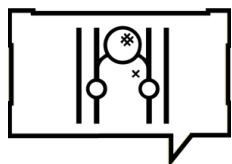


# PRESS FREEDOM IN TURKEY

MONTHLY BRIEFING / APRIL - MAY 2023

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

#Free  
Turkey  
Journalists



**50** JOURNALISTS  
CURRENTLY IN JAIL

- 21 SENTENCED
- 29 ONGOING TRIAL



## TRIALS CALENDAR

In April, **27** journalist trials were held.  
4 journalists were sentenced to:



In May, at least **16** journalist trials will take place. See the calendar [here](#) →

## OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

In April:

- 128 people including lawyers, party officials, activists and artists were targeted by coordinated dawn raids in 20 provinces, based on unclear terrorism charges. 10 journalists were among those who were initially detained. Journalists Abdurrahman Gök, Beritan Canözer, Mehmet Şah Oruç and media worker Remzi Akkaya were later arrested in Diyarbakır.



## MEDIA CRACKDOWN IN APRIL

### PRESS FREEDOM VIOLATIONS IN TURKEY

- IPI and 25 international press freedom, freedom of expression and human rights groups demand release of all journalist detained on April 25 dawn raids.

Joint statement [here](#) →

- IPI issued a statement with 20 international organizations to call on Turkey's broadcast regulator (RTÜK) to immediately stop fining broadcasters for their critical reporting.

Joint statement [here](#) →

- Read more [here](#) →

## IPI's WORK IN TURKEY

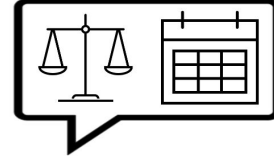


- **IPI - Medyascope Programme "The Journalist"**: Watch the [24th episode](#) w/ academic Orhan Şener Deliormanlı on AI and journalism and the [25th episode](#) w/ journalist Nevin Sungur on objective journalism ahead of elections, hosted by journalist İpek Yezdani.
- **IPI Webinar**: IPI Turkey National Committee, in partnership with the Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul (CGC) held [a webinar](#) on April 26 on objective journalism in the run-up to Turkey's presidential and parliamentary elections on May 14.
- **IPI Freedom Dialogues**: Listen to the [last episode](#) of the Freedom Dialogues podcast series w/ photo journalist Serdar Özsoy on being a freelance journalist in the earthquake zone, hosted by journalist Cansu Çamlıbel.



# TRIALS CALENDAR

## JOURNALIST TRIALS IN APRIL 2023



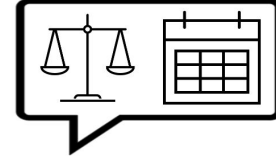
DATE	DEFENDANTS	COURT	CHARGES	VERDICTS
04.04.2023	SEZGİN KARTAL	İSTANBUL 22. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION	ADJOURNED
04.04.2023	GÖRKEM KINACI	BAKIRKÖY 21. CRIMINAL COURT	INCITING THE PEOPLE TO HATRED ENMITY	ACQUITTAL
05.04.2023	CAN DÜNDAR (MIT TRUCKS)	İSTANBUL 14. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	OBTAINING INFORMATION THAT SHOULD REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL FOR POLITICAL OR MILITARY ESPIONAGE	ADJOURNED
05.04.2023	HAZAL OCAK, OLCAY BÜYÜKTAŞ, İPEK ÖZBEY, VEDAT ARIK	İSTANBUL 26. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	REVEALING THE ID.S OF STATE OFFICIALS PARTICIPATED ANTI-TERROR OPERATIONS AND/OR IDENTIFYING THEM AS TARGETS, VIOLATION OF PRIVACY OF PERSONAL LIFE	ADJOURNED
06.04.2023	RAMAZAN ÖLÇEN	İSTANBUL 12. CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION	ADJOURNED
06.04.2023	RÜSTEM BATUM (CASE 4)	ANKARA 20. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING THE PRESIDENT	ADJOURNED
07.04.2023	PAKRAT ESTUKYAN, RAMAZAN YURTTAPAN, CİHAN DOĞAN, MEHMET NİMET SEVİM	İSTANBUL 27. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	ADJOURNED
11.04.2023	İZEL SEZER, BATUHAN BATAN	İSTANBUL 25. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULT; DEFAMATION	ADJOURNED
11.04.2023	CENGİZ ÇANDAR	İSTANBUL 30. CRIMINAL COURT	PRAISING AN OFFENSE OR AN OFFENDER	ADJOURNED
13.04.2023	BARIŞ TERKOĞLU	İSTANBUL 2. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING A PUBLIC OFFICIAL DUE TO HIS OR HER DUTY	ADJOURNED
13.04.2023	RABİA ÇETİN	İSTANBUL 23. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MARKING OFFICIALS ASSIGNED IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM AS TARGETS; INSULTING A PUBLIC OFFICIAL DUE TO HIS OR HER DUTY	ADJOURNED
13.04.2023	LEVENT GÜLTEKİN	İSTANBUL 23. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING THE PRESIDENT	ACQUITTAL
14.04.2023	AYŞEGÜL DOĞAN (RE-TRIAL)	DİYARBAKIR 9. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION	ADJOURNED





# TRIALS CALENDAR

## JOURNALIST TRIALS IN APRIL 2023



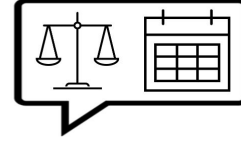
DATE	DEFENDANTS	COURT	CHARGES	VERDICTS
14.04.2023	MERDAN YANARDAĞ	İSTANBUL 2. CRIMINAL COURT	DENIGRATING THE TURKISH NATION, THE STATE OF THE TURKISH REPUBLIC, THE ORGANS AND INSTITUTIONS OF THE STATE	<b>VERDICT</b> (7 months and 15 days prison sentence)
18.04.2023	METİN YOKSU	İSTANBUL 23. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	<b>ADJOURNED</b>
18.04.2023	İSMAİL ÇOBAN (RE-TRIAL)	DİYARBAKIR 5. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	<b>VERDICT</b> (1 year, 6 months and 22 days prison sentence)
18.04.2023	MEHMET GÜLEŞ (RE-TRIAL)	ELAZIĞ 2. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	<b>VERDICT</b> (1 year, 9 months and 25 days prison sentence)
19.04.2023	ZİYA ÇİÇEKÇİ	İSTANBUL 33. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	<b>ADJOURNED</b>
20.04.2023	SİNAN AYGÜL	TATVAN 2. CRIMINAL COURT	VIOLATION OF WORKPLACE IMMUNITY	<b>VERDICT</b> (4 months and 15 days prison sentence)
24.04.2023	CEYLAN ŞAHİNLİ	ANKARA 20. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	<b>ADJOURNED</b>
25.04.2023	İSMAİL ARI	İSTANBUL 2. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING A PUBLIC OFFICIAL DUE TO HIS OR HER DUTY	<b>ADJOURNED</b>
25.04.2023	NAZAN ÖZCAN	İSTANBUL 34. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULT; DEFAMATION	<b>ACQUITTAL</b>
25.04.2023	EYLÜL DENİZ YAŞAR	ANKARA 4. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	<b>ADJOURNED</b>
25.04.2023	FERHAT ÇELİK, İDRİS YAYLA	VAN 2. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MARKING OFFICIALS ASSIGNED IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM AS TARGETS	<b>ADJOURNED</b>
27.04.2023	CANAN KAYA (DEMİRÖREN)	İSTANBUL 39. CRIMINAL COURT	DAMAGING COMMERCIAL REPUTATION THROUGH NEWS REPORTS	<b>ADJOURNED</b>
27.04.2023	HALUK KALAFAT, ELİF AKGÜL	İSTANBUL 2. CRIMINAL COURT	DENIGRATING THE TURKISH NATION, THE STATE OF THE TURKISH REPUBLIC, THE ORGANS AND INSTITUTIONS OF THE STATE	<b>ADJOURNED</b>
28.04.2023	METİN CİHAN + 1 OTHER (TÜGVA)	İSTANBUL 22. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	ILLEGALLY OBTAINING AND DISSEMINATING PERSONAL INFORMATION	<b>ADJOURNED</b>





# TRIALS CALENDAR

## UPCOMING JOURNALIST TRIALS IN MAY 2023



DATE	DEFENDANTS	COURT	CHARGES
02.05.2023	CİHAN ÖLMEZ	DİYARBAKIR 5. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA
02.05.2023	HÜSEYİN AYKOL, REYHAN ÇAPAN (ÖZGÜR GÜNDEM)	İSTANBUL 13. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA; PRAISING AN OFFENSE OR AN OFFENDER
02.05.2023	EVİRİM KEPENEK	SELÇUK CRIMINAL COURT	INSULT
03.05.2023	ZAFER ARAPKİRLİ	İSTANBUL 32. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULT
03.05.2023	ABDULLAH KAYA	AĞRI 2. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION; SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA
04.05.2023	METİN CİHAN - 2	İSTANBUL 36. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING PUBLIC OFFICIALS DUE TO THEIR DUTY VIA AN AUDIO, WRITTEN OR VISUAL MESSAGE
04.05.2023	FERHAT ÇELİK, İDRİS YAYLA	VAN 2. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MARKING OFFICIALS ASSIGNED IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM AS TARGETS
08.05.2023	METİN YOKSU	İSTANBUL 23. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA
16.05.2023	DİREN YURTSEVER, BERİVAN ALTAN, CEYLAN ŞAHİNLİ, DENİZ NAZLIM, EMRULLAH ACAR, HAKAN YALÇIN, SELMAN GÜZELYÜZ, ZEMO AĞGÖZ, MEHMET GÜNHAN, HABİBE EREN, ÖZNUR DEĞER (29 OCTOBER ARRESTS)	ANKARA 4. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION
16.05.2023	CENGİZ ÇANDAR	İSTANBUL 30. CRIMINAL COURT	PRAISING AN OFFENSE OR AN OFFENDER
17.05.2023	PERİHAN KAYA	DİYARBAKIR 10. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA
17.05.2023	ŞERİFE ORUÇ	BATMAN 2. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION
23.05.2023	SULTAN EYLEM KELEŞ	İSTANBUL 56. CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING A PUBLIC OFFICIAL DUE TO HIS OR HER DUTY; RESISTING POLICE OFFICERS TO PREVENT THEM FROM PERFORMING THEIR DUTY
25.05.2023	EROL ÖNDEROĞLU, ŞEBNEM KORUR FİNCANCI	İSTANBUL 13. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA; PUBLICLY ABETTING CRIME; PRAISING AN OFFENSE OR AN OFFENDER
25.05.2023	FIRAT CAN ARSLAN	İSTANBUL 34. CRIMINAL COURT	MARKING OFFICIALS ASSIGNED IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM AS TARGETS
31.05.2023	MEHMET BARANSU, AHMET ALTAN, YASEMİN ÇONGAR, YILDIRAY OĞUR, TUNCAY OPÇİN (RE-TRIAL)	İSTANBUL 13. HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	FOUNDING AND LEADING AN ARMED TERRORIST ORGANIZATION; SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA; REVEALING INFORMATION THAT IS TO BE KEPT SECRET FOR THE SECURITY AND POLITICAL BENEFITS OF THE STATE; OBTAINING SECRET DOCUMENTS CONCERNING NATIONAL SECURITY





## ○ 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: International groups demand release of Kurdish journalists, lawyers, political party officials detained in pre-election crackdown**  
*April 25, 2023*

IPI and 25 media freedom, freedom of expression and human rights organisations issued a statement on systematic harassment and intimidation of Kurdish journalists and demand release of all journalists detained on April 25 in pre-election crackdown.

[Read more](#)



- **Turkey: International groups condemn broadcast regulator role in punishing critical reporting ahead of elections**  
*April 13, 2023*

21 media freedom, freedom of expression and human rights organizations including IPI called Turkey's broadcast regulator (RTÜK) to immediately stop fining broadcasters for their critical reporting.

[Read more](#)



- **Turkey Trial Blog: Journalists face prison sentence for reporting on illegal construction**  
*April 11, 2023*

IPI monitored the eighth hearing of the trial in which journalists Vedat Arık, Olcay Büyüktaş, Hazal Ocak and İpek Özbey face charges of "identifying state officials on anti-terror duties as targets" and "violation of privacy" that was held in the Istanbul 26th High Criminal Court.

[Read more](#)



This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of IPI and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union.