

Press Freedom in Turkey

2024 Annual Factsheet: Jan 1 - Dec 31



18 journalists imprisoned in Turkey

In 2024, journalists Nazım Daştan and Cihan Bilgin were **killed** in Syria.

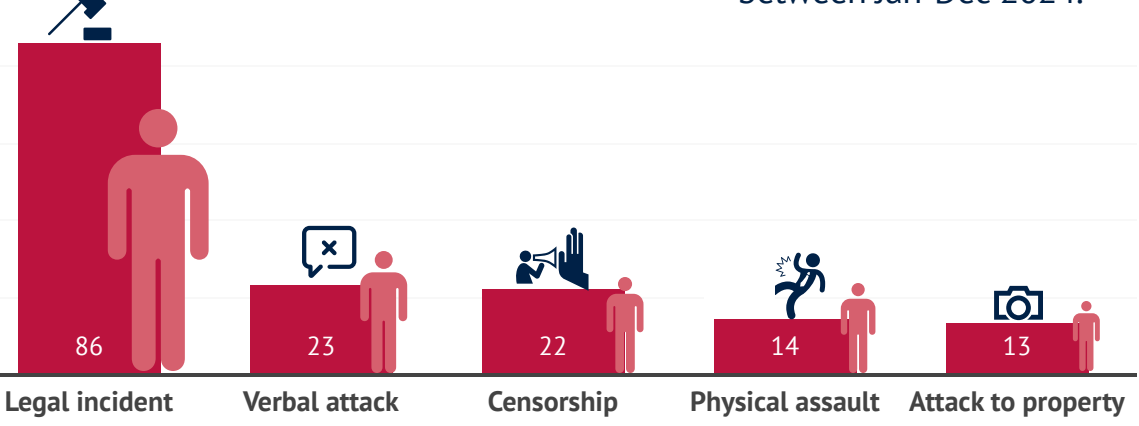
Following the killing of Daştan and Bilgin, Turkish authorities **arrested 7 journalists** on terrorism charges and for opposing the law on meetings and demonstrations.



Behind Bars

Violations against journalists

The Mapping Media Freedom (MFRR) database **recorded at least 134 alerts impacting 317 journalists, media workers or outlets** between Jan-Dec 2024.



Trial Monitoring

In 2024, at least 243 court hearings involved 378 journalists. The journalists received fines totaling at least 20,000 TL, and courts handed down prison sentences of at least 31 years combined.

The most common charges were **terrorism-related charges**, which accounted for 38% of all charges. This was followed by **defamation cases** brought by politicians, businesspeople, and other powerful figures, accounting for 27% of all charges. Next, came charges of **insulting the president** at about 7% of all charges. These three types of charges were also the most common, in the same order, since 2021.

Between Jan-Dec 2024, at least;

243 hearings

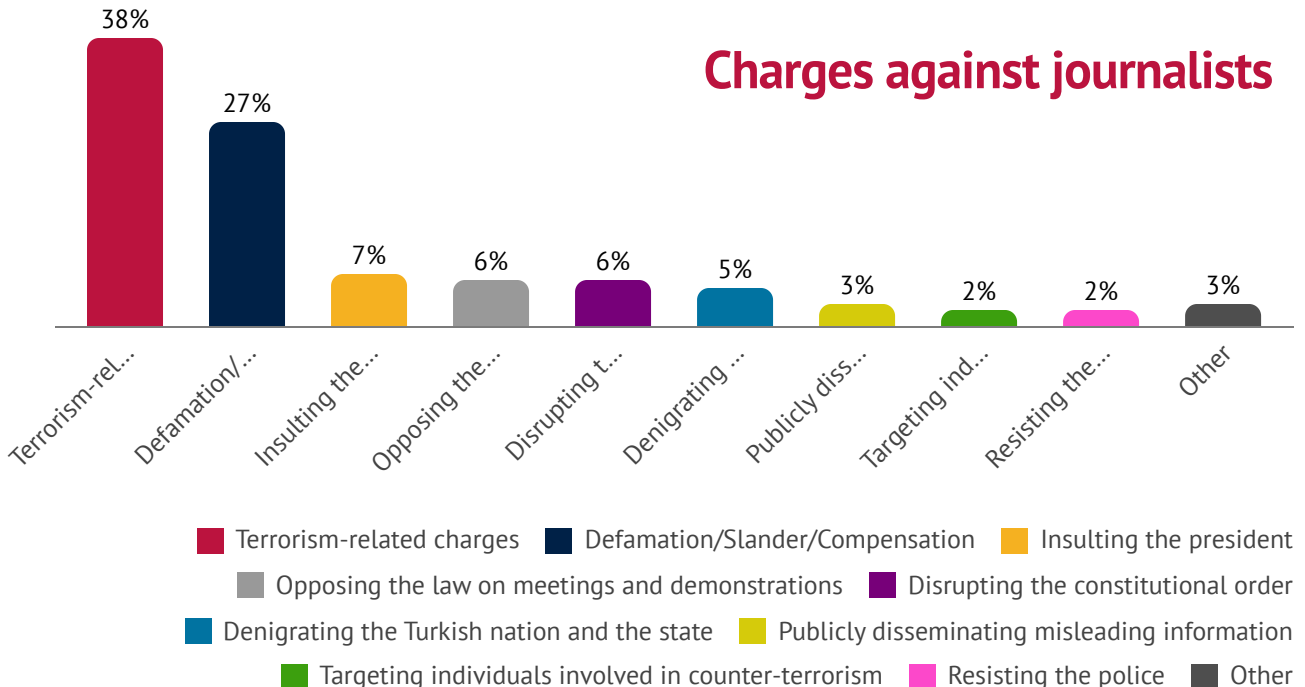
378 journalists on trial

20k TL fine (at least)

31 years of sentencing



● Adjudged ● Acquittal ● Conviction ● Dismissed



Charges against journalists

RTÜK & BİK Fines

Penalties Imposed by Press Ads Agency (BİK)
between Jan-Dec 2024

448 newspapers/websites banned (subjected to sanctions for official announcements and advertisements)

3 yrs 4 mos days in total (newspapers/websites banned)

Penalties Imposed by Turkey's broadcast regulator
between Jan-Dec 2024

81,5M total fines

24 broadcast bans

7 license revocations

6 warnings

4 catalog removals

5 program suspensions

TV channels fined by RTÜK

At least:



Disinformation Law

In October 2022, Turkey's Parliament passed the 'Disinformation Law' despite major criticism from civil society and the journalistic community. The broad and vague language of the offense of 'publicly disseminating misleading information' under Article 217/A of the Turkish Penal Code has been weaponized to undermine journalists' work on issues of public interest."



The news reports that triggered investigations and detentions under disinformation charges focused on **corruption, police misconduct, judicial system violations, fire and earthquake coverage, and commentary about the military and government.**

'Agents of Influence' Bill



The proposed bill would enable judges to increase sentences by **up to seven years** for any conviction, if the crime is ruled to have been committed against 'the political interests of the state' when acting in alignment with or under the direction of, foreign states or organizations. This proposed legislation poses a serious threat to fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression, freedom of the press and association, and the public's right to information.