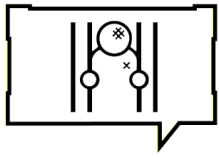


PRESS FREEDOM IN TURKEY

MONTHLY BRIEFING / APRIL – MAY 2021

www.freeturkeyjournalists.ipi.media



58 JOURNALISTS CURRENTLY IN JAIL

In April, 5 journalists were released.

- 50 SENTENCED
- 8 ONGOING TRIAL

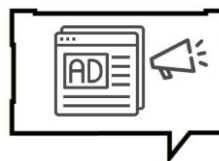


TRIALS CALENDAR

In April, 18 journalist trials were held:

7 journalists were **acquitted** in 5 different trials. 13 trials were **adjourned** to a later date.

In May, at least 17 journalist trials will take place. See the calendar [here](#) →



OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

In April:

- 4 journalists who reported on alleged torture in Van [released](#) after 6 months in detention.
- Writer Ahmet Altan was [released](#) on Apr 14 following ECtHR and Supreme Court of Cassation rulings.
- At least 6 journalists **briefly detained** by the police while covering protests, trials.
- Press Advertisement Agency (**BİK**) imposed a total of 38-days ad ban to 10 newspapers.


MEDIA CRACKDOWN IN APRIL

PRESS FREEDOM VIOLATIONS THIS MONTH IN TURKEY

- ECtHR finds rights violations in case of Ahmet Altan
IPI Statement [here](#) →
- Turkey's Human Rights Action Plan announced in March is not a consequence of incomplete or erroneous laws, but the complete disregard or misuse of the existing ones.
Read IPI's analysis [here](#) →

Read more [here](#) →

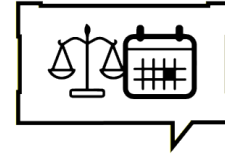
IPI's WORK IN TURKEY

- **IPI #WPFDD Event:** IPI marks May 3, World Press Freedom Day with a joint panel on Turkey co-organized with Columbia Global Centers Istanbul. Please find info and registration [here](#).
- **IPI Letter:** An IPI-led international call urged EU leaders to prioritize improved human rights records and press freedom in Turkey ahead of their visit to Turkey. Read the full letter [here](#).
- IPI press freedom statements, articles published in three languages 



TRIALS CALENDAR

JOURNALIST TRIALS IN APRIL



DATE	DEFENDANTS	COURT	CHARGES	VERDICTS
01.04.2021	BATUHAN ÇOLAK, CANAN KAYA	BAKIRKÖY 6. CIVIL COURT	COMPENSATION	ACQUITTED
02.04.2021	ADNAN BİLEN, CEMİL UĞUR, ŞEHRİBAN ABİ, NAZAN SALA, ZEYNEP DURGUT	VAN 5. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION	ADJOURNED, 4 JOURNOS RELEASED
02.04.2021	İDRİS YAYLA	BATMAN 1. CRIMINAL COURT	DEFYING THE LAW ON ASSEMBLIES AND DEMONSTRATIONS	ADJOURNED
02.04.2021	ZİYA ÇİÇEKÇİ	İSTANBUL 33. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	ADJOURNED
06.04.2021	MELİS ALPHAN	İSTANBUL 32. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	ADJOURNED
08.04.2021	SELDA MANDUZ	KARS 2. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION	ACQUITTED
14.04.2021	İDRİS SAYILĞAN, NACİ KAYA	EDİRNE 8. CRIMINAL COURT	TRESPASSING A MILITARY ZONE	ACQUITTED
14.04.2021	ARAFAT DAYAN	İSTANBUL 2. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	ADJOURNED
14.04.2021	BUSE SÖĞÜTLÜ	İSTANBUL 23. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	DISCLOSING THE IDENTITIES OF STATE OFFICIALS WHO PARTICIPATED ANTI-TERROR OPERATIONS	ADJOURNED
14.04.2021	ÖZGÜR BOĞATEKİN	ADIYAMAN CRIMINAL COURT	DEFAMATION	ACQUITTED
15.04.2021	CEM ŞİMŞEK	BAKIRKÖY 27. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING THE PRESIDENT	ADJOURNED
15.04.2021	SEMİHA ŞAHİN, PINAR GAYIP	İSTANBUL 23. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	ADJOURNED
16.04.2021	AZİZ ORUÇ	AĞRI 2. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION; SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	ADJOURNED
20.04.2021	KEMAL DEMİR, KEMAL KARAGÖZ	İSTANBUL 28. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION	ADJOURNED
20.04.2021	İNCİ AYDIN	İSTANBUL 26. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	ACQUITTED
22.04.2021	ÖZGÜR GÜNDEM RAİD TRİAL	İSTANBUL 5. CRIMINAL COURT	RESISTING A PUBLIC OFFICER TO PREVENT THEM FROM PERFORMING THEIR DUTY; INSULTING A PUBLIC OFFICER	ADJOURNED
26.04.2021	DURKET SÜREN	DİYARBAKIR 11. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA; AIDING A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION	ADJOURNED
28.04.2021	CAN DÜNDAR, +6 OTHERS (GEZİ TRİAL)	İSTANBUL 30. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	ATTEMPTING TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT AND/OR PREVENT IT FROM FULFILLING ITS DUTY	ADJOURNED, TO BE MERGED WITH THE MAIN GEZİ TRIAL



TRIALS CALENDAR

UPCOMING TRIALS IN MAY



#Free
Turkey
Journalists

DATE	TIME	DEFENDANTS	COURT	CHARGES
04.05.2021	09:30	ALİ ORHAN, CİHAT ÜNAL, HASAN YAVAŞLAR, KENAN BAŞ, OLGUN MATUR, +5 OTHERS	ANTALYA 2. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION
04.05.2021		RÜSTEM BATUM	İSTANBUL 5. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING THE PRESIDENT; INCITING PUBLIC TO HATRED AND HOSTILITY
04.05.2021		ROJHAT DOĞRU	DİYARBAKIR 8. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST A ORGANIZATION; SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA
04.05.2021	09:55	İSMAİL ÇOBAN	DİYARBAKIR 7. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA
05.05.2021	11:10	HAYKO BAĞDAT	İSTANBUL 50. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING THE PRESIDENT
05.05.2021	10:00	REDHACK TRIAL	İSTANBUL 29. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION
06.05.2020	14:00	EROL ÖNDEROĞLU, ŞEBNEM KORUR FİNCANCI, AHMET NESİN	İSTANBUL 13. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA; PRAISING A CRIME AND THE CRIMINAL
06.05.2020	09:30	CAN ATAĞLI	İSTANBUL 22. CRIMINAL COURT	DENIGRATING A SECTION OF THE PEOPLE ON THE BASIS OF THEIR SOCIAL CLASS, RACE, RELIGION, SECT, GENDER OR REGIONAL DIFFERENCE
06.05.2020	11:00	ALİ SÖNMEZ KAYAR	İSTANBUL 32. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION
20.05.2021	09:00	JAKE HANRAHAN, PHILIP JOHN PENDLEBURY	DİYARBAKIR 8. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	AIDING AND ABETTING A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION
21.05.2021	13:15	MELİS ALPHAN	İSTANBUL 32. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA
21.05.2021		CAN DÜNDAR, +15 OTHERS (GEZİ TRIAL)	İSTANBUL 30. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	ATTEMPT TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT
21.05.2021	11:00	KENAN KIRKAYA	ANKARA 32. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION
25.05.2021	10:00	SELMAN KELEŞ	VAN 5. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION
25.05.2021	11:00	İSMİNAZ TEMEL, HAVVA CUŞTAN	İSTANBUL 27. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION; SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA
26.05.2021		MEHMET ARSLAN	İSTANBUL 24. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION
27.05.2021	10:00	DİNDAR KARATAŞ	ERZURUM 3. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A 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.



○ International groups call on EU leaders to prioritize fundamental rights ahead of Turkey visit

Apr 1, 2021

IPI and 20 international human rights and freedom of expression organizations sent a joint letter to the presidents of the European Council and European Commission to call on EU leaders to prioritize improved human rights records in Turkey ahead of their visit to the Turkish president Erdoğan on April 6.

[Read more](#)



○ IPI Analysis: Turkey's human rights action plan vs. reality

Apr 8, 2021

On March 2, Turkey's President Erdoğan announced a 128-page Human Rights Action Plan to be implemented over two-year period. However, the regression in human rights is not a consequence of incomplete or erroneous laws, but the complete disregard or misuse of the existing ones by the authorities.

[Read more](#)



○ Ahmet Altan: ECtHR finds rights violations in case of Turkish journalist and writer

Apr 14, 2021

IPI welcomed a European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) ruling on April 13, finding that Turkey had violated the rights of Ahmet Altan, a prominent writer and journalist with the now-shuttered Taraf newspaper.

[Read more](#)



○ Hrant Dink murder trial in Turkey: Justice not served

Apr 27, 2021

IPI expressed concerns about continued impunity in the 2007 murder of Turkish-Armenian journalist Hrant Dink following a court ruling on March 26. Local reports stated that while 27 of the defendants were sentenced to various prison sentences, 33 of them were acquitted.

[Read more](#)

