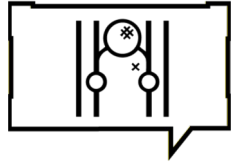


# PRESS FREEDOM IN TURKEY

MONTHLY BRIEFING / MARCH - APRIL 2023

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



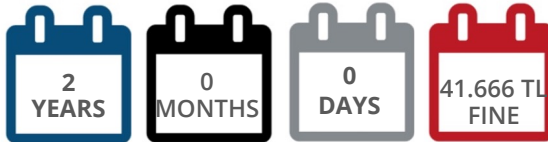
## 45 JOURNALISTS CURRENTLY IN JAIL

- 21 SENTENCED
- 24 ONGOING TRIAL



### TRIALS CALENDAR

In March, **34** journalist trials were held.  
2 journalists were sentenced to:



In April, at least **15** journalist trials will take place. See the calendar [here →](#)



### OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

In March:

- An indictment was prepared against 15 Kurdish journalists and one media worker arrested on June 16 on terrorism charges in Diyarbakır after 9 months 10 days in pretrial detention.
- Twitter blocked access to Birgün's news tweet on alleged violence in the military and Diken's news tweet about Feb 6 earthquakes following government complaints.

## MEDIA CRACKDOWN IN MARCH

### PRESS FREEDOM VIOLATIONS IN TURKEY

- IPI called on Turkish government to reverse decision to not renew operating license of German broadcaster Deutsche Welle's (DW) Turkish branch.

IPI Statement [here →](#)

- IPI condemned the latest decision by Turkey's broadcast regulator to fine Halk TV, TELE 1, FOX TV, Show TV and Yıldız En TV over their critical coverage.

IPI Statement [here →](#)

- Read more [here →](#)

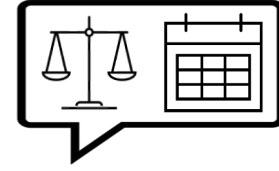
## IPI's WORK IN TURKEY



- **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 23<sup>rd</sup> episode w/ journalist Barış Soydan on economy journalism, hosted by journalist İpek Yezdani. All episodes available here.
- **IPI Turkey Dispatches:** Gülin Çavuş, Co-founder & Head of Strategy for Turkish fact-checking organization Teyit, wrote for IPI about the perils of Turkey's current approach to combating disinformation. Read here.

# TRIALS CALENDAR

## JOURNALIST TRIALS IN MARCH 2023

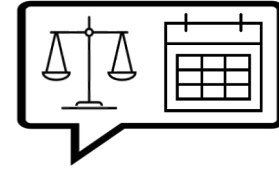


DATE	DEFENDANTS	COURT	CHARGES	VERDICTS
01.03.2023	CEREN SÖZERİ (EVRENSEL)	İSTANBUL 2. CRIMINAL TRADE COURT	INSULT	ADJOURNED
01.03.2023	GENÇAĞA KARAFAZLI	RİZE 4. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULT	ADJOURNED
02.03.2023	MEHMET BARANSU, AHMET ALTAN, YASEMİN ÇONGAR, YILDIRAY OĞUR, TUNCAY OPÇİN (RE-TRIAL)	İSTANBUL 13. 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	ADJOURNED
02.03.2023	METE CEM BAHTİYAR	BALIKESİR 3. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	ADJOURNED
02.03.2023	İSMİNAZ TEMEL, HAVVA CUŞTAN	İSTANBUL 27. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA; MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION	ADJOURNED
07.03.2023	CEYLAN ŞAHİNLİ	ANKARA 20. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	ADJOURNED
07.03.2023	GENÇAĞA KARAFAZLI	RİZE 4. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULT	VERDICT
08.03.2023	METİN CİHAN (TÜGVA)	İSTANBUL 22. CRIMINAL COURT	ILLEGALLY OBTAINING AND DISSEMINATING PERSONAL INFORMATION	ADJOURNED
09.03.2023	ŞERİFE ORUÇ	BATMAN 2. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION	ADJOURNED
09.03.2023	AYŞEGÜL DOĞAN (RE-TRIAL)	DİYARBAKIR 9. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION	ADJOURNED
09.03.2023	YAĞMUR KAYA	AYDIN 2. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MARKING OFFICIALS ASSIGNED IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM AS TARGETS	ADJOURNED
09.03.2023	NAGİHAN YILKIN, MUSTAFA BÜYÜKSİPAHİ	İSTANBUL 2. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL	ADJOURNED
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	ADJOURNED
14.03.2023	ADİL DEMİRCİ +22 OTHERS	İSTANBUL 25. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA; MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION	ACQUITTAL
14.03.2023	REYHAN ÇAPAN (RE-TRIAL)	İSTANBUL 2. CRIMINAL COURT	FAILING TO PUBLISH REPLY AND CORRECTION IN A PROPER WAY	VERDICT
14.03.2023	DOĞAN ERGÜN, İZEL SEZER	İSTANBUL 33. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULT; DEFAMATION	ADJOURNED
15.03.2023	FIRAT FISTIK, OZAN BUZ	İSTANBUL 46. CRIMINAL COURT	ILLEGALLY OBTAINING AND DISSEMINATING PERSONAL INFORMATION	ACQUITTAL



# TRIALS CALENDAR

## JOURNALIST TRIALS IN MARCH 2023



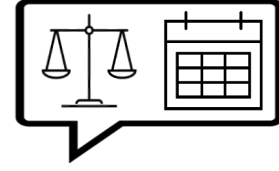
DATE	DEFENDANTS	COURT	CHARGES	VERDICTS
16.03.2023	CİHAN DOĞAN, MUSA ŞANAK, ZÜLAL NAZAN ÜSTÜNDAĞ, RAMAZAN YURTTAPAN, HAYDAR ERGÜL	İSTANBUL 46. CRIMINAL COURT	DENIGRATING THE TURKISH NATION, THE STATE OF THE TURKISH REPUBLIC, THE ORGANS AND INSTITUTIONS OF THE STATE	ADJOURNED
16.03.2023	ZEKİNE TÜRKERİ + 22 OTHERS	İSTANBUL 49. CRIMINAL COURT	VIOLATING THE LAW ON MEETINGS AND ASSEMBLIES	DISMISSED
21.03.2023	SONYA BAYIK	BATMAN 1. CRIMINAL COURT	VIOLATING THE LAW ON MEETINGS AND ASSEMBLIES	ADJOURNED
22.03.2023	İHSAN YAŞAR, İŞHAK YASUL, MEHMET ALİ ÇELEBİ, MİZGİN FENDİK, PINAR TARLA, REYHAN HACIOĞLU, HİCRAN UZUN (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	ADJOURNED
22.03.2023	NAZAN ÖZCAN	İSTANBUL 34. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULT; DEFAMATION	ADJOURNED
23.03.2023	OSMAN AKIN, VEYSİ SARISÖZEN	İSTANBUL 13. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING CONSECUTIVE TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	ADJOURNED
23.03.2023	GÖRKEM KINACI, KÜRŞAT YILMAZ	İSTANBUL 2. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULT; DEFAMATION	ADJOURNED
23.03.2023	İZEL SEZER, DOĞAN ERGÜL	ANKARA 20. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULT; DEFAMATION	ADJOURNED
28.03.2023	JAKE HANRAHAN, PHILIP JOHN PENDLEBURY	DİYARBAKIR 8. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	HELPING AN ARMED TERRORIST ORGANIZATION	ADJOURNED
28.03.2023	FURKAN KARABAY	İSTANBUL 2. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULT; DEFAMATION	ADJOURNED
28.03.2023	MERDAN YANARDAĞ	İSTANBUL 2. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING THE PRESIDENT	ADJOURNED
28.03.2023	ALİCAN ULUDAĞ	ANKARA 67. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING PUBLIC OFFICIAL	ADJOURNED
29.03.2023	ERTUĞRUL MAVİOĞLU, ÇAYAN DEMİREL (RE-TRIAL)	BATMAN 2. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA;	ADJOURNED
29.03.2023	HAYKO BAĞDAT (CASE 1)	İSTANBUL 50. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING THE PRESIDENT	ADJOURNED
30.03.2023	İNAN KIZILKAYA, CAN DÜNDAR (ÖZGÜR GÜNDEM)	İSTANBUL 22. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	PUBLISHING STATEMENTS ON BEHALF OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS	ADJOURNED
30.03.2023	AZİZ ORUÇ, ERSİN ÇAKSU	İSTANBUL 22. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	DENIGRATING THE TURKISH NATION, THE STATE OF THE TURKISH REPUBLIC, THE ORGANS AND INSTITUTIONS OF THE STATE	ADJOURNED
30.03.2023	SİBEL HÜRTAŞ	ANKARA 37. CRIMINAL COURT	RESISTING POLICE OFFICERS TO PREVENT THEM FROM PERFORMING THEIR DUTY	ADJOURNED





# TRIALS CALENDAR

## UPCOMING JOURNALIST TRIALS IN APRIL 2023



DATE	DEFENDANTS	COURT	CHARGES
04.04.2023	SEZGİN KARTAL	İSTANBUL 22. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION
04.04.2023	GÖRKEM KINACI	BAKIRKÖY 21. CRIMINAL COURT	INCITING THE PEOPLE TO HATRED ENMITY
05.04.2023	CAN DÜNDAR (MİT TRUCKS)	İSTANBUL 14. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	OBTAINING INFORMATION THAT SHOULD REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL FOR POLITICAL OR MILITARY ESPIONAGE
06.04.2023	RAMAZAN ÖLÇEN	DİYARBAKIR 11. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION
06.04.2023	RÜSTEM BATUM (CASE 4)	İSTANBUL 12. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING THE PRESIDENT
07.04.2023	PAKRAT ESTUKYAN, RAMAZAN YURTTAPAN, CİHAN DOĞAN, MEHMET NİMET SEVİM	İSTANBUL 27. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA
11.04.2023	İZEL SEZER, BATUHAN BATAN	İSTANBUL 25. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULT; DEFAMATION
11.04.2023	CENGİZ ÇANDAR	İSTANBUL 30. CRIMINAL COURT	PRAISING AN OFFENSE OR AN OFFENDER
16.04.2023	AYŞEGÜL DOĞAN (RE-TRIAL)	DİYARBAKIR 9. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION
18.04.2023	METİN YOKSU	İSTANBUL 23. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA
19.04.2023	ZİYA ÇİÇEKÇİ	İSTANBUL 33. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA
24.04.2023	CEYLAN ŞAHİNLİ	ANKARA 20. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA
25.04.2023	NAZAN ÖZCAN	İSTANBUL 34. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULT; DEFAMATION
27.04.2023	CANAN KAYA (DEMİRÖREN)	İSTANBUL 39. CRIMINAL COURT	DAMAGING COMMERCIAL REPUTATION THROUGH NEWS REPORTS
28.04.2023	METİN CİHAN (TÜGVA)	İSTANBUL 22. CRIMINAL COURT	ILLEGALLY OBTAINING AND DISSEMINATING PERSONAL INFORMATION





## ○ 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: Broadcast regulator again fines news channels over critical content

March 24, 2023

IPI condemned the latest decision by Turkey's broadcast regulator to fine several broadcasters over their critical reporting as the country approaches the upcoming presidential and parliamentary elections on May 14.

[Read more](#)



### ○ Turkey: IPI calls on authorities to reverse decision to not renew DW license

March 17, 2023

IPI issued a statement on Turkish government's decision to not renew operation license of Deutsche Welle's (DW) Turkish service, highlighting the right of media outlets to operate freely and independently.

[Read more](#)



### ○ Turkey: First journalist sentenced under new 'disinformation' law

March 10, 2023

IPI condemned the conviction of journalist Sinan Aygül under Turkey's new "disinformation law" passed by the Turkish parliament last October.

[Read more](#)

