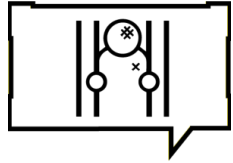


PRESS FREEDOM IN TURKEY

MONTHLY BRIEFING / FEBRUARY - MARCH 2023

www.freeturkeyjournalists.ipi.media

#Free
Turkey
Journalists



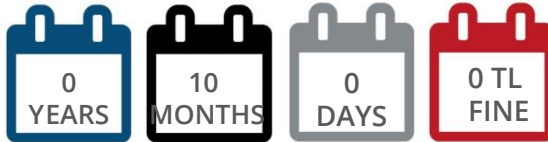
46 JOURNALISTS
CURRENTLY IN JAIL

- 36 SENTENCED
- 10 ONGOING TRIAL



TRIALS CALENDAR

In February, **33** journalist trials were held.
1 journalist was sentenced to:



In March, at least **24** journalist trials will take place. See the calendar [here](#) →

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

In February:

- Independent media outlets were [prevented](#) from covering Feb 6 earthquakes in Turkey
- Access to Twitter and TikTok [restricted](#) for hours on Feb 8, access to Ekşi Sözlük was [blocked](#).
- Disinformation Reporting Center [launched](#) for citizens to report on "manipulative" news and posts online.



MEDIA CRACKDOWN IN FEBRUARY

PRESS FREEDOM VIOLATIONS THIS MONTH IN TURKEY

- IPI called on Turkey to allow independent media coverage of February earthquakes following reports of arrests and threats against journalists on the ground.

IPI Statement [here](#) →

- IPI condemned the decision by Turkey's broadcast regulator to fine Halk TV, TELE 1 and FOX Haber over their critical coverage of the recent earthquakes.

IPI Statement [here](#) →

- Read more [here](#) →

IPI'S WORK IN TURKEY



- **IPI Freedom Dialogues:** Listen to the [last episode](#) of the Freedom Dialogues podcast series w/ journalist Nazlan Ertan on her lawsuit process, hosted by journalist Cansu Çamlıbel.
- **IPI - Medyascope Programme "The Journalist":** Watch the [21st episode](#) w/ journalist Şebnem Arsu on journalism in the earthquake zone, hosted by journalist İpek Yezdani. All episodes [available here](#).
- **IPI Turkey Dispatches:** Independent Russian journalist Vladimir Sokolov wrote for IPI on his decision to flee Russia and take up exile in Turkey following the invasion of Ukraine. Read [here](#).

TRIALS CALENDAR

JOURNALIST TRIALS IN FEBRUARY



DATE	DEFENDANTS	COURT	CHARGES	VERDICTS
01.02.2023	EROL ÖNDEROĞLU, ŞEBNEM KORUR FİNCANCI, AHMET NESİN	İSTANBUL 2. CRIMINAL COURT	TERRORIST PROPAGANDA; PUBLICLY ABETTING CRIME; PRAISING A CRIME AND THE CRIMINAL	ADJOURNED
01.02.2023	HAZAL OCAK, OLCAY BÜYÜKTAŞ, İPEK ÖZBEY, VEDAT ARIK	İSTANBUL 26. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	INSULT, LIBEL	ADJOURNED
01.02.2023	PAKRAT ESTUKYAN, RAMAZAN YURTTAPAN, CİHAN DOĞAN, EMRAN EMEKÇİ, MEHMET NİMET SEVİM	İSTANBUL 27. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	ADJOURNED
01.02.2023	SADIYE ESER, +32 OTHERS	İSTANBUL 6. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION; SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	ADJOURNED
02.02.2023	RAMAZAN AKOĞUL	DİYARBAKIR 4. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION	ACQUITTAL
06.02.2023	ENGİN KORKMAZ	ANTALYA 19. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING THE PRESIDENT	ACQUITTAL
07.02.2023	REYHAN ÇAPAN (CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT WITH 18 DEFENDANTS)	İSTANBUL 2. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	ADJOURNED
07.02.2023	MUSTAFA SÖNMEZ	İSTANBUL 38. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING THE PRESIDENT	ACQUITTAL
07.02.2023	AHMET MEMİŞ, ALİ AKKUŞ, CEMAL AZMİ KALYONCU, GÖKÇE FIRAT ÇULHAOĞLU, ÜNAL TANIK, YAKUP ÇETİN, YETKİN YILDIZ	İSTANBUL 2. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION; SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	ADJOURNED
09.02.2023	ZEYNEP KURAL, +9 OTHERS	İSTANBUL 39. CRIMINAL COURT	VIOLATING THE LAW ON MEETINGS AND ASSEMBLIES	ADJOURNED
09.02.2023	CENGİZ ÇANDAR	İSTANBUL 30. CRIMINAL COURT	PRAISING A CRIME AND THE CRIMINAL	ADJOURNED
09.02.2023	CANAN KAYA	İSTANBUL 39. CRIMINAL COURT	DEFAMATION	ADJOURNED
10.02.2023	YETKİN YILDIZ	BAKIRKÖY 31. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULT; DEFAMATION	ADJOURNED
13.02.2023	RAMAZAN ÖLÇEN	DİYARBAKIR 11. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION	ADJOURNED
14.02.2023	BARANSEL AĞÇA	İSTANBUL 2. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING THE PRESIDENT	ADJOURNED
14.02.2023	EREN TUTEL	İSTANBUL 2. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL	ADJOURNED
16.02.2023	MEHMET GÖCEKLİ	İSTANBUL 27. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	ADJOURNED

TRIALS CALENDAR

JOURNALIST TRIALS IN FEBRUARY



DATE	DEFENDANTS	COURT	CHARGES	VERDICTS
16.02.2023	SULTAN EYLEM KELEŞ	İSTANBUL 56. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL	ADJOURNED
16.02.2023	KCK PRESS	İSTANBUL 3. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION	ADJOURNED
10.02.2023	RAGIP ZARAKOLU (KCK İSTANBUL)	İSTANBUL 3. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	HELPING A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION	ADJOURNED
10.02.2023	ÖZGÜR GÜNDEM: HÜSEYİN AYKOL, REYHAN ÇAPAN	İSTANBUL 13. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA; PRAISING A CRIME AND THE CRIMINAL	ADJOURNED
16.02.2023	HAYKO BAĞDAT (CASE 2)	İSTANBUL 28. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA THROUGH THE MEDIA OR PRESS	ADJOURNED
16.02.2023	HAYKO BAĞDAT (CASE 3)	İSTANBUL 51. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING THE PRESIDENT	ADJOURNED
21.02.2023	RAMAZAN YURTTAPAN, HAYDAR ERGÜL	İSTANBUL 2. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING THE PRESIDENT	ADJOURNED
21.02.2023	EVİRİM KEPENEK	SELÇUK CRIMINAL COURT	INSULT	ADJOURNED
21.02.2023	ROZERİN GÜLTEKİN	BURSA 18. CRIMINAL COURT	VIOLATING THE LAW ON MEETINGS AND ASSEMBLIES	ADJOURNED
21.02.2023	ABDULLAH KAYA	AĞRI 2. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION; SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	ADJOURNED
21.02.2023	MANSUR ÇELİK	ANKARA 22. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MARKING OFFICIALS ASSIGNED IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM AS TARGETS	ADJOURNED
23.02.2023	DERYA SAADET	İZMİR 18. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MARKING OFFICIALS ASSIGNED IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM AS TARGETS	ADJOURNED
23.02.2023	SİBEL TEKİN	ANKARA 26. CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP IN A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION	ADJOURNED
28.02.2023	TAYLAN ÖZTAŞ, TUNAHAN TURHAN, VEDAT ÖRÜÇ, +35 OTHERS	ANADOLU 13. CRIMINAL COURT	RESISTING POLICE OFFICERS PREVENTING FROM PERFORMING THEIR DUTY; DEFYING THE LAW ON ASSEMBLIES AND DEMONSTRATIONS	ADJOURNED
28.02.2023	RÜSTEM BATUM (CASE 1)	İSTANBUL 5. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING THE PRESIDENT	ADJOURNED
28.02.2023	SİNAN AYGÜL	TATVAN 1. CRIMINAL COURT	OPENLY DISSEMINATING INFORMATION MISLEADING THE PUBLIC (NEW DISINFORMATION LAW)	SENTENCED TO 10 MONTHS



TRIALS CALENDAR

UPCOMING JOURNALIST TRIALS IN MARCH



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DATE	DEFENDANTS	COURT	CHARGES
01.03.2023	CEREN SÖZERİ	İSTANBUL 2. CRIMINAL TRADE COURT	INSULT
01.03.2023	GENÇAĞA KARAFAZLI	RIZE 4. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULT
02.03.2023	MEHMET BARANSU, AHMET ALTAN, YASEMİN ÇONGAR, YILDIRAY OĞUR, TUNCAY OPÇİN (RE-TRIAL)	İSTANBUL 13. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	FOUNDING AND LEADING AN ARMED TERRORIST ORGANIZATION; MAKING PROPAGANDA FOR A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION; REVEALING INFORMATION THAT IS TO BE KEPT SECRET FOR THE SECURITY AND POLITICAL BENEFITS OF THE STATE; OBTAINING SECRET DOCUMENTS CONCERNING NATIONAL SECURITY
02.03.2023	CEM BAHTİYAR	BALIKESİR 13. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA
02.03.2023	İSMİNAZ TEMEL, HAWVA CUŞTAN	İSTANBUL 27. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA; MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION
07.03.2023	GÖRKEM KINACI, KÜRŞAT YILMAZ	İSTANBUL 2. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULT; DEFAMATION
09.03.2023	ŞERİFE ORUÇ	BATMAN 2. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION
09.03.2023	AYŞEGÜL DOĞAN (RE-TRIAL)	DIYARBAKIR 9. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION
09.03.2023	YAĞMUR KAYA	AYDIN 2. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MARKING OFFICIALS ASSIGNED IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM AS TARGETS
14.03.2023	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
14.03.2023	ADİL DEMİRCİ +22 OTHERS	İSTANBUL 25. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA; MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION
14.03.2023	REYHAN ÇAPAN (CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT)	İSTANBUL 2. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA; SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA VIA THE PRESS; PUBLISHING STATEMENTS ON BEHALF OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS



TRIALS CALENDAR

UPCOMING JOURNALIST TRIALS IN MARCH



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DATE	DEFENDANTS	COURT	CHARGES
14.03.2023	DOĞAN ERGÜN, İZEL SEZER	İSTANBUL 33. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULT; DEFAMATION
15.03.2023	FIRAT FISTIK	İSTANBUL 46. CRIMINAL COURT	ILLEGALLY OBTAINING AND DISSEMINATING PERSONAL INFORMATION
21.03.2023	SONYA BAYIK	BATMAN 1. CRIMINAL COURT	VIOLATING THE LAW ON MEETINGS AND ASSEMBLIES
22.03.2023	İHSAN YAŞAR, İSHAK YASUL, MEHMET ALİ ÇELEBİ, MİZGİN FENDİK, PINAR TARLAK, REYHAN HACIOĞLU, HİCRAN UZUN (ÖZGÜRLÜKÇÜ DEMOKRASİ / RE-TRIAL)	İSTANBUL 23. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	PUBLISHING STATEMENTS ON BEHALF OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS; MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION; SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA; OPENLY INCITING THE PUBLIC TO HATRED AND HOSTILITY; PRAISING A CRIME AND THE CRIMINAL
22.03.2023	NAZAN ÖZCAN	İSTANBUL 34. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULT; DEFAMATION
23.03.2023	OSMAN AKIN, VEYSİ SARISÖZEN	İSTANBUL 13. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING CONSECUTIVE TERRORIST PROPAGANDA
28.03.2023	JAKE HANRAHAN, PHILIP JOHN PENDLEBURY	DIYARBAKIR 8. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	HELPING AN ARMED TERRORIST ORGANIZATION
22.03.2023	HAYKO BAĞDAT (CASE 1)	İSTANBUL 50. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING THE PRESIDENT
30.03.2023	İNAN KIZILKAYA, CAN DÜNDAR (ÖZGÜR GÜNDEM)	İSTANBUL 22. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	PUBLISHING STATEMENTS ON BEHALF OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS
30.03.2023	ERTUĞRUL MAVİOĞLU, ÇAYAN DEMİREL (BAKUR / RE-TRIAL)	BATMAN 2. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA
30.03.2023	AZİZ ORUÇ, ERSİN ÇAKSU	İSTANBUL 2. CRIMINAL COURT	DEGRADING TURKISH NATION, STATE OF REPUBLIC OF TURKEY, THE ORGANS AND INSTITUTIONS OF THE STATE
30.03.2023	SİBEL HÜRTAŞ	ANKARA 37. CRIMINAL COURT	RESISTING POLICE OFFICERS TO PREVENT THEM FROM PERFORMING THEIR 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.



Turkey: Authorities must allow independent media coverage of tragic earthquake aftermath

February 10, 2023

IP called Turkish authorities to allow independent media coverage of February 6 destructive earthquakes following several reports of the arrests of journalist covering the aftermath as well as threats against independent reporting by government officials.

[Read more](#)



Turkey: Broadcast regulator fines three channels over earthquake coverage

February 23, 2023

IPI issued a statement highlighting the importance of free flow of information during a moment of crisis.

[Read more](#)



Turkey: At least 227 journalists faced trial in Turkey in 2022

February 1, 2023

IPI published the 2022 annual statistics of Turkey trial monitoring programme within its FreeTurkeyJournalists campaign.

[Read more](#)

