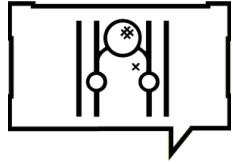


# PRESS FREEDOM IN TURKEY

MONTHLY BRIEFING / SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2023

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

#Free  
Turkey  
Journalists



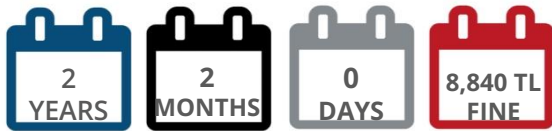
**21** JOURNALISTS  
CURRENTLY IN JAIL

- 14 SENTENCED
- 7 ONGOING TRIAL



## TRIALS CALENDAR

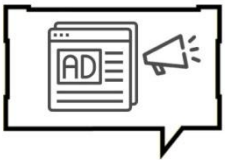
In September, **28** journalist trials were held. **1** journalists was acquitted, **3** journalists were sentenced:



In October, at least **30** journalist trials will be held. See the calendar [here](#) →

## OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

- Journalists Abdurrahman Gök and Mehmet Şah Oruç who have been in pre-trial detention since April 27 appeared in court in Diyarbakır and Bitlis. Their pre-trial detention was [extended](#).
- IPI became the target of constant [cyber attacks](#) on the first week of September due to its advocacy work on behalf of independent media in Hungary. Access to [Free Turkey Journalists website](#) was also interrupted by the attacks.



## MEDIA CRACKDOWN IN AUGUST 2023

### PRESS FREEDOM VIOLATIONS IN TURKEY

- Led by IPI, between 2 and 5 October 2023, five international media freedom organisations will conduct an annual press freedom mission to Ankara, Diyarbakır and Istanbul.

Joint statement [here](#) →

- IPI continues to publish weekly media crackdown threads on Twitter. Our September list:

September 1 - 8 [here](#) →

September 9 - 15 [here](#) →

September 16 - 22 [here](#) →

September 23 - 29 [here](#) →

- Read more [here](#) →

## IPI'S WORK IN TURKEY

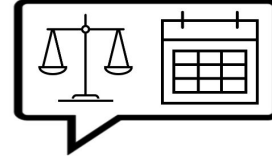


- **IPI - Medyascope Programme "The Journalist"**: Watch the [31st episode](#) with Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tirşe Erbaysal Filibeli on the power struggle between social media platforms and states, hosted by İpek Yezdani. All episodes [available here](#).
- **IPI Turkey Dispatches**: Read the [article](#) by Sevilay Nur Saraçlar on solution journalism and constructive journalism, and their applicability in Turkey. (in Turkish)
- **IPI Freedom Dialogues**: Listen to the [last episode](#) of the Freedom Dialogues podcast series w/ Voice of America Turkish service reporter Yıldız Yazıcıoğlu on her being targeted by MHP officials, hosted by journalist Cansu Çamlıbel. (in Turkish)



# TRIALS CALENDAR

## JOURNALIST TRIALS IN SEPTEMBER



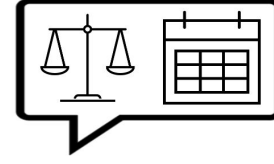
DATE	DEFENDANT(S)	COURT	CHARGE(S)	VERDICTS
05.09.2023	HAYKO BAĞDAT (CASE 2)	İSTANBUL 28th HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING CONSECUTIVE TERRORIST PROPAGANDA VIA THE PRESS	ADJOURNED
06.09.2023	RUŞEN TAKVA	HAKKARİ CRIMINAL COURT	PUBLICLY DISSEMINATING MISLEADING INFORMATION ( DISINFORMATION LAW)	ACQUITTAL
07.09.2023	MANSUR ÇELİK	ANKARA 22nd HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	IDENTIFYING OFFICIALS ON ANTI-TERROR DUTIES AS TARGETS	ADJOURNED
08.09.2023	ZİYA ÇİÇEKÇİ	İSTANBUL 33rd HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	ADJOURNED
11.09.2023	CEM BAHTİYAR	BALIKESİR 3rd HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	ADJOURNED
12.09.2023	GÖRKEM KINACI, KÜRŞAT YILMAZ	İSTANBUL 2nd CRIMINAL COURT	CALUMNY; DEFAMATION	ADJOURNED
13.09.2023	RABİA ÇETİN	İSTANBUL 23rd HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	IDENTIFYING OFFICIALS ON ANTI-TERROR DUTIES AS TARGETS; OPENLY INSULTING A PUBLIC OFFICIAL BECAUSE OF HIS DUTY	ADJOURNED
14.09.2023	HÜSEYİN AYKOL, REYHAN ÇAPAN (ÖZGÜR GÜNDEM)	İSTANBUL 43rd CRIMINAL COURT	PUBLICLY DENIGRATING THE STATE'S SECURITY AND MILITARY FORCES	ADJOURNED
14.09.2023	ABDURRAHMAN GÖK	DİYARBAKIR 5th HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA; MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION	ADJOURNED
14.09.2023	MEHMET ŞAH ORUÇ	BİTLİS 2nd HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA; MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION	ADJOURNED
19.09.2023	ABDULLAH KAYA	AĞRI 2nd HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA; MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION	ADJOURNED
19.09.2023	SİNAN AYGÜL (RE-TRIAL)	TATVAN 2nd CRIMINAL COURT	VIOLATING WORKPLACE IMMUNITY	VERDICT (6 months in prison)
19.09.2023	SULTAN EYLEM KELEŞ	İSTANBUL 56th CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING A PUBLIC OFFICIAL BECAUSE OF HIS DUTY: RESISTING POLICE OFFICERS TO PREVENT THEM FROM PERFORMING THEIR DUTY	ADJOURNED
19.09.2023	ŞERİFE ORUÇ	İSTANBUL 2nd CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION	ADJOURNED
19.09.2023	FURKAN KARABAY	İSTANBUL 2nd CRIMINAL COURT	INSULT; CALUMNY	ADJOURNED
20.09.2023	NEBİYE ARI, YAĞMUR KAYA, HİLAL IŞIK + 48 OTHERS	ANKARA 15th CRIMINAL COURT	DEFYING THE LAW ON ASSEMBLIES AND DEMONSTRATIONS	ADJOURNED
20.09.2023	TAYLAN ÖZTAŞ, TUNAHAH TURNA	ANADOLU 13th CRIMINAL COURT	RESISTING POLICE OFFICERS TO PREVENT THEM FROM PERFORMING THEIR DUTY	ADJOURNED





# TRIALS CALENDAR

## JOURNALIST TRIALS IN SEPTEMBER

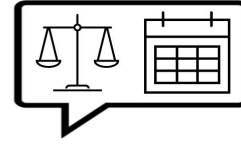


DATE	DEFENDANT(S)	COURT	CHARGE(S)	VERDICTS
21.09.2023	CEM BAHTİYAR	BALIKESİR 3rd HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	ADJOURNED
21.09.2023	MİYASE İLKNUR, BİROL GÜLGER	İSTANBUL 2nd CRIMINAL COURT	CALUMNY; INSULT	VERDICT (20 months for İlknur - later deferred)
22.09.2023	SİBEL HÜRTAŞ	ANKARA 19th CRIMINAL COURT	OPENLY INSULTING A PUBLIC OFFICIAL BECAUSE OF HIS DUTY	ADJOURNED
22.09.2023	BARIŞ PEHLİVAN, MUSTAFA BÜYÜKSİPAHİ	ANKARA 19th CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	ADJOURNED
22.09.2023	PAKRAT ESTUKYAN, RAMAZAN YURTTAPAN, CİHAN DOĞAN, MEHMET NİMET SEVİM	İSTANBUL 27th HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	ADJOURNED
25.09.2023	CİHAN DOĞAN, MUSA ŞANAK, ZÜLAL NAZAN ÜSTÜNDAĞ, RAMAZAN YURTTAPAN HAYDAR ERGÜL	İSTANBUL 2nd CRIMINAL COURT	DENIGRATING THE TURKISH NATION, STATE OF TURKISH REPUBLIC, THE ORGANS AND INSTITUTIONS OF THE STATE	ADJOURNED
26.09.2023	REYHAN ÇAPAN + 18 OTHERS	İSTANBUL 2nd HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA	DISMISSED
26.09.2023	SİBEL HÜRTAŞ	ANKARA 37th CRIMINAL COURT	RESISTING POLICE OFFICERS TO PREVENT THEM FROM PERFORMING THEIR DUTY	ADJOURNED
26.09.2023	METİN CİHAN (B.ALBAYRAK)	İSTANBUL 36th CRIMINAL COURT	INSULT	ADJOURNED
27.09.2023	HAYKO BAĞDAT ( CASE 1)	İSTANBUL 50th CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING THE PRESIDENT	ADJOURNED
28.09.2023	EREN TUTEL	İSTANBUL 2nd CRIMINAL COURT	OPENLY INSULTING A PUBLIC OFFICIAL BECAUSE OF HIS DUTY	VERDICT (8,840 TL fine - later deferred)



# TRIALS CALENDAR

## UPCOMING JOURNALIST TRIALS IN OCTOBER



DATE	DEFENDANT(S)	COURT	CHARGE(S)
03.10.2023	SİBEL TEKİN	ANKARA 26th CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION
04.10.2023	MERDAN YANARDAĞ	İSTANBUL 2nd CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA; PRAISING AN OFFENSE OR AN OFFENDER
05.10.2023	DİLAN BABAT, FIRAT CAN ARSLAN	KONYA 2nd HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	IDENTIFYING OFFICIALS ON ANTI-TERROR DUTIES AS TARGETS
05.10.2023	YAĞMUR KAYA	AYDIN 2nd HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	IDENTIFYING OFFICIALS ON ANTI-TERROR DUTIES AS TARGETS
10.10.2023	İSMAİL SAYMAZ	İSTANBUL 24th HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	INSULT; IDENTIFYING OFFICIALS ON ANTI-TERROR DUTIES AS TARGETS
10.10.2023	EVİRİM KEPENEK	SELÇUK CRIMINAL COURT	INSULT
12.10.2023	HAYKO BAĞDAT (CASE 3)	İSTANBUL 51th CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING THE PRESIDENT
12.10.2023	EROL ÖNDEROĞLU, ŞEBNEM KORUR FİNCANCI, AHMET NESİN	İSTANBUL 2nd CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA; PRAISING AN OFFENSE OR AN OFFENDER
12.10.2023	EYLÜL DENİZ YAŞAR	ANKARA 4th HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA
17.10.2023	İZEL SEZER, BATUHAN BATAN	İSTANBUL 25th CRIMINAL COURT	INSULT
17.10.2023	DENİZ YÜCEL	İSTANBUL 2nd CRIMINAL COURT	DENIGRATING THE TURKISH NATION, STATE OF TURKISH REPUBLIC, THE ORGANS AND INSTITUTIONS OF THE STATE
19.10.2023	FURKAN KARABAY	İSTANBUL 1st CRIMINAL COURT	ATTACK ON PERSONAL RIGHTS
19.10.2023	HALUK KALAFAT, ELİF AKGÜL	İSTANBUL 2nd CRIMINAL COURT	DENIGRATING THE TURKISH NATION, STATE OF TURKISH REPUBLIC, THE ORGANS AND INSTITUTIONS OF THE STATE
19.10.2023	AHMET MEMİŞ, ALİ AKKUŞ, CEMAL AZMİ KALYONCU, GÖKÇE FIRAT ÇULHANOĞLU, ÜNAL TANIĞ, YAKUP ÇETİN, YETKİN YILDIZ	İSTANBUL 25th HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION; HELPING A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION
19.10.2023	RÜSTEM BATUM (CASE 4)	İSTANBUL 12th CRIMINAL COURT	INSULTING THE PRESIDENT
19.10.2023	FIRAT BULUT	ELBİSTAN 2nd CRIMINAL COURT	PUBLICLY DISSEMINATING MISLEADING INFORMATION ( DISINFORMATION LAW)
24.10.2023	İSMAİL ARI	İSTANBUL 2nd CRIMINAL COURT	OPENLY INSULTING A PUBLIC OFFICIAL BECAUSE OF HIS DUTY
24.10.2023	YETKİN YILDIZ	BAKIRKÖY 31st CRIMINAL COURT	INSULT; CALUMNY



# TRIALS CALENDAR

## UPCOMING JOURNALIST TRIALS IN OCTOBER



DATE	DEFENDANT(S)	COURT	CHARGE(S)
25.10.2023	BERİTAN CANÖZER	DİYARBAKIR 10th HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION
25.10.2023	HAYRİ DEMİR (RE-TRIAL)	ANKARA 15th HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA; MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION
25.10.2023	CAN DÜNDAR (MIT TRUCKS)	İSTANBUL 14th HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	OBTAINING INFORMATION THAT SHOULD REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL FOR POLITICAL OR MILITARY ESPIONAGE
26.10.2023	İNAN KIZILKAYA, CAN DÜNDAR (ÖZGÜR GÜNDEM)	İSTANBUL 22nd HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	PUBLISHING ON BEHALF OF THE TERRORIST ORGANIZATION
26.10.2023	DİREN YURTSEVER, BERİVAN ALTAN, CEYLAN ŞAHİNLİ, DENİZ NAZLIM, EMRULLAH ACAR, HAKAN YALÇIN, SELMAN GÜZELYÜZ, ZEMO AĞGÖZ, MEHMET GÜNHAN, HABİBE EREN, ÖZNUR DEĞER	ANKARA 4th HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION
26.10.2023	AHMET ALTAN, NAZLI ILICAK, YAKUP ŞİMŞEK, FEVZİ YAZICI (RE-TRIAL)	İSTANBUL 26th HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION
26.10.2023	ERTUĞRUL MAVİOĞLU, ÇAYAN DEMİREL (RE-TRIAL)	BATMAN 2nd HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA
26.10.2023	CİHAN ÖLMEZ	DİYARBAKIR 5th HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA
26.10.2023	AZİZ ORUÇ, ERSİN ÇAKSU	İSTANBUL 2nd CRIMINAL COURT	DENIGRATING THE TURKISH NATION, STATE OF TURKISH REPUBLIC, THE ORGANS AND INSTITUTIONS OF THE STATE
31.10.2023	SEZGİN KARTAL	İSTANBUL 22nd HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION
31.10.2023	KCK PRESS TRIAL	İSTANBUL 3rd HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION
31.10.2023	MEHMET ŞAH ORUÇ	BİTLİS 2nd HIGH CRIMINAL COURT	MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION



## ○ 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 : Annual international press freedom mission to Ankara, Diyarbakır and Istanbul *September 25, 2023*

Between 2 and 5 October 2023, five international media freedom organisations will conduct an annual joint press freedom mission to Ankara, Diyarbakır and Istanbul. The mission will focus on the state of media freedom, the challenges experienced by journalists, media workers and the media landscape in general.

[Read more](#)



### ○ Major cyber attack on IPI: Evidence points to retaliation for press freedom work in Hungary *September 14, 2023*

IPI became the target of constant cyber attacks on the first week of September due to its advocacy work on behalf of independent media in Hungary. Access to Free Turkey Journalists website was also interrupted by the attacks.

[Read more](#)

