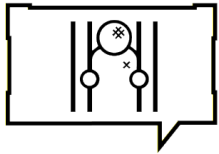


PRESS FREEDOM IN TURKEY

MONTHLY BRIEFING / FEBRUARY – MARCH

www.freeturkeyjournalists.ipi.media



69 JOURNALISTS CURRENTLY IN JAIL

In February, **1** journalist was **released**.

- 53 SENTENCED
- 16 ONGOING TRIAL



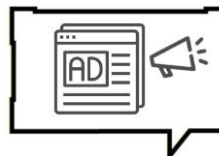
TRIALS CALENDAR

In February, **31** journalist trials were held.

7 journalists were sentenced to:



In March, **28** journalist trials will take place. See the calendar [here](#) →



OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

In February:

- 4 editors, executives of **Özgür Gündem** [sentenced](#) to a total of 21 years in prison
- [Advert ban](#) on **Twitter** as part of the new social media law enters into force.
- **Press Advertising Agency (BİK)** imposed a total of 23-days ad ban to seven newspapers.

MEDIA CRACKDOWN IN FEBRUARY

PRESS FREEDOM VIOLATIONS THIS MONTH IN TURKEY

- Radio and Television High Council (RTÜK) issued fines on broadcasters Halk TV, TELE 1, FOX TV, HaberTürk, KRT TV. IPI Statement [here](#) →
- Several journalists were targeted, teargassed and attacked by police while covering Boğaziçi University protests. IPI Statement [here](#) →

Read more [here](#) →

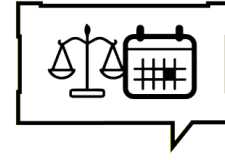
IPI's WORK IN TURKEY

- **IPI Report Launch (March 3, 2021):** IPI launches findings of the new IPI Turkey Digital Media Report: **'The New Mainstream' is Rising (And It Seeks Support)**. [Register here.](#)
- **IPI Analysis: "Turkey's judiciary and press freedom: Farewell to fair trial"** based on the case of journalist Ender İmrek that illustrates groundless indictments and growing use of insult charges. [Read the full article here.](#)
- **Turkey Trial Monitoring Blog:** IPI's Emre Kızılkaya wrote on the injustice that is the retrial of RSF's Erol Önderoğlu and his colleagues.
- IPI press freedom statements, articles published in three languages



TRIALS CALENDAR

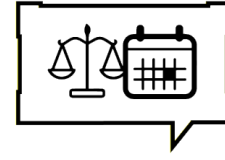
JOURNALIST TRIALS IN FEBRUARY



DATE	DEFENDANTS	COURT	CHARGES	VERDICTS
01.02.2021	İDRİS SAYILĞAN	MUŞ 2. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	SENTENCED TO 4 YEARS
02.02.2021	FERHAT ÇELİK	BAYBURT CRIMINAL COURT	FABRICATING AN OFFENSE	ACQUITTAL
02.02.2021	BATUHAN ÇOLAK, CANAN KAYA	BAKIRKÖY 6. CIVIL COURT	COMPENSATION	ADJOURNED
03.02.2021	CEREN SÖZERİ	İSTANBUL 2. COMMERCIAL COURT	COMPENSATION	ADJOURNED
03.02.2021	ALİCAN ULUDAĞ	ANKARA 18. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	DISCLOSING THE IDENTITIES OF STATE OFFICIALS PARTICIPATED IN ANTI-TERROR OPERATIONS	SENTENCED TO 10 MONTHS (SUSPENDED)
03.02.2021	HAYKO BAĞDAT	İSTANBUL 50. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING THE PRESIDENT	ADJOURNED
03.02.2021	EROL ÖNDEROĞLU, ŞEBNEM KORUR FİNCANCI, AHMET NEŞİN	İSTANBUL 13. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	ADJOURNED
05.02.2021	MÜYESSER YILDIZ, İSMAİL DÜKEL	ANKARA 26. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	POSSESSING AND REVEALING SECRET DOCUMENTS REGARDING NATIONAL SECURITY	ADJOURNED
09.02.2021	DİNDAR KARATAŞ	ERZURUM HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF ARMED ORGANIZATION	KARATAŞ RELEASED, ADJOURNED
09.02.2021	SELMAN KELEŞ	VAN 5. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION	ADJOURNED
09.02.2021	HATİCE KAMER	DİYABAKIR 8. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	ACQUITTAL
11.02.2021	NAGEHAN ALÇI	İSTANBUL 2. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING A PUBLIC OFFICIAL	ADJOURNED
11.02.2021	MEŞALE TOLU VE DİĞERLERİ	İSTANBUL 29. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	ADJOURNED
11.02.2021	SEMİHA ŞAHİN, PINAR GAYIP	İSTANBUL 23. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	ADJOURNED
11.02.2021	ARİF ASLAN	VAN 5. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION	ADJOURNED
15.02.2021	ZANA BİLİR KAYA, İNAN KIZILKAYA, KEMAL SANCILI, EREN KESKİN (ÖZGÜR GÜNDEM)	İSTANBUL 23. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	KESKİN, KIZILKAYA AND SANCILI SENTENCED TO 6 YEARS 3 MONTHS EACH, KAYA İS SENTENCED TO 1YR 13 MONTHS

TRIALS CALENDAR

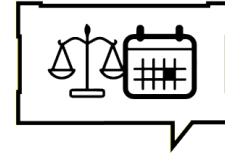
JOURNALIST TRIALS IN FEBRUARY



DATE	DEFENDANTS	COURT	CHARGES	VERDICTS
16.02.2021	İSMAİL ÇOBAN	DİYARBAKIR 7. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	ADJOURNED
16.02.2021	BARIŞ BARIŞTAN	DİYARBAKIR 8. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	ADJOURNED
16.02.2021	ÖZGÜR GÜNDEM RAID TRIAL (22 JOURNALISTS)	İSTANBUL 5. CRIMINAL COURT	RESISTING A PUBLIC OFFICER TO PREVENT THEM FROM PERFORMING THEIR DUTY, INSULTING A PUBLIC OFFICER	ADJOURNED
16.02.2021	ALİ SÖNMEZ KAYAR	İSTANBUL 32. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION	ADJOURNED
17.02.2021	KENAN KIRKAYA	ANKARA 32. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION	ADJOURNED
18.02.2021	İSMİNAZ TEMEL, HAVVA CUŞTAN	İSTANBUL 27. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	ADJOURNED
18.02.2021	ÇİĞDEM TOKER	KÜÇÜKÇEKMECE 3. CIVIL COURT	COMPENSATION	ADJOURNED
18.02.2021	AHMET ALTAN	İSTANBUL 2. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING A PUBLIC OFFICER	ADJOURNED
18.02.2021	RÜSTEM BATUM	İSTANBUL 41. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING THE PRESIDENT	ADJOURNED
23.02.2021	ABDURRAHMAN GÖK	DİYARBAKIR 5. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION, SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA VIA THE PRESS	ADJOURNED
23.02.2021	RUKEN DEMİR	İZMİR 19. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION	ADJOURNED
23.02.2021	CANAN COŞKUN, CAN UĞUR, ALİ AÇAR	İSTANBUL 34. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	DISCLOSING THE IDENTITIES OF STATE OFFICIALS ON ANTI-TERROR DUTY	ADJOURNED
24.02.2021	ÖZGÜR GÜNDEM TRIAL (EREN KESKİN, HÜSEYİN AYKOL, REYHAN ÇAPAN, +5 OTHERS)	İSTANBUL 13. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	PRAISING A CRIME AND CRIMINAL, SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA; OVERTLY INCITING TO COMMIT A CRIME	ADJOURNED
25.02.2021	RÜSTEM BATUM	İSTANBUL 5. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING THE PRESIDENT, INCITING PUBLIC TO HATRED, HOSTILITY	ADJOURNED
26.02.2021	KERİM KARAKAYA, FERCAN YALÇINKILIÇ, MUSTAFA SÖNMEZ, SEDEF KABAŞ, MERDAN YANARDAĞ, ORHAN AYDIN	İSTANBUL 3. CRIMINAL COURT	DEFYING THE LAW ON CAPITAL MARKET	ADJOURNED

TRIALS CALENDAR

UPCOMING TRIALS IN MARCH

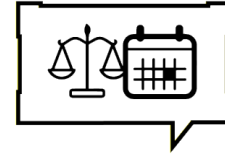


#Free
Turkey
Journalists

DATE	DEFENDANTS	COURT	CHARGES
03.03.2021	HAZAL OCAK	GAZİANTEP 6. CIVIL COURT	COMPENSATION
04.03.2021	HAYKO BAĞDAT	İSTANBUL 28. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA
04.03.2021	OKTAY CANDEMİR	VAN 3. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING THE PRESIDENT
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
04.03.2021	ARİF ASLAN	VAN 5. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION, SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA
04.03.2021	TAYLAN ÖZTAŞ, TUNAHAH TURHAN and + 36 others	ISTANBUL ANADOLU 13. CRIMINAL COURTİ	PREVENTING A POLICE OFFICER FROM PERFORMING THEIR DUTY; DEFYING THE LAW ON ASSEMBLIES AND DEMONSTRATIONS
04.03.2021	MEHMET BARANSU, AHMET ALTAN, YASEMİN ÇONGAR, YILDIRAY OĞUR, TUNCAY OPÇİN	İSTANBUL 13. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	REVEALING INFORMATION THAT IS TO BE KEPT SECRET FOR THE SECURITY AND POLITICAL BENEFIT OF THE STATE; OBTAINING SECRET DOCUMENTS CONCERNING NATIONAL SECURITY
04.03.2021	SİBEL HÜRTAŞ, HAYRİ DEMİR	ANKARA 15. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	INCITING PUBLIC TO HATRED, HOSTILITY
04.03.2021	ABDULLAH KAYA	AĞRI 2. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION,
04.03.2021	İNAN KIZILKAYA, CAN DÜNDAR	İSTANBUL 2. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING A PUBLIC OFFICER
04.03.2021	ROJHAT DOĞRU	DİYARBAKIR 8. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	DISRUPTING THE UNITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE STATE, ATTEMPTED MURDER
04.03.2021	KCK PRESS TRIAL	İSTANBUL 3. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION,
04.03.2021	JAMAL KHASHOGGI MURDER TRIAL	ISTANBUL 11. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	DELIBERATE KILLING
04.03.2021	HRANT DINK MURDER TRIAL	ISTANBUL 14. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MALPRACTICE OF OFFICIAL DUTY (FINAL HEARING)
08.03.2021	MÜYESSER YILDIZ, İSMAİL DÜKEL	ANKARA 26. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	POSSESSING AND REVEALING SECRET DOCUMENTS REGARDING NATIONAL SECURITY

TRIALS CALENDAR

UPCOMING TRIALS IN MARCH



#Free
Turkey
Journalists

DATE	DEFENDANTS	COURT	CHARGES
09.03.2021	SADIYE ESER, SADIK TOPALOĞLU	İSTANBUL 22. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION
09.03.2021	ERK ACARER, HAKAN DİRİK	İSTANBUL 2. CRIMINAL COURT	SLANDER
09.03.2021	HAKAN AYGÜN	BODRUM 3. CRIMINAL COURT	INCITING THE PUBLIC TO ENMITY AND HATRED; INSULTING THE RELIGIOUS BELIEFS OF SOCIETY
09.03.2021	KİBRIYE EVREN	DİYARBAKIR 5. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA
11.03.2021	ŞERİFE ORUÇ	BATMAN 2. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION
11.03.2021	SEYHAN AVŞAR, NECDET ÖNEMLİ	İSTANBUL 29. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	DISCLOSING THE IDENTITIES OF STATE OFFICIALS ON ANTI-TERROR DUTY
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
16.03.2021	BARİŞ BARIŞTAN	DİYARBAKIR 8. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA
17.03.2021	ADİL DEMİRCİ, +22 Others	İSTANBUL 25. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA
18.03.2021	HAZAL OCAK, OLCAY BÜYÜKTAŞ, İPEK ÖZBEY, VEDAT ARIK	İSTANBUL 26. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	PUBLISHING THE IDENTITIES OF STATE OFFICIALS ON ANTI- TERROR DUTY AND/OR IDENTIFYING THEM AS TARGETS + VIOLATION OF PRIVACY OF PERSONAL LIFE
24.03.2021	BUSE SÖĞÜTLÜ	İSTANBUL 23. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	DISCLOSING THE IDENTITIES OF STATE OFFICIALS ON ANTI-TERROR DUTY
25.03.2021	HAYRİ DEMİR	ANKARA 15. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA
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 TERRORIST ORGANIZATION

○ 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.



○ Turkish broadcast regulator continues pattern of fining critical media

Feb 11, 2021

IPI condemned the latest fines issued by Turkey's broadcast regulator (RTÜK) against television stations Halk TV, Habertürk, Tele 1, KRT and Fox TV over content critical of the government and its allies.

[Read more](#)



○ Turkey: IPI strongly condemns police attacks on journalists covering university protests

Feb 4, 2021

IPI condemned the deliberate targeting of and attacks against the journalists covering the mass demonstrations in Kadıköy, Istanbul on February 2, by the police. The journalists were targeted amidst a series of protests in Turkey in which students at Boğaziçi University in Istanbul have been demonstrating against the recent appointment of a new rector from outside the institution by President Erdoğan.

[Read more](#)



○ IPI calls for acquittal of Turkey's Erol Önderoğlu and colleagues ahead of retrial

Feb 2, 2021

IPI called for the immediate acquittal of Erol Önderoğlu, an IPI member and the Reporters Without Borders (RSF) Turkey representative, as well as his two co-defendants, Şebnem Korur Fincancı and Ahmet Nesin, ahead of their retrial in Turkey on February 3, 2021 on terrorism-related charges.

[Read more](#)



This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of IPI and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union.