

Think, think...



Freedom of Expression Weekly Newsletter (Issue 34/24, September 13, 2024)

What happened last week?

- Speaking at the swearing-in ceremony for Assoc. Prof. Dr. Metin Kıratlı, who was elected as a member of the Constitutional Court, the President of the Constitutional Court Kadir Özkaya quoted from the Holy Quran twice in his speech.
- Hulusi Akar, former Chief of General Staff and AKP MP, said in a meeting he attended that 'the purpose of education is not knowledge, but the fear of God and the shame of the servant'.
- 'It is not possible for them to be in our army...' Erdoğan said about the lieutenants who chanted "We are the soldiers of Mustafa Kemal" after the graduation ceremony of the Military Academy.
- Freedom of Expression Association's Engelli Web 2023 report has been published. In the report, it is stated that a total of 953,415 websites and domain names were blocked in Turkey with a total of 240,857 domain names and websites blocked in 2023, with a total of 821,285 different decisions issued by 833 different institutions and judgeships.
- Answering journalists' questions after the cabinet meeting in Ankara on Thursday, Minister of Transport and Infrastructure Abdulkadir Uraloğlu admitted that the credentials of 85 million people were stolen during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Two books banned and confiscated

İzmir 4th Criminal Court of Peace issued a ban and recall order on the books titled 'Kobani'nin Kızları' (Kobani'nin Kızları) and 'Kürt Siyasetinin Mor Rengi' (The Purple Colour of Kurdish Politics), which were seized during a search at the house of Berna Çelik, former İzmir Provincial

Co-Chair of Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), upon the request of the prosecutor's office, on the grounds of "making illegal organisation propaganda".

Among the banned books, American journalist-author Gayle Tzemach Lemmon's 'Daughters of Kobani: A Story of Rebellion, Courage and Justice' by American Journalist-Writer Gayle Tzemach Lemmon, contains memories, narratives and excerpts from news reports in the field

about women fighting against ISIS in Kobani; while the book “The Purple Colour of Kurdish Politics” by Kurdish politician Gültan Kışanak includes the experiences of women from the Kurdish political movement. A previous confiscation order against Kışanak's book had been lifted.



Impunity in the Metin Lokumcu case

The Trabzon 2nd High Criminal Court acquitted 13 police officers in the trial of the case related to the death of Metin Lokumcu, who was killed by a tear gas canister used by the police on 31 May 2011 in Hopa during the protests that took place during the visit of then Prime Minister Erdoğan to the region.



Artvin Halkevi executive arrested

Artvin People's House executive Dursun Ali Koyuncu, who was among those protesting the killing of nature defender Reşit Kibar while preventing the massacre of nature in Artvin Hopa, was arrested.

Koyuncu had spoken at the protest organised with Çifteköprülü villagers in front of the Borçka Forestry Directorate, and had said ‘We warn you, not one more person will enter our forests to cut down trees’ after the petitions against tree felling were delivered to the directorate.

Koyuncu had spoken at the protest organised with Çifteköprülü villagers in



6 detained in Narin protest

The police intervened the press declaration of youth organisations in Kadıköy, Istanbul for Narin, a child killed in Diyarbakır, 6 people were detained.



Lawsuit against writer Yavuz Ekinci

A lawsuit was filed against writer Yavuz Ekinci due to his book 'Rüyası Bölünenler', which was published in 2014 and was ordered to be confiscated. The first hearing of the case will be held on 18 September at Çağlayan Courthouse, 23rd Assize Court.

Istanbul 7th Criminal Judicature of Peace issued a recall order against Ekinci's novel 'Rüyası Bölünenler', which was published in 2014. The novel tells the story of a Kurdish family torn apart by war and forced migration. Author Ekinci was sentenced to 1 year and 6 months in prison in March 2022 on charges of 'terrorist organisation propaganda' based on his social media posts, and his sentence was suspended.



Local Court did not comply with ECHR judgement

Educator Yüksel Yalçınkaya, who was sentenced to prison on charges of 'membership in the Gülen Organisation', was sentenced to the same sentence by Kayseri 2nd High Criminal Court in his retrial despite the European Court of Human Rights' decision on violation of rights.

Yalçınkaya was sentenced to 6 years and 3 months of imprisonment due to 'membership in a terrorist organisation' on the grounds of 'using Bylock, opening an account at Bank Asya and union membership'.



TRIALS OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Can Ataklı Trial</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist Can Ataklı due to ‘inciting or insulting the public to hatred and hostility’ over his remarks about the father of a soldier who lost his life in the clash in the Claw-Lock Operation region...</p> <p>Court: Istanbul 5th Criminal Court of First Instance Hearing outcome: The trial will continue on 10 October.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Compensation Case Against Evrensel Newspaper</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed by Serhat Albayrak, an official of Turkuvaz Media Group, against Evrensel newspaper and its writer Ceren Sözeri for 200 thousand Turkish Liras in compensation for the article ‘Who made AKP lose votes?’...</p> <p>Court: Istanbul 2nd Commercial Court of First Instance Hearing outcome: Due to the judge's leave of absence, the hearing on the file was adjourned to a later date.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Saturday Mothers Trial</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against 46 people, who were detained during the 700th week meeting of Saturday Mothers demanding justice by staging sit-in protests at Galatasaray Square since 1995, due to ‘violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations No. 2911’...</p> <p>Court: Istanbul 21st Criminal Court of First Instance Hearing outcome: The trial will continue on 10 January.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Osman Akin Trial</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against Osman Akın, Managing Editor of Yeni Yaşam newspaper, due to ‘publicly denigrating the military or police organization of the state’ through the news article titled ‘Cruelty to Afrin Prisoners’...</p> <p>Court: Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance Hearing outcome: The trial will continue on 22 November.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Lawsuit against 1 May (2022)</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against 15 people who were detained as a result of the police intervention against those who wanted to march to Taksim Square in Istanbul within the scope of 1 May Labour Day in 2022...</p> <p>Court: Istanbul 29th Criminal Court of First Instance Hearing outcome: The trial will continue on 15 May.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Kızılkaya & Çaralan Trial</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalists İnan Kızılkaya and İhsan Çaralan due to ‘insulting the President’ through a news article published in Özgür Gündem newspaper.</p> <p>Court: Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance Hearing outcome: The court set 22 November for the final hearing.</p>

HEARINGS NEXT WEEK

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Emoji Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against S.K., who put a ‘victory sign’ emoji on the portraits of Atatürk,</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Furkan Karabay Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist Furkan Karabay, reporter of Gerçek Gündem news</p>
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<p>the Turkish flag and Erdoğan in the background of the photo he took in Şanlıurfa Ceylanpınar Municipality building and shared on his social media account, with the allegation of ‘action aimed at humiliating and ignoring the signs of sovereignty of the state’...</p> <p>Tuesday, 17 September; Ceylanpınar Criminal Court of First Instance</p>	<p>website, due to ‘insulting’ Deputy Ministers of Justice Akın Gürlek and Hasan Yılmaz and Constitutional Court Member İrfan Fidan through a tweet he shared...</p> <p>Wednesday, 18 September; Ankara 16th Criminal Court of First Instance</p>
<p><u>Hayri Demir Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalist Hayri Demir due to ‘membership to a terrorist organisation’ and ‘terrorist organisation propaganda’ on the grounds of his journalistic activity in northern Syria...</p> <p>Wednesday, 18 September; Ankara 15th High Criminal Court</p>	<p><u>Manager on trial for Roboski commemoration</u></p> <p>The trial of school principal M.Ö., who is on trial for ‘making illegal organisation propaganda’ due to his social media posts on the Roboski massacre...</p> <p>Wednesday, 18 September; Şanlıurfa 2nd High Criminal Court</p>
<p><u>Yavuz Ekinci Case</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against the author for his book ‘Dream Divided’...</p> <p>Wednesday, 18 September; Istanbul Çağlayan Courthouse 23rd High Criminal Court</p>	<p><u>Bülent Kılıç Case</u></p> <p>In 2021, the lawsuit filed against Agence France-Presse (AFP) photojournalist Bülent Kılıç, who was detained under torture while covering the Istanbul Pride March, due to ‘resisting to prevent the execution of his duty’ and ‘insulting a public officer for his duty’...</p> <p>Thursday, 19 September; Istanbul 19th Criminal Court of First Instance</p>
<p><u>Case against detained journalists</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed against journalists Sibel Yükler, Deniz Nazlım and Yıldız Tar, who were detained while protesting the arrest of their colleagues, due to ‘violating Law No. 2911 on Meetings and Demonstrations’...</p> <p>Thursday, 19 September; Ankara 71st Criminal Court of First Instance</p>	<p><u>Lawsuit against HDP MPs</u></p> <p>The lawsuit filed in 2015 against then HDP Co-Chair Figen Yüksekdağ, Group Deputy Chairpersons İdris Baluken and Çağlar Demirel, and MPs Altan Tan, Ahmet Yıldırım, Ertuğrul Kürkçü, Mehmet Ali Aslan and Saadet Becerikli due to ‘resisting to prevent the execution of duty’, ‘insulting a public officer’ and ‘insulting the President’ for the statements they made in Silvan district of Diyarbakır after the curfew declared...</p> <p>Thursday, 19 September; Diyarbakır Silvan Criminal Court of First Instance</p>

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.