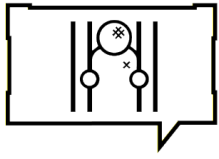


# PRESS FREEDOM IN TURKEY

MONTHLY BRIEFING / DECEMBER 2021 – JANUARY 2022

[www.freeturkeyjournalists.ipi.media](http://www.freeturkeyjournalists.ipi.media)



## 37 JOURNALISTS CURRENTLY IN JAIL

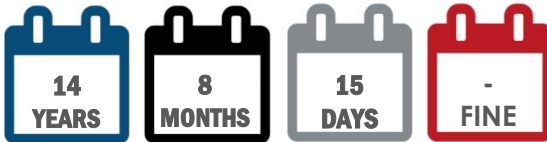
- 34 SENTENCED
- 3 ONGOING TRIAL



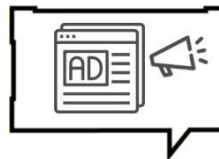
## TRIALS CALENDAR

In December, 28 journalist trials were held.

8 journalists were sentenced to:



In January, at least 25 journalist trials will take place. See the calendar [here](#) →



## OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

In December:

- YouTube journalists Arif Kocabıyık, Hasan Köksoy, Mehmet Koyuncu and cameraman Turan Kural put under [house arrest](#) following an AKP official's complaint.
- Journalists Nebiye Ari, Yagmur Kaya, Hilal Işık were briefly [detained](#) while covering student protests in Ankara.
- Banking regulatory body BDDK filed [criminal complaints](#) against 26 people including journalists Alican Uludağ, Emin Çapa, Erk Acarer and Mustafa Sönmez for “manipulating the foreign exchange rates” via tweets.

## MEDIA CRACKDOWN IN DECEMBER

### PRESS FREEDOM VIOLATIONS THIS MONTH IN TURKEY

- IPI marked Human Rights Day with nationwide ad campaign in independent newspapers in Turkey. IPI Campaign page [here](#) →
- IPI monitored the hearing of Cumhuriyet journalists over official complaint from presidential office. Read the trial blog [here](#) →

Read more [here](#) →

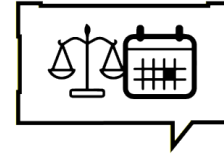
## IPI'S WORK IN TURKEY

- **IPI Dec 10 Campaign:** IPI marked Human Rights Day with nationwide ad campaign in independent newspapers in Turkey. IPI Campaign page [here](#).
- **IPI Webinar:** IPI Turkey National Committee, in partnership with the Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul (CGC), held a webinar on funding Independent and quality journalism w/ internationals and local experts. Watch the recording [here](#).
- **IPI Podcast:** Two new episodes at IPI Freedom Dialogues Turkey w/ human rights activist Melda Onur and journalist Tuğrul Eryılmaz (TUR). [Listen to the episodes here](#).
- **IPI Turkey Dispatches:** Former Cumhuriyet reporter Hazal Ocak writes for IPI Turkey Dispatches, reflects on the highs and lows of covering nature and the climate crisis in Turkey's challenging media landscape. Read the article [here](#).



# TRIALS CALENDAR

## JOURNALIST TRIALS IN DECEMBER



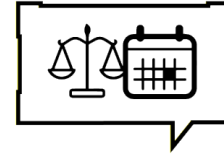
#Free  
Turkey  
Journalists

DATE	DEFENDANTS	COURT	CHARGES	VERDICTS
01.12.2021	HAZAL OCAK, OLCAY BÜYÜKTAŞ, İPEK ÖZBEY, VEDAT ARIK (F. ALTUN COMPLAINT)	İSTANBUL 26. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	REVEALING THE IDENTITIES OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS WHO PARTICIPATED IN ANTI-TERROR OPERATIONS; VIOLATION OF PRIVACY	ADJOURNED
07.12.2021	CİHAN ÖLMEZ	DİYARBAKIR 5. CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	ADJOURNED
07.12.2021	KENAN KIRKAYA	ANKARA 14. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION	ADJOURNED
08.12.2021	AZİZ ORUÇ, DİCLE MÜFTÜOĞLU	AĞRI 2. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION; SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	ADJOURNED
09.12.2021	TUNCA ÖĞRETEN, MAHİR KANAAT, ÖMER ÇELİK, METİN YOKSU, DERYA OKATAN, ERAY SARGIN (REDHACK TRIAL)	İSTANBUL 29. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION; SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA; DISRUPTING INFORMATICS SYSTEMS; REMOVING DATA	ADJOURNED
09.12.2021	CEM BAHTİYAR	BALIKESİR 3. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	ADJOURNED
10.12.2021	AHMET KANBAL	AYDIN 3. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	TARGETING PUBLIC OFFICIALS WHO PARTICIPATED IN ANTI-TERROR OPERATIONS; INSULTING THE PUBLIC OFFICIALS	ADJOURNED
10.12.2021	BEYZA KURAL (3 POLICE OFFICERS AS DEFENDANTS)	İSTANBUL 35. CRIMINAL COURT	VIOLATION OF KURAL'S FREEDOM TO WORK	ADJOURNED
13.12.2021	DURKET SÜREN	DİYARBAKIR 11. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA; AIDING AND ABETTING A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION	ADJOURNED
14.12.2021	ROJHAT DOĞRU	DİYARBAKIR 8. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	DISRUPTING THE INTEGRITY OF THE STATE AND THE NATION; ATTEMPT TO MURDER	ADJOURNED
15.12.2021	ENGİN KORKMAZ	ANTALYA 19. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING THE PRESIDENT	ADJOURNED
16.12.2021	ASLI ERDOĞAN (ÖZGÜR GÜNDEM RE-TRIAL)	İSTANBUL 23. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	ADJOURNED
16.12.2021	KEMAL DEMİR, KEMAL KARAGÖZ (TV10)	İSTANBUL 28. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION	KARAGÖZ ACQUITTED, DEMİR SENTENCED TO 3 YEARS 9 MONTHS
16.12.2021	MEHMET ASLAN	İSTANBUL 24. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION	ACQUITTED



# TRIALS CALENDAR

## JOURNALIST TRIALS IN DECEMBER

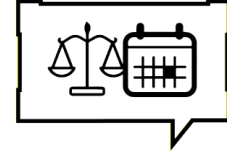


#Free  
Turkey  
Journalists

DATE	DEFENDANTS	COURT	CHARGES	VERDICTS
16.12.2021	DERYA OKATAN	İSTANBUL 39. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULT	ADJOURNED
21.12.2021	HAYRİ DEMİR	ANKARA 15. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION; SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	ADJOURNED
21.12.2021	ÖZGÜR GÜNDEM RAID TRIAL (22 DEFENDANTS)	İSTANBUL 5. CRIMINAL COURT	RESISTING POLICE OFFICERS PREVENTING FROM PERFORMING THEIR DUTY; INSULT	ACQUITTAL
23.12.2021	DOĞAN ERGÜN, İZEL SEZER	İSTANBUL 33. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULT, DEFAMATION	ADJOURNED
23.12.2021	AHMET SEVER	İSTANBUL 2. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING THE PRESIDENT	ADJOURNED
23.12.2021	AHMET SEVER	İSTANBUL 2. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING A PUBLIC OFFICIAL (AKP MP MUSTAFA ŞENTOP'S COMPLAINT)	ADJOURNED
23.12.2021	AHMET SEVER	İSTANBUL 2. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING A PUBLIC OFFICIAL (MINISTER MUSTAFA VARANK'S COMPLAINT)	ADJOURNED
23.12.2021	İNAN KIZILKAYA, CAN DÜNDAR (ÖZGÜR GÜNDEM)	İSTANBUL 22. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	PUBLISHING ON BEHALF OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION	ADJOURNED
23.12.2021	EREN KESKİN, REYHAN ÇAPAN	İSTANBUL 2. CRIMINAL COURT	DEFYING THE PRESS LAW NO. 5187	ADJOURNED
24.12.2021	MEŞALE TOLU, + OTHERS	İSTANBUL 29. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION; SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	ADJOURNED
28.12.2021	DENİZ YÜCEL (TRIAL 2)	İSTANBUL 24. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING A PUBLIC OFFICIAL	ADJOURNED
29.12.2021	BUSE SÖĞÜTLÜ, +OTHERS (35 DEFENDANTS)	İSTANBUL 58. CRIMINAL COURT	DEFYING THE LAW ON ASSEMBLIES AND DEMONSTRATIONS NO. 2911	ADJOURNED
29.12.2021	CAN DÜNDAR (MİT TRUCKS TRIAL)	İSTANBUL 14. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	OBTAINING AND DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL INFO FOR POLITICAL OR MILITARY ESPIONAGE	ADJOURNED
31.12.2021	TUNCA ÖĞRETEN, MAHİR KANAAT, ÖMER ÇELİK, METİN YOKSU, DERYA OKATAN, ERAY SARGIN (REDHACK TRIAL)	İSTANBUL 29. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION; SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA; DISRUPTING INFORMATICS SYSTEMS; REMOVING DATA	OKATAN ACQUITTED OF ALL CHARGES, 5 DEFENDANTS SENTENCED 1Y 8M EACH FOR "OBTAINING PERSONAL DATA"

# TRIALS CALENDAR

## UPCOMING TRIALS IN JANUARY



DATE	TIME	DEFENDANTS	COURT	CHARGES
06.01.2022		ROJHAT DOĞRU	DİYARBAKIR 8. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	DISRUPTING THE INTEGRITY OF THE STATE AND THE NATION; ATTEMPT TO MURDER
06.01.2022	10:00	ADNAN BİLEN, CEMİL UĞUR, ŞEHRİBAN ABİ, NAZAN SALA, ZEYNEP DURGUT	VAN 5. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION
06.01.2022	14:00	CANER TAŞPINAR	İSTANBUL 11. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	INSULT
11.01.2022	14:00	AHMET TURAN ALKAN, ALİ BULAÇ, İBRAHİM KARAYEĞEN, İHSAN DAĞI, LALE SARIİBRAHİMOĞLU, MEHMET ÖZDEMİR, MUSTAFA ÜNAL, MÜMTAZER TÜRKÖNE, NURİYE AKMAN, ORHAN KEMAL CENGİZ, ŞAHİN ALPAY (ZAMAN NEWSPAPER RETRIAL)	İSTANBUL 13. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	ATTEMPT TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT; MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION; SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA; AIDING AND ABETTING A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION WHILST NOT BEING A MEMBER
11.01.2022		SELMAN KELEŞ	VAN 5. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION
11.01.2022		RÜSTEM BATUM (TRIAL 2)	İSTANBUL 41. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING THE PRESIDENT
11.01.2022	11:00	SADIYE ESER, SADIK TOPALOĞLU	İSTANBUL 22. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION
12.01.2022		RUKEN DEMİR	İZMİR 19. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION
12.01.2022	11:35	ZİYA ÇİÇEKÇİ	İSTANBUL 33. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA
13.01.2022		ROJDA OĞUZ	VAN 4. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA
17.01.2022	10:00	CAN DÜNDAR, OSMAN KAVALA, MEHMET ALİ ALABORA, AYŞE MÜCELLA YAPICI, +12 OTHERS (GEZİ TRIAL)	İSTANBUL 13. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	ATTEMPT TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT AND/OR PREVENT IT FROM FULFILLING ITS DUTY
17.01.2022	10:00	MEŞALE TOLU, +OTHERS	İSTANBUL 29. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION; SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA
20.01.2022	10:30	ABDURRAHMAN GÖK	DİYARBAKIR 5. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION; SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA VIA THE PRESS
20.01.2022	09:40	RÜSTEM BATUM (TRIAL 1)	İSTANBUL 5. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTIN THE PRESIDENT; INCITING PUBLIC TO HATRED AND ENMITY
21.01.2022		KENAN KIRKAYA	ANKARA 14. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION
21.01.2022		ENGİN EREN	BATMAN 2. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION
21.01.2022	10:00	MEHMET BARANSU, AHMET ALTAN, YASEMİN ÇONGAR, YILDIRAY OĞUR, TUNCAY OPÇİN	İSTANBUL 13. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	FOUNDING AND LEADING AN ARMED TERRORIST ORGANIZATION; OBTAINING AND REVEALING SECRET DOCUMENTS CONCERNING NATIONAL SECURITY
25.01.2022		RAMAZAN AKOĞUL	DİYARBAKIR 4. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION
26.01.2022	09:05	HATİCE ŞAHİN	DİYARBAKIR 9. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION
26.01.2022	10:30	DERYA OKATAN	ANKARA 4. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA
27.01.2022		VELAT ÖZTEKİN	DİYARBAKIR 7. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING THE PRESIDENT
27.01.2022	09:00	BUSE SÖĞÜTLÜ	İSTANBUL 23. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	TARGETING PUBLIC OFFICIALS WHO PARTICIPATED IN ANTI-TERROR OPERATIONS
27.01.2022		HAYKO BAĞDAT	İSTANBUL 28. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA VIA THE PRESS
27.01.2022		ÇETİN KURŞUN	MARDİN 2. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION
27.01.2022		EREN KESKİN, REYHAN ÇAPAN	İSTANBUL 2. CRIMINAL COURT	DEFYING THE PRESS LAW NO. 5187

# ○ 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.



## ○ The hidden part of the iceberg: Being an environmental reporter in Turkey

*December 20, 2021*

What would you do if you noticed giant tides were coming towards you? Would you sip your tea without the slightest concern over such concrete reality? Or would you run for your life? The climate crisis is as real and close to our home as these tides. The whole world is experiencing the climate crisis and its repercussions. Yet only the decision-makers are sipping their tea.

[Read more](#)



## ○ Turkey Trial Blog: A newspaper is on trial – and on so many levels

*December 20, 2021*

By mere design or by an error that no one will probably admit to, the gargantuan campus of the justice hall at the heart of Istanbul's bustling Şişli district also serves as an artificial wind tunnel. Caught in the crosswinds blowing through the arched promenades crisscrossing the complex, an unsuspecting pedestrian headed to the courthouse one moment may easily find herself brutally pushed in the opposite direction the next—most likely towards the coffeeshop of global renown and overpriced caffeinated beverages.

[Read more](#)



## ○ Censorship can't bend the truth: IPI Turkey ad campaign

*December 10, 2021*

IPI marks December 10, Human Rights Day, with a nationwide advertising campaign in Turkey to highlight the immense challenges and threats the country's independent media face.

[Read more](#)



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