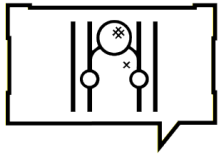


# PRESS FREEDOM IN TURKEY

MONTHLY BRIEFING / JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2022

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



## 38 JOURNALISTS CURRENTLY IN JAIL

1 journalist was arrested.

- 34 SENTENCED
- 4 ONGOING TRIAL

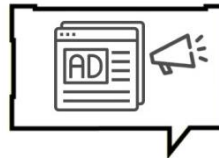


## TRIALS CALENDAR

In January, **29** journalist trials were held. 2 journalists were sentenced to:



In February, at least **37** journalist trials will take place. See the calendar [here](#) →



## OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

In January:

- Broadcast regulator RTÜK [fined](#) TELE 1 after Sedef Kabaş's critical remarks of President Erdoğan on tv programme.
- Local journalist Faik Akgün and the newspaper Günışığı [threatened](#) after reporting on university student's suicide.
- See IPI's [recap of press freedom developments](#) in early January.

## MEDIA CRACKDOWN IN JANUARY

## PRESS FREEDOM VIOLATIONS THIS MONTH IN TURKEY

- IPI calls for immediate release of Turkey journalist Sedef Kabaş charged with insulting the president. IPI Statement [here](#) →
  - IPI condemned violent detention of two journalists while covering student demonstration. IPI statement [here](#) →
- Read more [here](#) →

## IPI'S WORK IN TURKEY



- **IPI Stats:** IPI published results of its trial monitoring programme for 2021. [See the full stats.](#)
- **IPI Webinar (Feb 8):** IPI Turkey National Committee, in partnership with the Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul (CGC), holds a webinar on hate speech and discrimination in the Turkish media. Event will be in Turkish. Register [here](#).
- **IPI Letter:** 26 international organizations call on Turkey to release Sedef Kabaş. [See the full letter.](#)
- **IPI Podcast:** New episode at IPI Freedom Dialogues Turkey w/ prominent journalist Tuğrul Eryılmaz reviewing the current state Turkey's journalism. [Listen here.](#)

# TRIALS CALENDAR

## JOURNALIST TRIALS IN JANUARY

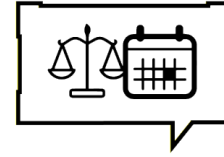


DATE	DEFENDANTS	COURT	CHARGES	VERDICTS
06.01.2022	ROJHAT DOĞRU	DİYARBAKIR 8. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	DISRUPTING THE UNITY AND INTEGRITY OF THE STATE; SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA; WILLFUL AND MALICIOUS INJURY	SENTENCED TO LIFE SENTENCE AND 12 YEARS 1 MONTH
06.01.2022	ADNAN BİLEN, CEMİL UĞUR, ŞEHRİBAN ABİ, NAZAN SALA, ZEYNEP DURGUT	VAN 5. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION	4 DEFENDANTS ACQUITTED, NAZAN SALA SENTENCED TO 1 YEAR 3 MONTHS
06.01.2022	CANER TAŞPINAR	İSTANBUL 11. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULT	ADJOURNED
11.01.2022	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 DAVASI RETRIAL)	İSTANBUL 13. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	ATTEMPT TO OVERTHROW THE CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER; MEMBERSHIP IN A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION; LEADING A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION; MAKING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA; AIDING A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION WHILST NOT BEING A MEMBER	ADJOURNED
11.01.2022	SELMAN KELEŞ	VAN 5. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION	ADJOURNED
11.01.2022	RÜSTEM BATUM (TRIAL 2)	İSTANBUL 41. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING THE PRESIDENT	-
11.01.2022	SADIYE ESER, SADIK TOPALOĞLU	İSTANBUL 22. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION	ADJOURNED
12.01.2022	RUKEN DEMİR	İZMİR 19. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION	ADJOURNED
12.01.2022	ZİYA ÇİÇEKÇİ	İSTANBUL 33. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	ADJOURNED
13.01.2022	ROJDA OĞUZ	VAN 4. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION; SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	ADJOURNED
17.01.2022	CAN DÜNDAR, OSMAN KAVALA, MEHMET ALİ ALABORA, AYŞE MÜCELLA YAPICI, +OTHERS (GEZİ TRIAL)	İSTANBUL 13. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	ATTEMPT TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT AND/OR PREVENT IT FROM FULFILLING ITS DUTY	ADJOURNED
17.01.2022	MEŞALE TOLU	İSTANBUL 29. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION; SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	ACQUITTAL
20.01.2022	ABDULLAH KAYA	AĞRI 2. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION; SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	ADJOURNED
20.01.2022	ABDURRAHMAN GÖK	DİYARBAKIR 5. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION; SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA VIA THE PRESS	ADJOURNED



# TRIALS CALENDAR

## JOURNALIST TRIALS IN JANUARY



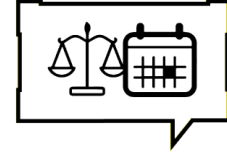
#Free  
Turkey  
Journalists

DATE	DEFENDANTS	COURT	CHARGES	VERDICTS
20.01.2022	RÜSTEM BATUM (TRIAL 1)	İSTANBUL 5. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING THE PRESIDENT; INCITING PUBLIC TO HATRED AND ENMITY	ADJOURNED
20.01.2022	KENAN KIRKAYA	ANKARA 14. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION	ADJOURNED
21.01.2022	ENGİN EREN	BATMAN 2. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION	ADJOURNED
21.01.2022	MEHMET BARANSU, AHMET ALTAN, YASEMİN ÇONGAR, YILDIRAY OĞUR, TUNCA Y ÖPÇİN (TARAF TRIAL)	İSTANBUL 13. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	FOUNDING AND LEADING AN ARMED ORGANIZATION; MAKING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA; OBTAINING AND REVEALING SECRET DOCUMENTS CONCERNING NATIONAL SECURITY	ADJOURNED
21.01.2022	VEDAT ÖRÜÇ	İSTANBUL 18. CRIMINAL COURT	DEFYING THE LAW ON ASSEMBLIES AND DEMONSTRATIONS; INSULTING A PUBLIC OFFICER	ADJOURNED
25.01.2022	CANER TAŞPINAR	İSTANBUL 11. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULT	-
25.01.2022	RAMAZAN AKOĞUL	DİYARBAKIR 4. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION	ADJOURNED
26.01.2022	HATİCE ŞAHİN	DİYARBAKIR 9. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION	ADJOURNED
26.01.2022	DERYA OKATAN (TRIAL 2)	ANKARA 4. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	ADJOURNED
27.01.2022	VELAT ÖZTEKİN	DİYARBAKIR 7. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING THE PRESIDENT	ADJOURNED
27.01.2022	BUSE SÖĞÜTLÜ	İSTANBUL 23. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	TARGETING PUBLIC OFFICIALS WHO PARTICIPATED IN ANTI-TERROR OPERATIONS	ADJOURNED
27.01.2022	HAYKO BAĞDAT	İSTANBUL 28. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA VIA THE PRESS	ADJOURNED
27.01.2022	ÇETİN KURŞUN	MARDİN 2. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION	ADJOURNED
27.01.2022	EREN KESKİN, REYHAN ÇAPAN	İSTANBUL 2. CRIMINAL COURT	DEFYING THE PRESS LAW NO. 5187 (REVEALING THE IDENTITY OF MINORS WHO ARE VICTIMS OR SUSPECTS OF A CRIME VIA THE PRESS)	ADJOURNED
28.01.2022	KENAN KIRKAYA	ANKARA 14. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION	ACQUITTAL



# TRIALS CALENDAR

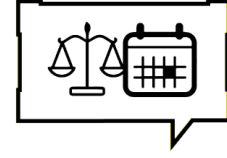
## UPCOMING TRIALS IN FEBRUARY



DATE	TIME	DEFENDANTS	COURT	CHARGES
01.02.2022	10:40	EREN TUTEL	İSTANBUL 2. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING A PUBLIC OFFICIAL
01.02.2022	13:30	EROL ÖNDEROĞLU, ŞEBNEM KORUR FİNCANCI, AHMET NESİN	İSTANBUL 13. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	ÖZGÜR GÜNDEM RETRIAL
01.02.2022		ÇİĞDEM TOKER	KÜÇÜKÇEKMECE 3. CRIMINAL COURT	DEFAMATION
02.02.2022		AHMET KANBAL	AYDIN 3. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	TARGETING PUBLIC OFFICIALS WHO PARTICIPATED IN ANTI-TERROR OPERATIONS; INSULTING A PUBLIC OFFICIAL
02.02.2022	10:15	OSMAN AKIN, VEYSİ SARISÖZEN	İSTANBUL 13. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA
03.02.2022	11:40	BUSE SÖĞÜTLÜ	İSTANBUL 23. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	TARGETING PUBLIC OFFICIALS WHO PARTICIPATED IN ANTI-TERROR OPERATIONS
03.02.2022	09:10	MEHMET ŞAHİN	DİYARBAKIR 5. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	FOUNDING AND LEADING A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION
03.02.2022	09:40	SELMAN KELEŞ (TRIAL 2)	VAN 4. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA
03.02.2022	10:20	HAYKO BAĞDAT (TRIAL 3)	İSTANBUL 51. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING THE PRESIDENT
08.02.2022		SELDA MANDUZ	KARS 2. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA
08.02.2022		İDRİS YAYLA, +27 OTHERS	BATMAN 1. CRIMINAL COURT	DEFYING THE LAW ON ASSEMBLIES AND DEMONSTRATIONS
08.02.2022	11:35	CENGİZ ÇANDAR	İSTANBUL 30. CRIMINAL COURT	PRAISING CRIME AND CRIMINALS
08.02.2022	09:55	HAZAL OCAK	İSTANBUL 8. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING A PUBLIC OFFICIAL
08.02.2022	13:30	HAZAL OCAK, SERKAN OZAN, OLCAY BÜYÜKTAŞ AKÇA, OZAN YURTOĞLU	İSTANBUL 2. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULT, DEFAMATION
08.02.2022	11:10	DENİZ YÜCEL (TRIAL 2)	İSTANBUL 24. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING A PUBLIC OFFICIAL
09.02.2022		RUKEN DEMİR	İZMİR 19. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION
10.02.2022	10:50	ASLI ERDOĞAN (ÖZGÜR GÜNDEM MAIN RE-TRIAL)	İSTANBUL 23. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA
10.02.2022	10:00	ALİ SÖNMEZ KAYAR	İSTANBUL 32. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION
10.02.2022	9:15	SONYA BAYIK	BATMAN 1. CRIMINAL COURT	DEFYING THE LAW ON ASSEMBLIES AND DEMONSTRATIONS
15.02.2022		EYLEM SONBAHAR, SEMA KARAKURT, +15 OTHERS	ANTALYA 25. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	RESISTING POLICE OFFICERS PREVENTING FROM PERFORMING THEIR DUTY; INSULT
15.02.2022	10:30	İSMİNAZ TEMEL, HAVVA CUŞTAN	İSTANBUL 27. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION; SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA
16.02.2022		HAYKO BAĞDAT (TRIAL 1)	İSTANBUL 50. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING THE PRESIDENT
17.02.2022		KCK İSTANBUL MAIN TRIAL (RAGİP ZARAKOLU AND OTHERS)	İSTANBUL 3. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	AIDING AND ABETTING A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION

# TRIALS CALENDAR

## UPCOMING TRIALS IN FEBRUARY



#Free  
Turkey  
Journalists

DATE	TIME	DEFENDANTS	COURT	CHARGES
17.02.2022		BARIŞ BARIŞTIRAN (RETRIAL)	DİYARBAKIR 8. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA
17.02.2022	09:40	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; AIDING A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION
17.02.2022		ŞERİFE ORUÇ	BATMAN 2. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION
17.02.2022		GÖKHAN BİÇİCİ	İSTANBUL 8. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING THE PRESIDENT
17.02.2022	10:10	ÖZGÜRLÜKÇÜ DEMOKRASİ	İSTANBUL 23. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	PUBLISHING ON BEHALF OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION; MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION; SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA; PRAISING CRIME AND CRIMINALS; INCITING PUBLIC HATRED AND ENMITY
21.02.2022	10:00	CAN DÜNDAR, OSMAN KAVALA, MEHMET ALİ ALABORA, AYŞE MÜCELLA YAPICI, +OTHERS (GEZİ TRIAL)	İSTANBUL 13. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	ATTEMPT TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT AND/OR PREVENT IT FROM FULFILLING ITS DUTY
21.02.2022		DURKET SÜREN	DİYARBAKIR 11. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	AIDING A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION; SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA
22.02.2022		YETKİN YILDIZ	BAKIRKÖY 31. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULT, DEFAMATION
22.02.2022	11:45	KCK PRESS TRIAL	İSTANBUL 3. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION
22.02.2022	9:35	KERİM KARAKAYA, FERCAN YALINKILIÇ, MUSTAFA SÖNMEZ, SEDEF KABAŞ, MERDAN YANARDAĞ, ORHAN AYDIN, +32 OTHERS	İSTANBUL 3. CRIMINAL COURT	DEFYING THE LAW ON CAPITAL MARKET
23.02.2022	10:15	EREN KESKİN, HÜSEYİN AYKOL, REYHAN ÇAPAN, İSLAM TÜNER, LÜTFİ YAVUZASLAN, METHİ KAYA, HASAN BAŞAK AND KEMAL YAKUT (ÖZGÜR GÜNDEM TRIAL)	İSTANBUL 13. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA; PRAISING CRIME AND CRIMINALS
24.02.2022		KİBRİYE EVREN	DİYARBAKIR 5. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION; SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA
24.02.2022		JAKE HANRAHAN, PHILIP JOHN PENDLEBURY	DİYARBAKIR 8. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	AIDING A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION
25.02.2022		SADIYE ESER, +33 OTHERS	İSTANBUL 6. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION; SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA



# 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 calls for release of Turkey journalist Sedef Kabaş

January 24, 2022

The IPI global network and IPI's Turkey National Committee call for the immediate release of Turkish journalist Sedef Kabaş, who was arrested on Jan 22 on charges of "insulting the president" after her critical remarks on a tv programme.



[Read more](#)

## Turkey journalist threatened after reporting on student's suicide

January 14, 2022

IPI condemned threats against Turkish journalist Faik Akgün and the newspaper *Güncel*, based in the central Anatolian city of Elazığ, after the newspaper published a report on the suicide of a university student.



[Read more](#)

## IPI marks Working Journalists Day in Turkey as trials against journalists continue

January 10, 2022

Turkey marked Working Journalists Day – an occasion that has become even more symbolic and important given that many journalists have lost their jobs due to the pandemic in the last two years. Moreover, those who continue to carry out their profession, whether as a staff journalist or as a freelancer, face various challenges in providing news to public.



[Read more](#)



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