

Think, think...



Freedom of Expression Weekly Newsletter (Issue 31/24, August 23, 2024)

What happened last week?

- Artist Suavi was verbally attacked and insulted by a group of MHP supporters at a concert organised by Beykoz Municipality in Istanbul. The artist's concert organised by CHP-affiliated Seydişehir Municipality in the same week was also cancelled due to targeting by MHP groups.
- In the past weeks, AKP MP and former Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu, who applied to the Parliament and asked for his immunity to be lifted, was told by the Presidency of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey that 'we do not have a declaration about you, we cannot take any action'.
- Dilan Polat, who was on trial together with her husband Engin Polat on charges of 'money laundering' and who was sentenced to 40 years in prison, was released before the end of one year of her detention.



Attack on journalist Sinan Aygül

Bitlis Journalists Association President Sinan Aygül announced that he was verbally threatened by DEM Party Tatvan Mayor Mümin Erol and physically attacked by his bodyguard and his uncle's son Abdullah Erol because of his news report on the purchase of luxury phones in Tatvan Municipality.

Journalist Aygül had previously been attacked in the street by the bodyguard and a relative of the AKP Mayor of Tatvan.



Poet Nevzat Çelik detained

Poet Nevzat Çelik was detained for the words he shared on his X account for the forest fire that started in Izmir on 15 August: 'My dear #izmir is burning. It's not giaour Izmir, it's #TurkeyBurning!' was detained.



3 workers arrested for listening to Kurdish music

Özgür İpek, Mehmet Arğın and Cemal Güzel, construction workers in Balıkesir 6 September district, were arrested on charges of ‘resisting the police’ and ‘making propaganda of an illegal organisation’.

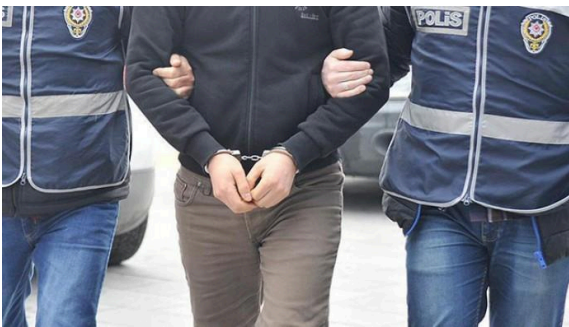
The workers were beaten and detained after they had a quarrel with the police officers who asked them for their ID cards on the grounds that they were listening to Kurdish music in the park and ‘disturbing the people around’.



4 page halay indictment accepted

Istanbul 22nd High Criminal Court accepted the 4-page indictment prepared against Temurşah Sayan, Yıldırım Kaya, İlhan Kaya, Yasin Tektaş and Berdan Sal, who were detained for taking halay to Kurdish songs at a military party, and İlhan Kaya, Yasin Tektaş and Berdan Sal, who were arrested in the same investigation, with the allegation of

‘making illegal organisation propaganda’. The first hearing of the case will be held on 15 October.



Singing along to a Kurdish song is grounds for detention

Several people, including Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) Esenyurt district co-chairs Rojda Yılmaz and Abdullah Arına, were detained on 18 August for singing along to the Kurdish song “Beritan” and dancing the halay at the opening of a

football tournament organised by the party. The citizens are accused of ‘making propaganda for an illegal organisation’.



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.