrested within the scope of the other indictment, was terminated by Istanbul 24th High Criminal Court. There are no more arrested defendants in the May 1, 2024 Istanbul cases.



### 5 protesters detained in Ankara

In 2015, five young people who participated in the commemoration of the ISIS massacre in Suruç, Urfa, in Ankara's Yüzüncü Yıl neighborhood were detained.



## TRIALS OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

### Ayşe Kara Trial

The retrial of journalist Geşbun Ayşe Kara due to “being a member of an armed terrorist organization”...

**Court:** Diyarbakır 5th Assize Court

**Hearing outcome:** The trial will continue on December 3.

### Mehmet Göçekli Trial

The lawsuit filed against Mehmet Göçekli, Editor-in-Chief and Concessionaire of Demokrat Haber, on charges of “making illegal organization propaganda” based on his social media posts and news published on “demokrathaber.org” website...

**Court:** Istanbul 27th Assize Court

**Hearing outcome:** The trial will continue on December 5.

### Ramazan Ölçen Trial

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”...

**Court:** Diyarbakır 11th Assize Court

**Hearing outcome:** The trial will continue on January 8.

## HEARINGS NEXT WEEK

*No cases will be heard due to the judicial 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).