



PROGRESS ARRESTED

**REPORT ON THE DECEMBER 2018
INTERNATIONAL PRESS INSTITUTE (IPI)
PRESS FREEDOM MISSION TO TURKEY**

January 2019

INTRODUCTION

Although the decline of press freedom in Turkey dates back to well before the attempted coup of July 15, 2016,¹ that event precipitated a dangerous new phase in the country's media crackdown. Since the coup attempt, which was followed by a lengthy state of emergency, at least 206 journalists and media executives have been subject to criminal proceedings.

Despite a report by the Council of Europe's Venice Commission in October 2017² finding that a direct and immediate threat to national security no longer existed in Turkey, the Turkish authorities extended the state of emergency seven times before finally lifting it on July 18, 2018. Under the state of emergency, decree laws were issued shuttering 53 newspapers and closing of 170 media organizations and printing houses.³

The International Press Institute (IPI), a global network of editors, media executives and leading journalists, has documented severe violations of the right to press freedom in Turkey in particular in the period following the coup attempt. IPI's Free Turkey Journalists campaign⁴ aims to promote and defend free expression in Turkey by calling for every journalist behind bars to receive due process and for the release of anyone detained for practicing journalism.

An IPI delegation travelled to Turkey in December 2018 to bring its concerns regarding press freedom directly to the attention of Turkish officials and other relevant stakeholders.

Key concerns ahead of the mission included:

- 162 journalists and media executives were in prison as of December 5, 2018, mainly on unsubstantiated anti-terror charges (and, to a lesser degree, defamation-related offences). Of these, over 80 were being held in pre-trial detention or awaiting the outcome of their trial, with many being held hundreds of kilometres from family and legal support. The fact that most criminal charges against journalists cite as evidence the journalists' work or social media posts demonstrates a barely veiled retaliation for critical reports of the Turkish government and its policies.
- Journalists who are the targets of criminal prosecution face severe violations of their rights to personal freedom and a fair trial according to domestic and international human rights law. These violations include: the detention of journalists despite a lack of official charges or indictments; indictments that fail to meet legal requirements and/or that wholly lack any supporting evidence; lengthy pre-trial detention periods in cases in which it is clear from the evidence that the defendants were exercising their right to freedom of expression; denying defendants the right to appear in court in person or to access legal counsel, in particular through the overuse of the courtroom video-conference system known

¹ See, e.g., "Press Freedom in Turkey's Inter-Election Period" (2015, <https://ipi.media/press-freedom-in-turkeys-inter-election-period/>) and "Democracy at Risk" (2015, <https://ipi.media/democracy-at-risk/>).

² [https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdffile=CDL-AD\(2017\)021-e](https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdffile=CDL-AD(2017)021-e)

³ <https://freeturkeyjournalists.ipi.media/turkeys-emergency-rule-leaves-devastating-legacy/>

⁴ <https://freeturkeyjournalists.ipi.media/>

as “SEGBİS”; the slow pace at which the judiciary functions and the lengthy adjournments in cases involving journalists.

- Following the state-bank-financed purchase of Turkey’s largest media and distribution group, Doğan, by the conglomerate Demirören, the owner of which has close ties to President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, over 95 percent of the country’s media is estimated to be under government influence.
- Continued efforts by Turkish officials to publicly smear, denigrate and delegitimize the work of independent journalists and media organizations.

While IPI understands the threats and disruption posed to the Turkish state by an attempted coup, it cannot ignore the fact that once the attempt to overthrow the state was quelled within hours, the state of emergency continued for a further two years. The emergency decree laws issued during this period decimated the media landscape in Turkey and reduced the number of independent daily print newspapers to a mere handful.

The loss of 53 national and local newspapers cannot be underestimated and is a direct contravention of the peoples of Turkey’s right to receive the news and be informed in a balanced manner. Since the coup attempt, the Turkish treasury seized the assets of 170 media organizations and printing houses and its Radio and Television Supreme Council imposed stringent and prohibitively expensive licensing laws to prevent new and existing independent news platforms to operate online.

Based on the sheer number of journalist arrests and detentions, with over 200 currently subject to judicial proceedings, and the fact that the President Erdoğan himself has personally attacked journalists in public speeches,⁵ it is clear that dissenting voices across the political and ethnic spectrum have been silenced during the last two years⁶ and that journalists⁷ are forced to exercise a high degree of self-censorship.

IPI strongly condemns this unhealthy and dangerous environment for journalists in Turkey and maintains its call on the Turkish government to publicly denounce open threats to journalists⁸ and to permit a pluralistic media environment to return to the country, one that reflects the diverse ethnic makeup of Turkey and that answers the public’s need to receive quality, critical and informative reporting on all cultural, financial, economic and political issues.

This report will examine the manner in which IPI’s concerns were responded to at a series of meetings that took place in Ankara and Istanbul during the period December 5 to 7, 2018, and will outline its recommendations in light of the responses received at these meetings.

The IPI delegation was led by IPI Executive Board Chair Markus Spillman and further comprised IPI Executive Director Barbara Trionfi, IPI member and former BBC editor Sandy Bremner, and IPI Turkey Advocacy Coordinator Caroline Stockford⁹.

The delegation met with journalists; six foreign diplomatic missions in Turkey; representatives of the Turkish Foreign Ministry and Ministry of Justice; and representatives of the opposition parties CHP (the secular and republican Republican People’s Party) and the HDP (the pro-Kurdish Peoples’ Democratic Party).

⁵ <https://freeturkeyjournalists.ipi.media/turkey-president-should-ensure-safety-of-journalists-not-target-them/>

⁶ <https://freeturkeyjournalists.ipi.media/born-out-of-solidarity-new-turkish-news-platform-fights-to-survive/>

⁷ <https://freeturkeyjournalists.ipi.media/working-as-a-journalist-for-the-pro-government-press-when-this-is-all-over-i-will-stand-up-and-cry-my-heart-out/>

⁸ <https://freeturkeyjournalists.ipi.media/key-meps-join-ipi-letter-to-erdogan-over-journalist-lists/>

⁹ <https://freeturkeyjournalists.ipi.media/ipi-kicks-off-high-level-mission-to-turkey/>

MISSION SUMMARY

MEETING WITH FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS

A meeting was held under Chatham House Rules with representatives of six foreign diplomatic missions in Ankara.

The IPI delegation stressed the need to continue raising awareness about the media crackdown in Turkey and keep up support for independent voices in the country to prevent the risk of the complete disappearance of independent journalism. The delegation also stressed the importance of monitoring journalists' trials and Turkish courts' adherence to the rule of law. In particular, IPI highlighted the necessity of greater coordination among the missions in this respect, and encouraged the foreign missions to attend more trials outside Istanbul. Foreign mission representatives noted that they had difficulty quantifying the results of their attendance at judicial hearings.

Foreign mission representatives confirmed that the cases of individual journalists are brought up behind closed doors with good effect if intervention is made at an early stage. In general, they said they felt that foreign and local journalists had more problems with accreditations and the renewals of press cards than before.

Foreign mission representatives also raised the case of Jamal Khashoggi, the Saudi Arabian journalist who was murdered in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul. They expressed the view that the Khashoggi case demonstrated, among other things, Erdoğan's grip on pro-government media in the orchestration of the release of details about the killing piece-by-piece.

MEETING WITH CUMHURİYET HALK PARTY (CHP) CHAIR KEMAL KILIÇDAROĞLU AND AIDES

Kılıçdaroğlu confirmed that he viewed the monitoring of journalist trials by independent bodies such as IPI as being very important and said that the trial monitoring undertaken by the CHP itself had not proved effective. However, Kılıçdaroğlu noted that the party visits journalists in prison and raises cases behind closed doors and in the Turkish parliament.

Concerns were expressed during the meeting by CHP officials over the dual role of President Erdoğan as both AK party leader and head of the state, which they said resulted in self-censorship among journalists who feared being excluded from press conferences or being subject to criminal charges if they criticized the government's actions or policies.

Kılıçdaroğlu said that the Turkish government may pass amendments to the country's anti-terror law in order to improve relations with Europe. Kılıçdaroğlu said that the Turkish Constitutional Court had made some good decisions in cases involving journalists, in particular that of Mehmet Altan and Şahin Alpay, in which the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) ruled that the right to liberty of both individuals had been violated by their

pretrial detention. However, the CHP leader also agreed with IPI's concern regarding the slow pace of the ECtHR in reaching and publishing decisions on cases from Turkey.

Kılıçdaroğlu raised the question of Europe-based funding to assist independent media in Turkey and suggested that Europe-based institutions or businesses could advertise in the Turkish press or that European media organizations could be encouraged to buy into the Turkish media field in the way that Fox TV and Deutsche Welle had done, given that an estimated 95 percent of the media is now under government control.

MEETING WITH EU AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN BERGER AND DEPUTY HEAD OF EU DELEGATION TO TURKEY GABRIEL MANUERA VINALS

Ambassador Berger, noting that the EU had halted Turkey's accession process due to shortcomings with respect to the rule of law, confirmed that the EU had also cut Turkey's IPA (Instrument for Pre-Accession) budget by 60 percent for 2019. The cut was linked to Turkey's failure to fulfil the criteria set by the EU.

He further confirmed that Turkey had a backlog of IPA funds that had not been allocated due to the inability of the state's administrative organs to process the funds. The decision to cut 60 percent of the funds to Turkey could be reversed for 2020 if the situation improves, he added.

The ambassador also informed the IPI delegation that Turkey had established a Reform Action Group, which includes representatives from the ministries of Justice, Interior, Foreign Affairs and Finance. Their first meeting was in August with the next scheduled for December. The ambassador noted that the group had not yet presented any concrete steps to the EU, but that the reform areas included the judiciary and the media.

The ambassador expressed concerns about freedom of expression in general, suggesting that oppressive measures are applied to all dissenting voices and said that progress in terms of the setting-up of the Reform Action Group was often followed with a "backward step" by Turkey's authorities.

On the subject of the jailing of journalists, the ambassador said that Turkey seemed to understand that there are some measures that it has to take to maintain its international relations but only in respect to high-profile cases.

IPI asked exactly what the EU mission to Turkey had done to ensure that Turkey fulfilled its obligations as signatory of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) in terms of respecting its citizens' and journalists' rights to freedom of expression before applying the punitive measure of the 60 percent IPA cut. The ambassador responded by saying that the cuts had been decided upon following Turkey's failure to deliver on a number of key issues and that talks had not hinged on specific demands with regard to media freedom. The EU mission confirmed that it doesn't go to such lengths as asking the authorities to reinstate a specific newspaper but rather stays on a general level, calling for reinstatement of the rule of law, freedom of expression and compliance with ECtHR decisions.

The EU mission to Turkey confirmed that it has ongoing and imminent projects with the Turkish Journalists Association and the Journalists' Union of Turkey. In this way, representatives said, it provides indirect support to media outlets, support press freedom, and facilitate journalist training and safe houses where journalists can work.

MEETING WITH THE PEOPLES' DEMOCRATIC PARTY (HDP) ACTING CO-CHAIR SEZAI TEMELLI

Temelli stated that the struggle for media freedom in Turkey continues, noting that in a multi-ethnic, multi-language country such as Turkey, media diversity is vital not only to reflect different opinions but also to give space to a diversity of voices. He said that President Erdogan had taken measures to completely exclude diversity and noted that attacks against Kurdish-Turkish journalists had been particularly serious.

Temelli suggested that Europe was driven by maintaining good economic ties with Turkey and that European countries were fearful of the consequences of mass Syrian migration from Turkey to Europe. He went on to stress the importance of the upcoming local elections in March 2019, saying that these would be critical in defining Turkey's direction.

The HDP leader noted that the authorities consider Kurdish journalists not to be journalists but rather to always have some ulterior political motive. He stressed that Kurdish journalists needed international support and expressed concern that the West and European NGOs did not always provide enough such support.

IPI highlighted its work monitoring the cases and trials of Kurdish journalists¹⁰ and mentioned in particular its campaign for the jailed Kurdish journalist Nedim Türfent¹¹ and its support for the case of Kurdish journalist Idris Sayılğan before the ECtHR via an upcoming amicus curiae brief. IPI also noted that it had been drawing greater attention to the particular plight of Kurdish journalists in 2018, in particular to the unofficial practice of detaining them hundreds of kilometres away from the court in which they are being tried and forcing them to appear in court via video conference rather than in person, both situations that detract from the journalists' ability to properly defend themselves.

Temelli stated that the HDP was not able to support journalists on every level, but does provide legal support despite the fact that many lawyers are also currently jailed. The party also keeps up relations with the families of imprisoned journalists.

IPI confirmed that it would continue to campaign for a free and independent media in Turkey and for the rights of the peoples of Turkey to receive balanced news and information.

MEETINGS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

The offices of President Erdoğan, his spokesperson Ibrahim Kalın, the presidency's Director of Press and Communications Fahrettin Altun, the Television and Radio Supreme Council, the head of the Constitutional Court and the state broadcaster TRT, declined or did not respond to multiple interview requests by IPI that were sent via direct contact channels.

However, representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Justice agreed to meet with the delegation: Neval Orbay, head of the Department for the Council of Europe and Human Rights at the foreign ministry; and Hacı Ali Akgül, head of the Directorate of Human Rights at the justice ministry.

¹⁰ <https://freeturkeyjournalists.ipi.media/nedim-turfent-one-trial-countless-injustices/>

¹¹ <https://freeturkeyjournalists.ipi.media/ipi-to-jailed-journalist-nedim-turfent-stay-strong/>

MEETING WITH NEVAL ORBAY, HEAD OF DEPARTMENT, DEPARTMENT FOR THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

IPI began by stressing that access to a broad spectrum of information from a multitude of independent news sources is crucial to the people of Turkey.

The delegation then raised the issue that over 160 journalists were in prison on charges for which there is no evidence other than their work. IPI stressed that all journalists in jail for their work must be freed and that journalists in pre-trial detention should be granted bail in light of their right to a presumption of innocence.

IPI raised the concern that there was a divide between the messages that Turkey gives publicly on the subject of media freedom and what actually takes place, such as the mass arrests of journalists and closures of media outlets. IPI expressed concern at the lack of a visible transition from the state of emergency to a normal state of affairs.

Orbay said that the coup attempt had been a very dramatic situation for Turkey and that the state of emergency was instituted to cope with the threat at that time. She stressed that Turkey was now going back to normality and focusing on reform, in particular via the Reform Action Group, which she declared “a good sign on our part”.

She admitted that Turkey was aware of the criticism on press freedom issues and asked that international partners consider the Turkish context, which she said was characterized by an increased threat of terrorism. She suggested that this may be hard for Western societies to understand.

In an effort to counter IPI’s claim that the majority of journalists currently in prison were on trial for their journalistic activities, Orbay insisted that journalists in Turkey are on trial on “criminal charges” and not for “speaking their mind”.

Orbay declared that the media landscape was good and vibrant in Turkey and claimed that the closed media outlets had direct connections to those behind the coup attempt or other criminal activity. She also asserted that trial proceedings were carried out in a transparent manner and that the courts review detentions of prisoners monthly and make independent decisions.

When IPI raised the issue of the lack of professional-standard interpretation for Kurdish speakers in court, Orbay claimed that this translation and interpreting problem into Kurdish had been solved.

On the matter of the Reform Action Group, Orbay informed the delegation that the primary focus was on the judiciary and increasing its efficiency. She said that this should affect journalists’ cases as well, stating that Turkey’s goal was to meet the visa liberalization criteria for the Schengen Area.

IPI Executive Director Barbara Trionfi asked what concrete changes might be expected in the next year. Orbay responded that there would be a wide spectrum of reforms but said she could not yet give concrete examples as the consultation process was still ongoing.

IPI also raised the issue of Turkey’s not respecting ECtHR decisions (Turkey has notably refused to implement the ECtHR’s decision calling for the release of jailed HDP leader Selahattin Demirtaş). Orbay responded by saying that those decisions were not final until the signatory country is ordered to execute them. She also referenced Turkey’s right to appeal ECtHR decisions to the Court’s Grand Chamber.

IPI Board Chair Markus Spillman closed by stressing that IPI was very concerned over developments in Turkey both before and after the coup attempt, stating that IPI would like to see a turning point.

MEETING WITH HACI ALİ AĞÜL, HEAD OF DEPARTMENT, DEPARTMENT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

IPI expressed its concern over the decline in media freedom that had begun before the attempted coup of July 2016 and stressed that the free expression of ideas must be permitted and re-established. It highlighted in particular the fact that over 160 journalists were imprisoned for their work in Turkey, including a large number in pre-trial detention.

Ağül maintained that Turkish legislation meets all international requirements, saying that freedom of expression and media freedom were fundamental to democracy, adding that Turkey must protect democratic institutions at the same time.

He claimed that most of the journalists on IPI's database had committed crimes. If the arrests were based on journalists' work, he continued, then journalists had committed a crime through their work, most of them by making propaganda. He claimed that some journalists had defended the violence related to the coup attempt and stressed that the judiciary reached its decisions independently. He added that if mistakes were made, which he said could not be ruled out, it was still not possible to interfere with the judiciary.

Ağül told the delegation that Turkey's commitment to human rights was high and that the judiciary was not used to suppress any freedoms. However, he stated that it was not within the power of the Ministry of Justice to demand the release of journalists. On the subject of pretrial detentions, he stated that the judiciary decides but generally any person can be arrested if there is a suspicion of committing a crime.

In the context of the right to a fair trial, IPI noted that the use of the prison video link SEGBİS had gone up twentyfold in the past five years, denying many journalists, especially Kurdish ones, the right to appear before a judge in person. IPI also raised the issue of Kurdish journalists' being transferred to prisons for pretrial detention many hundreds of kilometres away from the courtroom where case was being heard. IPI noted that this pattern prevented journalists' family members and legal team from visiting them regularly and was primarily applied in cases of Kurdish journalists or journalists working for Kurdish news agencies.

In response, Ağül stated that the ethnicity of the accused made no difference to the treatment they receive and that decisions were always based on the law. On the matter of the prison video link SEGBİS¹² he defended its use with reference to practice in Europe. On transfers away from families he asserted there was a security reason for the measure.

IPI Executive Director Barbara Trionfi then raised the individual case of journalist Murat Aksoy¹³, who was in prison awaiting the calculation of his remaining sentence to be served on probation but who had not been released in due time. Ağül confirmed that he would look into this case and that IPI should send him specific data on this and other journalist cases if they wished him to examine the issues.

¹² <https://freeturkeyjournalists.ipi.media/analysis-use-of-courtroom-video-link-violates-turkey-journalists-rights/>

¹³ <https://freeturkeyjournalists.ipi.media/noted-turkey-columnist-murat-aksoy-released-from-prison/>

CONCLUSIONS

The IPI Press Freedom Mission to Turkey took place at a crucial time: on one hand, the government had announced a process of “normalization” and restoration of democratic standards following the lifting in July 2018 of the state of emergency, which had allowed even more serious restrictions on press freedom and journalists in Turkey; on the other hand, observers had hoped that some key rulings by the ECtHR, in particular those condemning the lengthy pre-trial detention of journalists Şahin Alp and Mehmet Altan, would serve as a reference in the cases of numerous other journalists’ detentions and possibly lead to their release pending trial.

Unfortunately, the situation that the IPI delegation found in the course of the mission showed that, rather than repealing the emergency decrees and other measures that the government had put in place to suppress media freedom, Turkey has been developing laws and other tools to further extend the restrictions imposed on the media since July 2016, in spite of the end of the emergency period.

In a number of meetings with government representatives, IPI was told that the security situation in the country remains at risk and that restrictions on media freedom were therefore justified. While acknowledging Turkey’s security concerns, IPI delegates nevertheless reiterated that the imprisonment of over 150 journalists; criminal procedures brought against hundreds of others, effectively preventing them from exercising their profession; and the complete control, through political and economic means, of an estimated 90 percent of the country’s broadcast, print and online news media cannot in any way be justified by any level of security concerns and represents a serious breach of international standards and treaties that Turkey has ratified.

In addition to the large number of journalists who have lost their jobs following the ban imposed on 170 news organizations and printing houses since July 2016, numerous journalists that IPI met in the course of the mission described an unprecedented level of censorship and self-censorship, to the point that many feel that the content of most mainstream media controlled directly or indirectly by the government has little to do with the journalism they used to practice.

In a landscape in which civil society, international human rights bodies and diplomatic channels have failed to enter into a constructive dialogue with Turkey that would lead to a serious reform process aimed at restoring democratic standards in the country, the creation of the Reform Action Group described above appears today as a glimmer of hope for restoring some level of respect for the rule of law in the country. Nevertheless, the process so far has been extremely slow, and the lack of transparency has effectively prevented opposition parties and civil society from contributing to the process. As long as Turkey fails to give a clear sign that it seriously intends to implement the necessary reforms to ensure that its laws are in line with international and European standards and that the judiciary can operate independently from the ruling party, there will remain a high degree of scepticism that even the Reform Action Group is nothing else than a useful façade to please international observers. In short, in the absence of concrete results, the Group offers the impression that a process is in place even as in practice no political will exists to lessen the government’s grip on the media and the judiciary.



Opposition parties and civil society believe that the upcoming local elections in March 2019 represent a litmus test for the actual strength of the ruling party. While the almost complete lack of independent and opposition media in the country effectively pre-empts the possibility of a fair campaign, opposition parties and civil society nevertheless hope that the outcome of the elections will reveal the lack of popular support for the ruling party, a situation that could pave the way for some level of reform.

As independent journalism in the country is almost non-existent, IPI will continue to support independent journalism in Turkey via campaigns such as the prize-winning I Subscribe campaign ¹⁴ and will continue to advocate strongly among European mechanisms such as the Council of Europe for the release of all journalists from prison whose indictments clearly show critical, published journalistic articles as evidence in the attempt to silence them.

¹⁴ <https://freeturkeyjournalists.ipi.media/ipi-receives-izmir-press-freedom-prize/>;
<https://www.isubscribe.media/>

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on IPI's intensive research and monitoring on press freedom threats in Turkey, especially following the attempted coup of July 2016, and based on conversations during the December 2018 mission, IPI recommends the following:

- All journalists imprisoned on unsubstantiated allegations or as a result of the practice of journalism should be immediately freed.
- In particular, all journalists currently held in pre-trial detention should be released at their next hearing and all charges against them in connection with their journalistic activities and/or dissemination of information and opinions should be dropped. The extended pre-trial detention of journalists charged solely on the basis of their work cannot be justified.
- All journalists already convicted should be immediately released pending appeal
- All convictions of journalists in connection with their journalistic work or the publication of information and opinions should be overturned on appeal.
- Turkish judicial panels should throw out cases that are based solely on journalistic evidence or otherwise rule immediately for the acquittal of the journalist in question.
- The judiciary should take all steps to ensure that rulings in free expression cases are in line with decisions by the European Court of Human Rights and relevant international standards, especially as regards the right to personal freedom and the right to a fair trial.
- Authorities should ensure that the Press Advertising Authority (Basın İlan Kurumu) operates independently from political pressure so as to disseminate funds in a fair and accountable manner to a multiplicity of news organisations representing a diversity of ideas and opinions.
- Turkey should stop its persecution of the independent media by way of forced closures, criminal charges, deprivation of public funds, pressure on private advertisers and all other forms of press freedom restrictions and intimidation of journalists.
- Turkey should allow and encourage a plurality of voices in the media landscape and uphold the public's right to receive balanced and critical information via the media.
- In cases in which journalists are accused of "membership in a terror organisation", courts must exhaust all legal requirements set in place to prove membership beyond reasonable doubt.
- SEGBİS prison video link should only be used in a very limited number of exceptional cases so as to protect defendants' fundamental right to be present in the courtroom and contest the charges and evidence against them.
- The practice of applying pressure to interfere in the editorial policy and decisions of newsrooms and in media owners' right to employ and give a platform to critical voices must be ended.
- Similarly, the practice of pressuring advertisers in relation to their decision to advertise – or to not advertise – with certain media outlets must also be ended.
- Anti-terror laws must not be used to restrict the legitimate dissemination of news and opinions or to prosecute journalists, media staff and news executives. Turkey should take all steps to ensure that its laws and practices in the area of counterterrorism are in line with international standards.
- Legislation should be adopted, in line with international standards, repealing



criminal laws defamation and insult, and ensuring that civil remedies are proportionate to actual harm caused.

- The Reform Action Group should operate in a speedy, transparent and accountable manner, ensuring that all relevant stakeholders – including civil society, journalists and independent media organizations – have an opportunity to provide input into its work and that the recommendations of those stakeholders are duly taken into account.
- International delegation and observers should be allowed to visit journalists held in prison in all parts of the country.

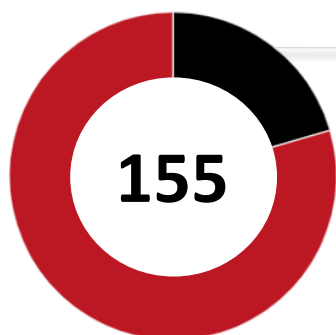
PRESS FREEDOM IN TURKEY

IPI FACT SHEET ON THE MEDIA CRACKDOWN IN TURKEY

www.ipi.media | www.freeturkeyjournalists.com



JOURNALISTS CURRENTLY IN JAIL

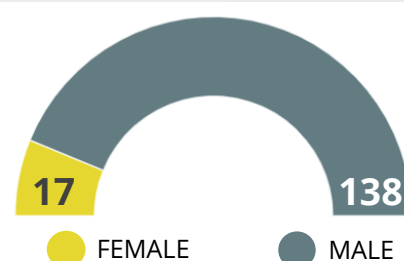
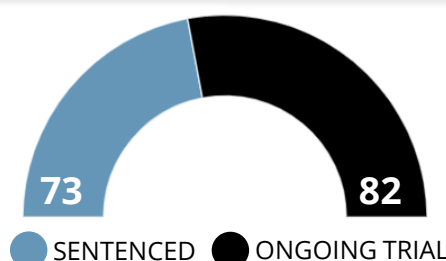


JAILED

● 30 BEFORE

● 125 AFTER

THE COUP ATTEMPT



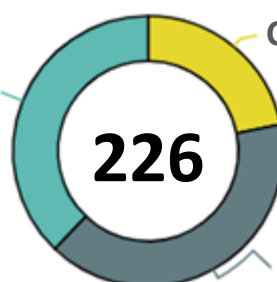
SINCE THE COUP ATTEMPT



TOTAL SENTENCING TIME

AT LEAST 226 JOURNALISTS AND
MEDIA EXECUTIVES HAVE BEEN
DETAINED AND SUBJECT TO
PROSECUTION

RELEASED 101



CONVICTED 50

STILL UNDER ARREST 75

MEDIA CLOSED

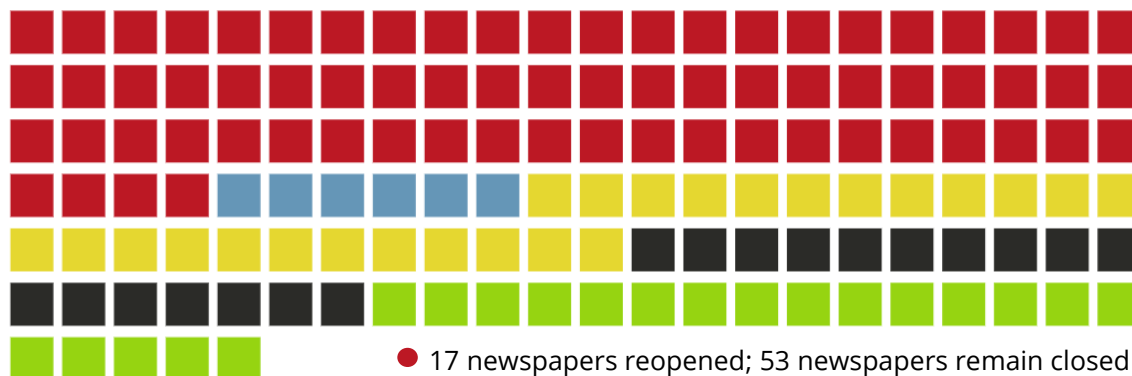
70 NEWSPAPERS ●

6 NEWS AGENCIES ●

25 RADIO STATIONS ●

20 TV STATIONS ●

20 MAGAZINES ●



IPI's WORK IN TURKEY (in the past year)



207 HEARINGS covered via the IPI Trials Calendar www.freeturkeyjournalists.ipi.media/trials-calendar

90 HEARINGS observed in person by IPI trial monitors

95 ARTICLES, STATEMENTS, REPORTS, PROTEST LETTERS published in three languages

Founded in 1950, the International Press Institute (IPI) is a global network of editors, journalists and media executives who share a common dedication to quality, independent journalism. Together, we promote the conditions that allow journalism to fulfil its public function, the most important of which is the media's ability to operate free from interference and without fear of retaliation. Our mission is to defend media freedom and the free flow of news wherever they are threatened.

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