

Think, think...



Freedom of Expression Weekly Newsletter (Issue 27/24, July 26, 2024)

What happened last week?

- The bill, which will allow the slaughter of stray animals, was referred to the Turkish Grand National Assembly after the completion of the commission negotiations. Speaking in his weekly group speech, AKP Chairman and President Erdoğan called on the AKP and MHP groups to pass the bill into law before the Parliament goes into recess.
- Speaking at his party's group meeting, Erdoğan announced that he had given instructions to collect the debts of municipalities to the treasury. Erdoğan is targeting municipalities that the CHP took over from the AKP with millions of debts.
- At a press conference, MHP Chairman Devlet Bahçeli announced that they have a list of 154 people who “target and criticize the MHP at every opportunity” and that they will deal with them before the law. It is impossible not to make a connection between the names on the list, most of whom are journalists, and the case of “journalists who were beaten on the instructions of the MHP” brought up by his wife in the Sinan Ateş murder case.
- In the first 3 months of 2024, the Constitutional Court ruled on “at least one violation of rights” in 529 cases. “Violation of the right to a fair trial”, ‘fair trial’, ‘violation of the right to property’ and ‘violation of the right to freedom of expression and thought’ came first.



Detained at Suruç massacre commemoration

On the 9th anniversary of the Suruç massacre, many young people who wanted to make a statement in Istanbul Taksim Square were detained. Journalists who were following the protest were also prevented by police beatings.



Lawsuit against MET Dead End documentary

A lawsuit was filed against journalists Tunca Öğreten and Murat Baykara for “encouraging drug use” and “failing to report a crime” for their documentary “Meth Dead End”, in which they discussed the use of methamphetamine, the use of which is rapidly increasing in Turkey and has become a major problem. The first hearing of the

case will be held on October 31st at Bakırköy 13th Criminal Court of First Instance. The documentary that is the subject of the lawsuit won the “jury's special award” at the Metin Göktepe Journalism Awards.



9 youth arrested for dancing to anthem

Nine of the young people who were dancing to a song known as “guerrilla halay” on the Mersin coast were detained. Justice Minister Yılmaz Tunç announced in a statement that “there is an arrest warrant for two more people”. The youth were taken to court and arrested on charges of “making propaganda for an illegal organization”.



Court of Cassation overturns verdict against 16 academics

The 3rd Criminal Chamber of the Court of Cassation overturned the 6-year and 8-month prison sentence given to Prof. Dr. Vedat Demir and 16 other academics for “illegal organization membership” and sent the file to Istanbul 14th

Assize Court for retrial. With the Decree Law No. 672, the judicial process against academic Demir, who was dismissed from his position at Istanbul University Faculty of Communication, started with the “witch hunt” conducted at universities during the State of Emergency, and his columns, his dismissal with the State of Emergency Decree Law, and his phone calls with his colleagues were cited as grounds for the charges. In addition, Akın Gürlek, who has signed many controversial decisions and is currently the Deputy Minister of Justice, was appointed as the presiding judge at the final hearing of the case.



4 activists detained in Ankara

In Ankara, 4 activists gathered on Sakarya Street to protest the draft law on “slaughter of stray animals” were detained.



6 detained at wedding halay

In Ağrı Doğubeyazıt, 5 of them were detained on charges of “making illegal organization propaganda” during police raids in Doğubeyazıt and 1 in Istanbul.



Demirtaş t-shirts cause detention

Director Ömer Leventoğlu and cameraman Hüseyin Altürk were traveling to Istanbul in their private car when they were detained during a road check for 4 Selahattin Demirtaş printed t-shirts found in their vehicle.



TRIALS OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

No cases will be heard due to the judicial holiday.

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.