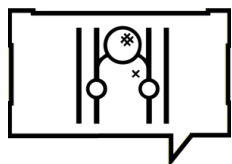


PRESS FREEDOM IN TURKEY

MONTHLY BRIEFING / OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2023

www.freeturkeyjournalists.ipi.media

#Free
Turkey
Journalists



**19 JOURNALISTS
CURRENTLY IN JAIL**

- 14 SENTENCED
- 5 ONGOING TRIAL



TRIALS CALENDAR

In October, **34** journalist trials were held. **6** journalists were acquitted, **1** journalist was sentenced:



In October, at least **27** journalist trials will be held. See the calendar [here](#) →

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

- Led by IPI, five international media freedom organisations [conducted](#) an annual press freedom mission to [Ankara](#), [Diyarbakır](#) and [Istanbul](#) between October 2-5, 2023.
- The Constitutional Court [will discuss](#) CHP's application for the annulment and suspension of the enforcement of the regulation that provides imprisonment for the crime of "publicly disseminating misleading information" under "disinformation law" on November 8.



MEDIA CRACKDOWN IN OCTOBER 2023

PRESS FREEDOM VIOLATIONS IN TURKEY

- IPI and 5 other media freedom organizations denounced the inflammatory rhetoric directed at Deutsche Welle (DW) Turkish service reporter Aican Uludağ by Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) officials.

Joint statement [here](#) →

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

October 1 - 8 [here](#) →

October 9 - 15 [here](#) →

October 16 - 22 [here](#) →

October 23 - 29 [here](#) →

- Read more [here](#) →

IPI's WORK IN TURKEY

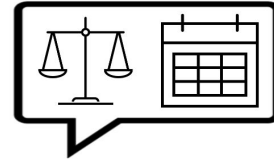


- **IPI - Medyascope Programme "The Journalist"**: Watch the [32th episode](#) with Arwa Damon, former war correspondent of CNN, on being a correspondent in Gaza and living conditions of journalists during war periods, hosted by İpek Yezdani. All episodes [available here](#).
- **IPI Turkey Digital News Accelerator**: Watch the [latest episode](#) of online master classes with Andrew Losowsky, Head of Community Products from Vox Media, on community building for newsrooms and future of media, hosted by journalist Gülsin Harman.
- **IPI Freedom Dialogues**: Listen to the [last episode](#) of the Freedom Dialogues podcast series with journalist Hale Gönültaş, on attempts at silencing journalism through threats and pressure, hosted by journalist Cansu Çamlıbel (in Turkish).



TRIALS CALENDAR

JOURNALIST TRIALS IN OCTOBER



| DATE | DEFENDANT(S) | COURT | CHARGE(S) | VERDICTS |
|------------|--|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| 03.10.2023 | SİBEL TEKİN | ANKARA 26th HIGH CRIMINAL COURT | MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION | ADJOURNED |
| 04.10.2023 | MERDAN YANARDAĞ | İSTANBUL 2nd CRIMINAL COURT | SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA; PRAISING AN OFFENSE OR AN OFFENDER | VERDICT (2 years & 6 months in prison) |
| 05.10.2023 | DİLÂN BABAT, FIRAT CAN ARSLAN | KONYA 2nd HIGH CRIMINAL COURT | IDENTIFYING OFFICIALS ON ANTI-TERROR DUTIES AS TARGETS | ACQUITTAL |
| 05.10.2023 | YAĞMUR KAYA | AYDIN 2nd HIGH CRIMINAL COURT | IDENTIFYING OFFICIALS ON ANTI-TERROR DUTIES AS TARGETS | ADJOURNED |
| 10.10.2023 | İSMAİL SAYMAZ | İSTANBUL 24th HIGH CRIMINAL COURT | INSULT; IDENTIFYING OFFICIALS ON ANTI-TERROR DUTIES AS TARGETS | ADJOURNED |
| 12.10.2023 | HAYKO BAĞDAT (CASE 3) | İSTANBUL 51st CRIMINAL COURT | INSULTING THE PRESIDENT | ADJOURNED |
| 12.10.2023 | EROL ÖNDEROĞLU, ŞEBNEM KORUR FİNCANCI, AHMET NESİN | İSTANBUL 2nd CRIMINAL COURT | SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA; PRAISING AN OFFENCE OR AN OFFENDER | ADJOURNED |
| 12.10.2023 | EYLÜL DENİZ YAŞAR | ANKARA 4th HIGH CRIMINAL COURT | SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA | ACQUITTAL |
| 17.10.2023 | İZEL SEZER, BATUHAN BATAN | İSTANBUL 25th CRIMINAL COURT | INSULT | ADJOURNED |
| 17.10.2023 | DENİZ YÜCEL | İSTANBUL 2nd CRIMINAL COURT | DENIGRATING THE TURKISH NATION, STATE OF TURKISH REPUBLIC, THE ORGANS AND INSTITUTIONS OF THE STATE | ADJOURNED |
| 19.10.2023 | FURKAN KARABAY | İSTANBUL 1st CRIMINAL COURT | VIOLATING THE PERSONAL RIGHTS | DISMISSED |
| 19.10.2023 | AHMET KANBAL | MARDİN 1st HIGH CRIMINAL COURT | PUBLICLY DISSEMINATING MISLEADING INFORMATION (DISINFORMATION LAW) | ADJOURNED |
| 19.10.2023 | SEMRA ÇELEBİ | İSTANBUL 10th CRIMINAL COURT | DENIGRATING THE TURKISH NATION, STATE OF TURKISH REPUBLIC, THE ORGANS AND INSTITUTIONS OF THE STATE | ADJOURNED |
| 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 | ADJOURNED |
| 19.10.2023 | AHMET MEMİŞ, ALİ AKKUŞ, CEMAL AZMİ KALYONCU, GÖKÇE FIRAT ÇULHAOĞLU, ÜNAL TANIK, YAKUP ÇETİN, YETKİN YILDIZ | İSTANBUL 25th HIGH CRIMINAL COURT | MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION; HELPING A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION | ADJOURNED |
| 19.10.2023 | RÜSTEM BATUM (CASE 4) | İSTANBUL 12th CRIMINAL COURT | INSULTING THE PRESIDENT | ADJOURNED |
| 19.10.2023 | FIRAT BULUT | ELBİSTAN 2nd CRIMINAL COURT | PUBLICLY DISSEMINATING MISLEADING INFORMATION (DISINFORMATION LAW) | ADJOURNED |

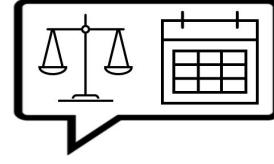


For up-to-date list of trials: <https://freeturkeyjournalists.ipi.media/trials-calendar/>



TRIALS CALENDAR

JOURNALIST TRIALS IN OCTOBER



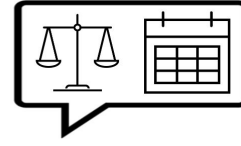
| DATE | DEFENDANT(S) | COURT | CHARGE(S) | VERDICTS |
|------------|---|-------------------------------------|--|-----------|
| 23.10.2023 | HÜLYA KILINÇ, TUNAY AKTAŞ | MANİSA 2nd CRIMINAL COURT | INSULT | ACQUITTAL |
| 24.10.2023 | İSMAİL ARI | İSTANBUL 2nd CRIMINAL COURT | OPENLY INSULTING A PUBLIC OFFICIAL BECAUSE OF HIS DUTY | ADJOURNED |
| 24.10.2023 | PINAR GAYIP, MEHMET ACETTİN | İSTANBUL 2nd CRIMINAL COURT | DENIGRATING THE TURKISH NATION, STATE OF TURKISH REPUBLIC, THE ORGANS AND INSTITUTIONS OF THE STATE | ADJOURNED |
| 24.10.2023 | YETKİN YILDIZ | BAKIRKÖY 31st CRIMINAL COURT | INSULT; CALUMNY | ADJOURNED |
| 25.10.2023 | BERİTAN CANÖZER | DİYARBAKIR 10th HIGH CRIMINAL COURT | MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION | ADJOURNED |
| 25.10.2023 | HAYRİ DEMİR (RE-TRIAL) | ANKARA 15th HIGH CRIMINAL COURT | SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA; MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION | ADJOURNED |
| 25.10.2023 | CAN DÜNDAR (MIT TRUCKS) | İSTANBUL 14th HIGH CRIMINAL COURT | OBTAINING INFORMATION THAT SHOULD REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL FOR POLITICAL OR MILITARY ESPIONAGE | ADJOURNED |
| 26.10.2023 | İNAN KIZILKAYA, CAN DÜNDAR (ÖZGÜR GÜNDEM) | İSTANBUL 22nd HIGH CRIMINAL COURT | PUBLISHING ON BEHALF OF THE TERRORIST ORGANIZATION | ADJOURNED |
| 26.10.2023 | BÜLENT KILIÇ | İSTANBUL 19th CRIMINAL COURT | OPENLY INSULTING A PUBLIC OFFICIAL BECAUSE OF HIS DUTY; RESISTING POLICE OFFICERS TO OBSTRUCT THEM FROM DUTY | ADJOURNED |
| 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 | ADJOURNED |
| 26.10.2023 | AHMET ALTAN, NAZLI ILICAK, YAKUP ŞİMŞEK, FEVZİ YAZICI (RE-TRIAL) | İSTANBUL 26th HIGH CRIMINAL COURT | MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION | ADJOURNED |
| 26.10.2023 | ERTUĞRUL MAVİOĞLU, ÇAYAN DEMİREL (RE-TRIAL) | BATMAN 2nd HIGH CRIMINAL COURT | SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA | ADJOURNED |
| 26.10.2023 | CİHAN ÖLMEZ | DİYARBAKIR 5th HIGH CRIMINAL COURT | SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA | ADJOURNED |
| 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 | ADJOURNED |
| 31.10.2023 | SEZGİN KARTAL | İSTANBUL 2nd HIGH CRIMINAL COURT | MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION | ADJOURNED |
| 31.10.2023 | FIRAT CAN ARSLAN | DİYARBAKIR 2nd CRIMINAL COURT | IDENTIFYING OFFICIALS ON ANTI-TERROR DUTIES AS TARGETS | ACQUITTAL |
| 31.10.2023 | KCK PRESS TRIAL | İSTANBUL 3rd HIGH CRIMINAL COURT | MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION | ADJOURNED |
| 31.10.2023 | MEHMET ŞAH ORUÇ | BİTLİS 2nd HIGH CRIMINAL COURT | MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION | ADJOURNED |



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TRIALS CALENDAR

UPCOMING JOURNALIST TRIALS IN NOVEMBER



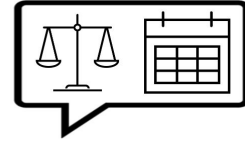
| DATE | DEFENDANT(S) | COURT | CHARGE(S) |
|------------|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| 01.11.2023 | İHSAN YAŞAR, İSHAK YASUL, MEHMET ALİ ÇELEBİ, MİZGİN FENDİK, PINAR TARLAK, REYHAN HACIOĞLU, HİCRAN UZUN (ÖZGÜRLÜKÇÜ DEMOKRASİ RE-TRIAL) | İSTANBUL 23rd HIGH CRIMINAL COURT | PUBLISHING ON BEHALF OF THE TERRORIST ORGANIZATION; MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION; PRAISING AN OFFENSE OR AN OFFENDER; INCITING PEOPLE TO HATRED ENMITY |
| 02.11.2023 | ABDULLAH KAYA | AĞRI 2nd HIGH CRIMINAL COURT | SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA; MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION |
| 02.11.2023 | AHMET SEVER | İSTANBUL 2nd CRIMINAL COURT | OPENLY INSULTING A PUBLIC OFFICIAL BECAUSE OF HIS DUTY |
| 02.11.2023 | BARIŞ TERKOĞLU, NEVZAT ÇİÇEK, CAN BURSALI | İSTANBUL 2nd CRIMINAL COURT | INSULT; CALUMNY |
| 06.11.2023 | RABİA ÇETİN | İSTANBUL 23rd HIGH CRIMINAL COURT | OPENLY INSULTING A PUBLIC OFFICIAL BECAUSE OF HIS DUTY; IDENTIFYING OFFICIALS ON ANTI-TERROR DUTIES AS TARGETS |
| 06.11.2023 | SEMRA ÇELEBİ | İSTANBUL 10th CRIMINAL COURT | DENIGRATING THE TURKISH NATION, STATE OF TURKISH REPUBLIC, THE ORGANS AND INSTITUTIONS OF THE STATE |
| 07.11.2023 | FURKAN KARABAY, FARUK EREN | ANKARA 22nd HIGH CRIMINAL COURT | IDENTIFYING OFFICIALS ON ANTI-TERROR DUTIES AS TARGETS |
| 09.11.2023 | AZİZ ORUÇ, ELİF ÜNGÜR, İBRAHİM KOYUNCU, LEZGİN AKDENİZ, MAZLUM GÜLER, MEHMET ŞAHİN, MEHMET ALİ ERTAŞ, NEŞE TOPRAK, ÖMER ÇELİK, RAMAZAN GECİKEN, REMZİYE TEMEL, SERDAR ALTAN, SUAT DOĞUHAN, ZEYNEL ABİDİN BULUT, ABDURRAHMAN ÖNCÜ / ESMEER TUNÇ, İBRAHİM BAYRAM, MEHMET YALÇIN | DİYARBAKIR 4th HIGH CRIMINAL COURT | MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION |
| 09.11.2023 | İSMİNAZ TEMEL, HAVVA CUŞTAN | İSTANBUL 27th HIGH CRIMINAL COURT | MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION; SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA |
| 09.11.2023 | BARIŞ PEHLİVAN | İSTANBUL 2nd CRIMINAL COURT | IDENTIFYING OFFICIALS ON ANTI-TERROR DUTIES AS TARGETS |
| 09.11.2023 | SAFİYE ALAĞAŞ | DİYARBAKIR 5th HIGH CRIMINAL COURT | MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION |
| 09.11.2023 | CANAN KAYA | İSTANBUL 39th CRIMINAL COURT | VIOLATING COMMERCIAL STANDING; VIOLATING PERSONAL RIGHTS |
| 09.11.2023 | MANSUR ÇELİK | ANKARA 22nd HIGH CRIMINAL COURT | IDENTIFYING OFFICIALS ON ANTI-TERROR DUTIES AS TARGETS |
| 10.11.2023 | PERİHAN KAYA | DİYARBAKIR 10th HIGH CRIMINAL COURT | SPREADING TERRORIST PROPAGANDA |
| 13.11.2023 | MEHMET BARANSU, AHMET ALTAN, YASEMİN ÇONGAR, YILDIRAY OĞUR, TUNCAY OPÇİN (RE-TRIAL) | İSTANBUL 13rd 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 BENEFIT OF THE STATE; OBTAINING SECRET DOCUMENTS CONCERNING NATIONAL SECURITY |



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TRIALS CALENDAR

UPCOMING JOURNALIST TRIALS IN NOVEMBER



| DATE | DEFENDANT(S) | COURT | CHARGE(S) |
|------------|--|------------------------------------|---|
| 14.11.2023 | JAKE HANRAHAN, PHILIP JOHN PENDLEBURY | DİYARBAKIR 8th HIGH CRIMINAL COURT | HELPING AN ARMED TERRORIST ORGANIZATION |
| 14.11.2023 | MERDAN YANARDAĞ | İSTANBUL 2nd CRIMINAL COURT | INSULTING THE PRESIDENT |
| 16.11.2023 | BARIŞ PEHLİVAN, OZAN ALPER YURTOĞLU | İSTANBUL 15th CRIMINAL COURT | OPENLY INSULTING A PUBLIC OFFICIAL BECAUSE OF HIS DUTY; INSULTING THE PRESIDENT |
| 16.11.2023 | PINAR GAYIP | ESKİŞEHİR 2nd HIGH CRIMINAL COURT | MEMBERSHIP OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION |
| 16.11.2023 | SEDEF KABAŞ | İSTANBUL 2nd CRIMINAL COURT | INSULTING THE PRESIDENT |
| 21.11.2023 | RAMAZAN YURTTAPAN, HAYDAR ERGÜL | İSTANBUL 2nd CRIMINAL COURT | INSULTING THE PRESIDENT |
| 22.11.2023 | AYÇA SÖYLEMEZ | İSTANBUL 29th HIGH CRIMINAL COURT | IDENTIFYING OFFICIALS ON ANTI-TERROR DUTIES AS TARGETS |
| 23.11.2023 | BARANSEL AĞCA | İSTANBUL 2nd CRIMINAL COURT | INSULTING THE PRESIDENT |
| 23.11.2023 | RÜSTEM BATUM (CASE 1) | İSTANBUL 5th CRIMINAL COURT | INSULTING THE PRESIDENT; INCITING PEOPLE TO HATRED ENMITY |
| 24.11.2023 | OZAN KAPLANOĞLU, HATİCE NUR DERYA, BURHAN KÜPELİ | BURSA 8th CRIMINAL COURT | VIOLATING THE LAW ON ASSEMBLIES AND DEMONSTRATIONS |
| 28.11.2023 | İSMAİL ARI | İSTANBUL 2nd CRIMINAL COURT | OPENLY INSULTING A PUBLIC OFFICIAL BECAUSE OF HIS DUTY |
| 29.11.2023 | ZAFER ARAPKİRLİ | İSTANBUL 32nd CRIMINAL COURT | INSULT |



○ 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 Trial Blog: Photojournalist's case launched upon the complaint of the police officers who assaulted him adjourned

October 26, 2023

IPI monitored the first hearing of the case in which AFP photojournalist Bülent Kılıç, who was tortured and detained by the police while covering the Pride March in Istanbul on June 26, 2021, is facing charges of “resisting public officials to obstruct them from duty” and “publicly insulting a public official”. IPI also [monitored](#) the second hearing of the re-trial in which journalist Hayri Demir is facing terrorism related charges.

[Read more](#)

○ How can constructive journalism contribute to mitigating media polarization?

October 21, 2023

Reflecting on its relevance and applicability, journalist Sevilay Nur Saraçlar discusses the ways constructive journalism may contribute to mitigating media polarization in Turkey.

[Read more](#)

○ Turkey: International groups alarmed by the targeting of journalist Alican Uludağ

October 13, 2023

IPI and 5 other media freedom organizations denounced the inflammatory rhetoric directed at Deutsche Welle (DW) Turkish service reporter Alican Uludağ by Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) officials.

[Read more](#)

