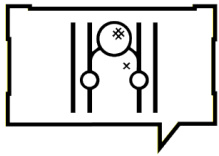


PRESS FREEDOM IN TURKEY

MONTHLY BRIEFING / MARCH – APRIL 2021

www.freeturkeyjournalists.ipi.media



64 JOURNALISTS CURRENTLY IN JAIL

In March, 3 journalists were released.

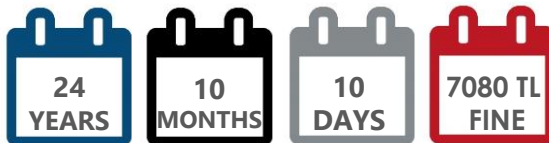
- 51 SENTENCED
- 13 ONGOING TRIAL



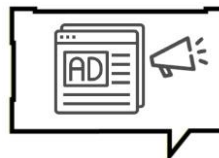
TRIALS CALENDAR

In March, 33 journalist trials were held.

7 journalists were sentenced to:



In April, at least 18 journalist trials will take place. See the calendar [here](#) →



OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

In March:

- Turkey court [ruled on](#) 76-defendant case in Turkish-Armenian journalist **Hrant Dink's murder**, acquitting 28 and sentencing 26 defendants.
- Several journalists were physically and verbally [assaulted](#) by the police while covering **Women's March**.
- **Press Advertisement Agency (BİK)** imposed a total of 22-days ad ban to 8 newspapers.

MEDIA CRACKDOWN IN MARCH

PRESS FREEDOM VIOLATIONS THIS MONTH IN TURKEY

- Local radio journalist Hazım Özsu shot dead in Bursa by a man who disliked his content IPI statement [here](#) →
- Halk TV journalist Levent Gültekin was attacked by a group after critical comments on deceased nationalist leader IPI statement [here](#) →

Read more [here](#) →

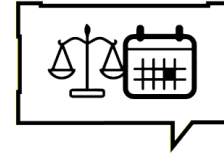
IPI'S WORK IN TURKEY

- **IPI Turkey Digital Media Report Launch:** Watch the new IPI report *"The New Mainstream' Is Rising (And It Seeks Support)"* launch [here](#).
- **IPI Study:** *"Journalism Under the Shadow of the Pandemic: Turkey"* on the impact of COVID-19 on free media in Turkey was launched online, watch [here](#).
- **IPI Freedom Dialogues Turkey:** [New episode](#) marking Women's Day with journalist Özlem Gürses on "the 'glass ceiling' in Turkey's media".
- **IPI Event:** Joint panel on International Women's Day with Turkey's leading journalists and feminists. Available [here](#).
- **Turkey Trial Monitoring Blog:** IPI monitored trials of several journalists in March



TRIALS CALENDAR

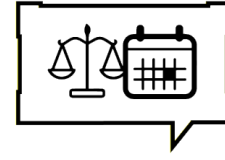
JOURNALIST TRIALS IN MARCH



DATE	DEFENDANTS	COURT	CHARGES	VERDICTS
02.03.2021	FATİH PORTAKAL	İSTANBUL 46. CRIMINAL COURT	DAMAGE ON REPUTATION; INSULTING THE PRESIDENT	ACQUITTAL
03.03.2021	HAZAL OCAK	GAZİANTEP 6. CIVIL COURT	COMPENSATION	LAWSUIT DROPPED BY THE PLAINTIFF
04.03.2021	HAYKO BAĞDAT	İSTANBUL 28. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	ADJOURNED
04.03.2021	OKTAY CANDEMİR	VAN 3. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING THE PRESIDENT	ACQUITTAL
04.03.2021	ZANA BİLİR KAYA, HÜSEYİN AYKOL, İNAN KIZILKAYA	İSTANBUL 2. CRIMINAL COURT	DEGRADING TURKISH NATION, STATE OF REPUBLIC OF TURKEY, THE ORGANS AND INSTITUTIONS OF THE STATE	ADJOURNED
04.03.2021	ARİF ASLAN	VAN 5. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION; SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	ADJOURNED
04.03.2021	TAYLAN ÖZTAŞ, TUNAHAN TURHAN, +36 OTHERS	İSTANBUL ANADOLU 13. CRIMINAL COURT	PREVENTING A POLICE OFFICER FROM PERFORMING THEIR DUTY; DEFYING THE LAW ON ASSEMBLIES AND DEMONSTRATIONS	ADJOURNED
04.03.2021	MEHMET BARANSU, AHMET ALTAN, YAŞEMİN ÇONGAR, YILDIRAY OĞUR, TUNCAY OPÇİN	İSTANBUL 13. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	OBTAINING AND REVEALING SECRET INFORMATION & DOCUMENTS CONCERNING NATIONAL SECURITY	ADJOURNED
04.03.2021	SİBEL HÜRTAŞ, HAYRİ DEMİR	ANKARA 15. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	INCITING PUBLIC TO HATRED AND HOSTILITY	-
04.03.2021	ABDULLAH KAYA	AĞRI 2. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION	ADJOURNED
04.03.2021	İNAN KIZILKAYA, CAN DÜNDAR	İSTANBUL 2. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING A PUBLIC OFFICER	ADJOURNED
04.03.2021	ROJHAT DOĞRU	DİYARBAKIR 8. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	DISRUPTING THE UNITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE STATE, ATTEMPTED MURDER	ADJOURNED
04.03.2021	KCK PRESS TRIAL	İSTANBUL 3. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION	ADJOURNED
08.03.2021	MÜYESSER YILDIZ, İSMAİL DÜKEL	ANKARA 26. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	POSSESSING AND REVEALING SECRET DOCUMENTS REGARDING NATIONAL SECURITY	YILDIZ SENTENCED TO 3 YEARS 7 MONTHS 10 DAYS, DÜKEL SENTENCED TO 1 YEAR 15 DAYS
09.03.2021	SADİYE ESER, SADIK TOPALOĞLU	İSTANBUL 22. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION	ADJOURNED
09.03.2021	ERK ACARER, HAKAN DİRİK	İSTANBUL 2. CRIMINAL COURT	SLANDER	ADJOURNED
09.03.2021	HAKAN AYGÜN	BODRUM 3. CRIMINAL COURT	INCITING THE PUBLIC TO ENMITY AND HATRED; INSULTING THE RELIGIOUS BELIEFS OF SOCIETY	ADJOURNED
09.03.2021	KİBRİYE EVREN	DİYARBAKIR 5. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION; SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	ADJOURNED

TRIALS CALENDAR

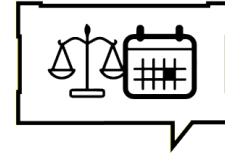
JOURNALIST TRIALS IN MARCH



DATE	DEFENDANTS	COURT	CHARGES	VERDICTS
11.03.2021	ŞERİFE ORUÇ	BATMAN 2. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION	ADJOURNED
11.03.2021	SEYHAN AVŞAR, NECDET ÖNEMLİ	İSTANBUL 29. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	DISCLOSING THE IDENTITIES OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS WHO PARTICIPATED IN ANTI-TERROR OPERATIONS	ADJOURNED
16.03.2021	ALİCAN ULUDAĞ, OLCAY BÜYÜKTAŞ AKÇA	İSTANBUL 32. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	DISCLOSING THE IDENTITIES OF THOSE WHO MADE DENOUNCIATION OF CRIME AND CRIMINALS	ADJOURNED
16.03.2021	BARIŞ BARIŞTAN	DİYARBAKIR 8. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	ACQUITTAL
16.03.2021	SEYHAN AVŞAR, NECDET ÖNEMLİ	İSTANBUL 29. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	DISCLOSING THE IDENTITIES OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS WHO PARTICIPATED IN ANTI-TERROR OPERATIONS	ACQUITTAL
16.03.2021	HAKAN AYGÜN	BODRUM 3. CRIMINAL COURT	INCITING THE PUBLIC TO ENMITY AND HATRED; INSULTING THE RELIGIOUS BELIEFS OF A PART OF THE SOCIETY	SENTENCED TO 7 MONTHS 15 DAYS
17.03.2021	ADİL DEMİRCİ AND 22 OTHERS	İSTANBUL 25. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION; SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	-
18.03.2021	ARIF ASLAN	VAN 5. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION; SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	ACQUITTAL
18.03.2021	HAZAL OCAK, OLCAY BÜYÜKTAŞ, İPEK ÖZBEY, VEDAT ARIK	İSTANBUL 26. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	REVEALING IDENTITY AND TARGETING OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS WHO PARTICIPATED IN ANTI-TERROR OPERATIONS; VIOLATION OF PRIVACY	ADJOURNED
23.03.2021	AHMET SEVER	İSTANBUL 2. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING THE PRESIDENT	ADJOURNED
24.03.2021	BUSE SÖĞÜTLÜ	İSTANBUL 23. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	REVEALING IDENTITY OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS WHO PARTICIPATED IN ANTI-TERROR OPERATIONS	ADJOURNED
24.03.2021	HATİCE ŞAHİN	DİYARBAKIR 9. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION	ADJOURNED
25.03.2021	HAYRİ DEMİR	ANKARA 15. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION; SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	ADJOURNED
31.03.2021	AHMET MEMİŞ, ALİ AKKUŞ, ATILLA TAŞ, CEMAL AZMİ KALYONCU, GÖKÇE FIRAT ÇULHAOĞLU, ÜNAL TANIK, YAKUP ÇETİN, YETKİN YILDIZ	İSTANBUL 25. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION	ADJOURNED
31.03.2021	NAGEHAN ALÇI	İSTANBUL 2. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING A PUBLIC OFFICER	SENTENCED TO 7080 TL

TRIALS CALENDAR

UPCOMING TRIALS IN APRIL



#Free
Turkey
Journalists

DATE	TIME	DEFENDANTS	COURT	CHARGES
01.04.2021	10:10	BATUHAN ÇOLAK, CANAN KAYA	BAKIRKÖY 6. CIVIL COURT	COMPENSATION
02.04.2021		ADNAN BİLEN, CEMİL UĞUR, ŞEHRİBAN ABİ, NAZAN SALA, ZEYNEP DURGUT	VAN 5. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION
02.04.2021		İDRİS YAYLA	BATMAN 1. CRIMINAL COURT	DEFYING THE LAW ON ASSEMBLIES AND DEMONSTRATIONS
02.04.2021	11:40	ZİYA ÇİÇEKÇİ	İSTANBUL 33. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA
06.04.2021	10:30	MELİS ALPHAN	İSTANBUL 32. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA
09.04.2021	09:00	KİBRIYE EVREN	DİYARBAKİT 5. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION; SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA
14.04.2021	11:50	İDRİS SAYILĞAN, NACİ KAYA	EDİRNE 8. CRIMINAL COURT	TRESPASSING A MILITARY ZONE
14.04.2021	14:00	ARAFAT DAYAN	İSTANBUL 2. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA
14.04.2021		BUSE SÖĞÜTLÜ	İSTANBUL 23. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	REVEALING IDENTITY OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS WHO PARTICIPATED IN ANTI-TERROR OPERATIONS
14.04.2021	09:50	ÖZGÜR BOĞATEKİN	ADIYAMAN CRIMINAL COURT	DEFAMATION
15.04.2021	10:00	CEM ŞİMŞEK	BAKIRKÖY 27. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING THE PRESIDENT
15.04.2021	09:30	SEMİHA ŞAHİN, PINAR GAYIP	İSTANBUL 23. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA
16.04.2021	09:00	AZİZ ORUÇ	AĞRI 2. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION; SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA
20.04.2021	14:30	İNCİ AYDIN	İSTANBUL 26. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA VIA THE PRESS
20.04.2021		KEMAL DEMİR, KEMAL KARAGÖZ	İSTANBUL 28. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION
22.04.2021	11:20	ÖZGÜR GÜNDEM RAİD TRIAL	İSTANBUL 5. CRIMINAL COURT	RESISTING A PUBLIC OFFICER TO PREVENT THEM FROM PERFORMING THEIR DUTY; INSULTING A PUBLIC OFFICER
26.04.2021	09:45	DURKET SÜREN	DİYARBAKIR 11. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA; AIDING AND ABETTING A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION
28.04.2021		CAN DÜNDAR, MEMET ALI ALABORA, AYŞE PINAR ALABORA, GÖKÇE YILMAZ, HANDAN MELTEM ARIKAN, HANZADE HIKMET GERMIYANOĞLU, İNANÇ EKMEKÇİ (GEZİ TRIAL)	İSTANBUL 30. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	ATTEMPT TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT AND/OR PREVENT IT FROM FULFILLING ITS DUTY

○ FREE TURKEY JOURNALISTS NEWSROOM

The International Press Institute ([IPI](#)) closely follows developments on press freedom and journalists' rights in the country. Here is some of our most recent content on Turkey.



○ IPI welcomes Turkish Constitutional Court decision reversing greater state control over Anadolu news agency

Mar 2, 2021

IPI welcomed a ruling by Turkey's Constitutional Court blocking closer government control over the state-owned Anadolu news agency (AA). A 2018 decree had authorized the presidential office to conclude a contract with AA which grants the presidential office power to regulate the appointment of executives and as well as to supervise the budget, activities, organization and human resources management of the news agency.

[Read more](#)



○ Turkey journalists sentenced for reporting on Turkish military actions in Libya

Mar 10, 2021

IPI condemned the prison sentences handed down to two journalists in Turkey, Müyesser Yıldız and İsmail Dükel, over their critical reporting on military operations of Turkish armed forces in Libya. The court sentenced Oda TV news editor Yıldız to three years seven months and ten days, and TELE1's Ankara correspondent Dükel to one year and 15 days in prison for revealing documents regarding the national security.

[Read more](#)



○ IPI calls on European Council to prioritize press freedom in Turkey ahead of EU leaders' meeting

Mar 23, 2021

IPI sent a letter to the European Council President Charles Michel ahead of the European Council meeting on March 25 and 26 where EU-Turkey relations will be discussed. The letter calls on Michel and the European Council to insist on an improved human rights record in Turkey, especially in press freedom and freedom of expression, as a prior condition to any improvement in diplomatic relations..

[Read more](#)



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