

# TURKEY FREE EXPRESSION TRIAL MONITORING REPORT

KEY FINDINGS

(JULY 2019)



Report by **the International Press Institute (IPI)**  
based on data collected by  
**the Media and Law Studies Association (MLSA)**

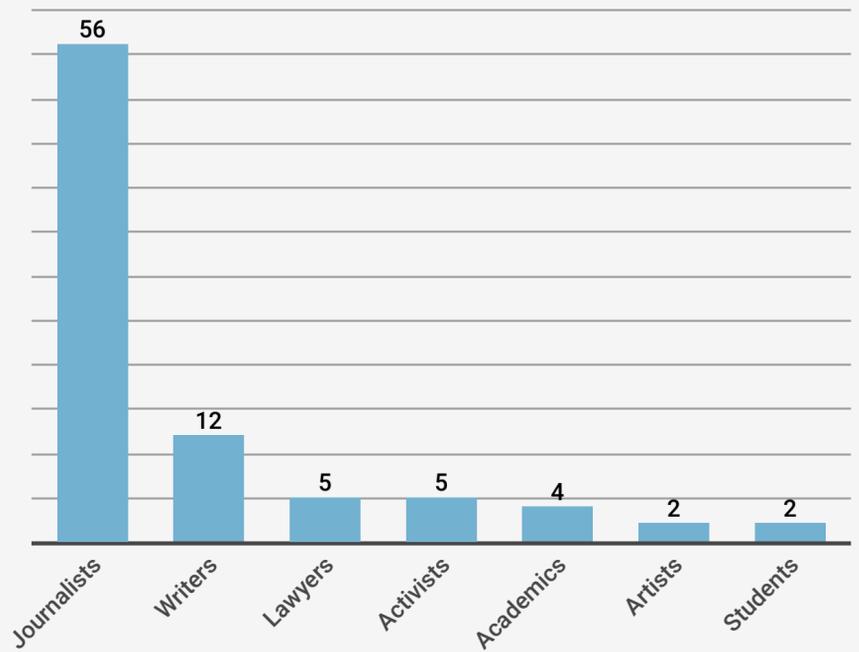


The data set in this report covers **86 hearings of 492 defendants** held between Feb. 20 and May 31, 2019. The data were collected by 13 observers at various court instances in seven cities.

The trials observed were chosen from among freedom of expression-related cases, with a focus on **journalist trials**.

**In most of the hearings defendants were JOURNALISTS**

**70% of charges were related to TERRORISM offences**



## 81%

The evidence presented in most of the cases (81%) was directly related to the profession of the defendants (articles, photographs and social media posts)



**Frequent changes to the panel of judges contravene the principle of the lawful judge and put the impartiality and independence of courts in jeopardy.**

## 47%

of judges' deliberations **DID NOT TAKE PLACE IN PRIVATE** but in presence of prosecutors, defendants and the audience.



**According to the Turkish law, in order to guarantee the court's independence and impartiality, deliberations should take place only among participating judges.**



**26** defendants were in **PRE-TRIAL DETENTION FOR LONGER THAN 12 MONTHS**



**11 ACTIVE ARREST WARRANTS** for the defendants in the trial = to be arrested at "first sight"

**The use of criminal law to target journalists, activists and academics critical of government and to restrict freedom of expression has had a chilling effect in society.**



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Complete report available at [www.ipi.media](http://www.ipi.media) and [www.freeturkeyjournalists.com](http://www.freeturkeyjournalists.com)