

Think, think...



Freedom of Expression Weekly Newsletter (Issue 30/24, August 16, 2024)

What happened last week?

- An arrest was made immediately after Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK) President Ebubekir Şahin said ‘street interviews are on our radar; disinformation is being done’. The arrest of Dilruba K., who spoke in a street interview, was interpreted as a threat to the whole country. Details are in our news.
- Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas arrived in Turkey after his visit to Russia. Abbas addressed the General Assembly of the Turkish Grand National Assembly and had a 2 and a half hour meeting with Erdoğan.
- The Cinema Writers Association (SİYAD) has withdrawn from the 60th Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival, which will be held for the 60th time between 5-12 October this year, and which was on the agenda last year due to censorship controversies.
- 18-year-old Arda K. stabbed 5 people in Şehit Rüstem Demirbaş Park in Tepebaşı district of Eskişehir by live broadcasting from his mobile phone. It was understood from his notes and social media posts that Arda K. was a neo-Nazi sympathiser and planned other attacks.
- A fight broke out in the General Assembly of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, which convened for the reading of the Constitutional Court's decision to end the detention of Can Atalay, Hatay MP of the Workers' Party of Turkey, and to declare “the revocation of his parliamentary deputy is null and void”. The Speaker of the Turkish Grand National Assembly appointed AKP's Bekir Bozdağ to preside over the session, despite the fact that he had full responsibility for it, just as he had not attended the session on Atalay's impeachment. TİP MP Ahmet Şık criticised this situation at the rostrum and tensions escalated. When Bozdağ adjourned the session, AKP Group Administrative Supervisor Alpay Özalan attacked Ahmet Şık. Gülistan Kılıç Koçyiğit from DEM Party was also injured in the incidents. As these lines were being written, the session was in recess.



Citizen arrested for speaking in street interview

A citizen named Dilruba K. was arrested on charges of ‘public incitement to hatred

and hostility’ and ‘insulting the President’ due to her remarks about the ‘Instagram ban’ published on a YouTube channel that broadcast street interviews. Dilruba K. will appear before the judge on 3 September. Her words from the interview, which were the subject of the accusation, were ‘Because you surrender all your freedom rights to a single person and worship him above Allah, because you support the closure of social media, because you support the slaughter of animals, you are idiots whose brains have been impregnated’.



Prevention of Amed Spor fans

Some of the fans of Diyarbakır representative Amedspor, which is struggling in the Turkish Football Federation 1st League, were not allowed into the stadium before the Fatih Karagümrük match. The police cited the fact that the fans wearing ‘Red-Green’

jerseys, the official colours of Amed Sports Club, were also wearing yellow and yellow-like colours.



Wedding and halay detentions continue unabated

In Istanbul Esenyurt, 5 people including the owners of the wedding were detained on the grounds of Kurdish songs played and halaying at the wedding of the Karçık family who had a wedding on the street of the house they live in.



7 villagers detained for defending their water

Gendarmerie intervened the ‘water watch’ of the residents of Fethiye Söğütlü Village against the diversion of the only water source of their village to another settlement through a Hydroelectric Power Plant, 7 villagers were detained.



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.