



“Journalists are the guarantors of a society’s free will. Put an end to the pressure and human rights violations targeting journalists, and remove the obstacles to the public’s right to information!”

Dicle Fırat Journalists’ Association (DFG)

SEPTEMBER 2026

REPORT ON RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST JOURNALISTS

October 4, 2026

NOTE: The data included in this report has been compiled from information, documents, and reports obtained from the Mesopotamia Agency, JINNEWS, Bianet, Evrensel, MLSA Turkey, expressioninterrupted.com, ifade.org.tr @engelliweb, freewebturkey.com, and various national and local newspapers.

-Data may vary. The figures obtained from our association’s research represent the minimum number; the actual numbers may be higher.

-The “number of detained journalists” listed in the report does not necessarily mean that these journalists are still in prison; they may have been detained and subsequently released.

ASSESSMENT

SEPTEMBER 2026 REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST JOURNALISTS

September was a month in which access restrictions intensified and their scope expanded significantly in Turkey in terms of press and freedom of expression. Data from our monthly monitoring study shows that access restrictions have evolved beyond being merely an intervention targeting specific news content; they have transformed into a comprehensive censorship mechanism extending from journalists' digital media accounts to news organizations, professional associations, civil society organizations, and numerous actors participating in public discourse.

Starting in the first days of the month, the social media accounts of journalists and media organizations were blocked. According to September data, **access to 3,491 pieces of social media content** was blocked in the internet and digital media sector. In addition, **access to 15 news stories was blocked, and 4 websites were shut down.**

In September, the accounts or websites of media outlets such as JINNEWS, Mezopotamya Agency, Evrensel, Kısa Dalga, and T24 faced access blocks and platform interventions. Furthermore, the personal X accounts of numerous journalists were made invisible from Turkey under pretexts such as “protecting national security and public order.”

The period between September 24 and 30 was particularly notable for the intensity of the access restrictions. The report indicated that on September 24, at least 250 X accounts were blocked; on September 26, another 80 accounts—belonging to media organizations, journalists, academics, and figures in the economics and finance sectors—were blocked. On September 28, access to at least 55 X accounts was blocked, while on September 30, the Freedom of Expression Association's EngelliWeb project identified that at least 147 more X accounts sharing content about the funding crisis had been blocked.

This concentration also demonstrates that access restrictions are not limited to a specific topic or news story. In September, accounts and content sharing information about the Narin Güran murder, the funding crisis, news regarding public figures, the school attack in Manisa, LGBTI+ rights, political developments, events leading up to the NATO Summit, and various social incidents were subject to access restrictions. The report notes that 99 X accounts were blocked in connection with the Narin Güran investigation, and 92 X accounts were blocked following the school attack in Turgutlu, Manisa.

On September 18, access to the entire Medya Radar website was blocked; following an appeal, this decision was reversed. On September 30, a decision was issued to shut down the T24 website and its X account, which had 1.9 million followers.

This situation demonstrates that access blocks should no longer be viewed merely as a tool to restrict the circulation of specific content. While blocking a news story, making a journalist's account invisible, shutting down a media outlet's digital media account, or shutting down an entire news site are different measures, they all produce the same result: the channels through which the public accesses news and through which journalists deliver their stories to the public are being narrowed.

Another significant aspect highlighted by the September data is that access restrictions are not limited solely to administrative and judicial decisions in Turkey. Numerous accounts were made invisible from Turkey by X following the relevant decisions. Instagram, meanwhile, closed the Turkish-language account of the Mezopotamya Agency on the grounds of “Community Guidelines” and did not allow for an appeal or a request for reconsideration. JINNEWS's Turkish-language Instagram account was also suspended in a similar manner.

Data from September shows that the justifications used for access restrictions also span a very broad spectrum. Media content and accounts have been blocked under various justifications, including “protection of national security and public order,” “disinformation,” “provocation,” “social peace,” “prevention of crime,” “privacy of private life,” “personal rights,” and “Community Guidelines.”

Data from September 2026 shows that access restrictions in Turkey have become a central tool of repression in the realm of press freedom. These measures—ranging from journalists’ personal accounts to news organizations’ websites, and from digital media accounts to specific news content—directly impact the public’s right to information.

As the DFG, we emphasize: Blocking access to the platform where a journalist publishes their news constitutes an interference not only with the journalist’s freedom of expression but also with the public’s right to information. In particular, the mass blocking of journalists’ social media accounts, the rendering of news organizations’ accounts invisible, and the complete blocking of news websites should be addressed as a separate monitoring issue regarding press freedom.

In September 2026, the crackdown on journalists was not limited to access restrictions on news content; it evolved into a multi-layered form of intervention comprising the detention, arrest, and intimidation of journalists, the obstruction of their reporting activities, and the rendering of their social media accounts invisible.

In September, 15 journalists were detained, while 8 were arrested. Raids were conducted on the homes of 4 journalists, 3 journalists were threatened, journalists were prevented from covering news in 5 incidents, and 2 journalists were subjected to ill-treatment. During the same period, investigations were opened against 2 journalists and lawsuits were filed against 10 journalists under the scope of freedom of thought and expression. There are 80 journalists involved in 25 ongoing court cases. As of October 4, 2026, the number of journalists in detention stands at 29.

A significant portion of the interventions targeting journalists in September occurred directly in connection with the news reports they produced or their social media posts. Journalist Oya Lale Arslan was detained and arrested on the grounds of her social media posts and YouTube broadcasts. Journalist Selahattin Günday was detained for footage he reported on as part of the Kaşif Kozinoğlu investigation, and a second detention order was subsequently issued against him. Journalist Tuğba Tekerek was detained for a report she wrote for Kaos GL, while Hüseyin Aykan, Editor-in-Chief of Bolu Gündem, was also detained for a news story he published.

In September, the interventions journalists faced while covering news reached a striking level. In September, journalists were prevented from covering news in five incidents, three journalists were threatened, and two journalists were subjected to mistreatment.

One form of attack journalists faced was legal persecution. In September, investigations were opened against 2 journalists, while the investigations of 10 others were converted into criminal cases. While the trials of 80 journalists in 25 cases are ongoing, ETHA reporter Züleyha Müldür was sentenced to 6 years and 3 months in prison.

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**SEPTEMBER 2026 REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST
JOURNALISTS: STATISTICAL DATA****1-) VIOLATIONS OF JOURNALISTS' RIGHT TO LIFE AND SAFETY**

Journalists Who Were Attacked	Journalist	2
	Media Outlet	
Journalists Targeted		1
Journalists Whose Homes Were Raided		4
Journalists Detained		15
Journalists Arrested		8
Journalists Subjected to Ill-Treatment		2
Journalists Who Were Threatened		3
Journalists Whose Reporting Was Blocked		5 (incidents)
Violations Against Journalists in Prisons		1

2-) VIOLATIONS OF FREEDOM OF THOUGHT AND EXPRESSION TARGETING JOURNALISTS

Journalists Under Investigation		2
Journalists Against Whom Lawsuits Were Filed		10
Journalists Who Were Punished	Number of People	2
	Prison Sentence	6 years, 5 months, 24 days
	Fines	-
Journalists Whose Trials Are Ongoing	Number of Cases	25
	Number of People	80
Number of Journalists in Custody (as of October 4, 2026)		29

3-) VIOLATIONS OF JOURNALISTS' ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS

Journalists Who Have Been Dismissed	10
Journalists Whose Press Cards Were Revoked	-

4-) OBSTACLES AND CENSORSHIP TARGETING PRESS AND MEDIA ORGANIZATIONS

RTÜK Fines	Number of Broadcasts	14
	Number of Penalties	Fines

5-) ACCESS BLOCK ON INTERNET AND DIGITAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

Closed Websites	4
News Articles Subject to Access Restrictions	15
Social Media Content Subject to Access Restrictions	3,491

SEPTEMBER 2026 REPORT ON RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST JOURNALISTS DETAILED DATA

1-) VIOLATIONS OF JOURNALISTS' RIGHT TO LIFE AND SAFETY

September 2, 2026 — Fatih Coşkun, a cameraman for 24 TV who was covering the search efforts for the 10 crew members missing following a collision between two commercial ships off the coast of Silivri in the Sea of Marmara, was attacked at the scene by a group allegedly consisting of relatives of the missing.

September 4, 2026 – Journalist Oya Lale Arslan was detained on charges of “publicly disseminating misleading information” and “propagandizing for a terrorist organization.” Arslan’s social media posts and YouTube broadcasts had been singled out as targets by individuals close to the government. Arslan, whose digital materials were seized during a search of her residence, was referred to a judge with a request for detention following her statement to the prosecutor’s office. Journalist Arslan was subsequently detained by the judge.

September 10, 2026 — Melisa Sapaz, a reporter for Sonsöz Newspaper who reported a year ago on allegations of mobbing, off-the-books employment, and threats against educators working at Fidol Schools in Koşuyolu, Istanbul, was threatened by the school’s owner, Faik Birgül. Birgül, who had previously threatened teachers and union representatives seeking to assert their rights last year, this time accused Sapaz, a journalist, of being a “pawn of an organization.”

September 10, 2026 — As part of the reopened investigation into the 2011 death in prison of Kaşif Kozinoğlu, a former member of the National Intelligence Organization (MİT), nine people—including cameraman İdris Tiftikçi and journalist Selahattin Günday—were detained during the second wave of operations conducted today.

September 10, 2026 - During the first session of the September meeting of the Bursa Metropolitan Municipality Council, held on Thursday, September 10, AS TV reporter Oğuz Aksu and a cameraman were ejected from the premises by Chief of Staff Cihangir Erol Almaç prior to the council meeting.

September 11, 2026 — It emerged that Özgür TV presenter and ETHA writer Ahmet Polad, who had been kidnapped by Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) on January 19 while covering news in the Syrian city of Raqqa, was extradited to Turkey on September 9. Polad was brought before a judge, arrested, and sent to Metris Prison.

September 11, 2026 — Hüseyin Aykan, Editor-in-Chief of the Bolu Gündem newspaper, was arrested on September 11 on the grounds that he had reported on allegations that a business in Göksu Nature Park was charging fees above the official rate.

September 13, 2026 – Journalist Selahattin Günday, who was taken into custody as part of an investigation conducted by the Silivri Chief Public Prosecutor's Office, was arrested under Article 27 of the National Intelligence Organization (MİT) Law on the grounds that he had reported on footage of Kaşif Kozinoğlu entering the Beşiktaş Courthouse in 2011.

September 15, 2026 – A crowd and journalists protesting operations targeting LGBTI+ organizations and rights advocates in front of the Istanbul Çağlayan Courthouse were surrounded by police. The police later removed the journalists from the area. A large number of people were detained, including Sarya Toprak, a reporter for the newspaper BirGün who was covering the story, and Sener Azak, a reporter for the German broadcaster ARD. Azak was later released. Toprak was released the following evening.

September 15, 2026 — Journalist Selahattin Günday was arrested for a second time on charges of “forming a criminal organization” following an appeal against his initial arrest in connection with the investigation into the death of Kaşif Kozinoğlu.

September 16, 2026 – Journalist Tuğba Tekerek, who was detained in Istanbul and brought to Ankara on the grounds of a news report she had written for Kaos GL, was arrested.

September 17, 2026 — In an incident that took place in the Haliliye district of Urfa, journalists conducting a news report were first verbally harassed. The individual then physically assaulted the journalists. One of the journalists was injured during the attack; it was reported that he obtained a medical report from the hospital documenting his injuries and filed a complaint against the assailant.

September 21, 2026 - As part of an investigation conducted by the Silivri Chief Public Prosecutor's Office into the suspicious death of former MIT agent Kaşif Kozinoğlu at Silivri Prison in 2011, former journalist Osman Arslan was taken into custody. After giving his statement to the prosecutor's office, Arslan was referred to the Criminal Court of First Instance, where a decision was made to detain him.

September 22, 2026 — Hatice Aksoy, the publisher of Trabzon 360 Haber, which operates in Trabzon, along with her husband and the newspaper’s Editor-in-Chief, Muhsin Aksoy, were taken into custody by police who arrived at their home late that night following a news story they published on September 22. The journalists were released after giving their statements. According to Muhsin Aksoy, following the news story published by Trabzon 360 Haber on September 22, Atilla Ataman—the husband of AKP Diyarbakır Deputy Suna Kepoğlu Ataman—called them and threatened them. Aksoy said that approximately three hours after this call, plainclothes police officers arrived at the entrance of their residential complex.

September 24, 2026 — Journalists Mehmet Toprak, Halil Biter, and Kenan Bayık were detained for posting on social media about the 5.8-magnitude earthquake that struck Urfa. After legal proceedings at the courthouse were completed, the three journalists were released.

September 26, 2026 – Journalist Ali Tarakçı was detained on charges of “publicly disseminating misleading information to the public.” In a September 25 directive from the Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office Press Crimes Investigation Bureau, it was noted that a post Tarakçı made on September 23 was evaluated under Article 217/A of the Turkish Penal Code.

September 26, 2026 - Journalist Ali Tarakçı was detained on charges of “publicly disseminating misleading information to the public” due to a post on his X account stating, “A very important minister will resign on Friday.” A search warrant was issued for Tarakçı’s residence, and an order was given to seize his digital materials. Meanwhile, a decision was issued to block access to Tarakçı’s social media account. Ali Tarakçı was arrested by the Ankara 8th Criminal Court of Peace, to which he was referred.

September 27, 2026 – It was reported through journalist Fatih Ergin’s attorney that he had been taken into custody.

September 27, 2026 – Utku Çakırözer, Deputy Chair of the New Party, described how journalist Tuğba Tekerek was made to lie on the floor in front of the toilet in a 40-person drug-offender cell.

September 28, 2026 – At the Istanbul Courthouse, where comedian Deniz Göktaş’s trial was being held, journalists with turquoise press cards were allowed inside, while other journalists and citizens were barred from entry.

September 28, 2026 – Journalist Fatih Ergin, who was taken into custody from his home last night on the grounds of a social media post, was arrested by the judge to whom he was referred.

2-) VIOLATIONS OF FREEDOM OF THOUGHT AND EXPRESSION TARGETING JOURNALISTS

September 2, 2026 - A case was filed against journalist İsmail Arı on suspicion of “disturbing the peace” due to a message he sent to former Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK) Chairman Ebubekir Şahin asking, “Will you exercise your right of reply?”

September 8, 2026 – The first hearing in the trial of Mehmet Murat Yıldırım, editor of Siyasi Haber, who is facing charges of “insulting the president” due to his news reports and social media posts, took place on September 8, 2026, at the Ankara 24th Criminal Court of First Instance. Based on the case file, the hearing was postponed to January 2, 2027.

September 8, 2026 – The eighth hearing in the case in which journalist Mehmet Şahin is being retried on charges of “being a member of an organization” due to meetings and press conferences he attended, interviews he conducted with news sources, and TV programs he produced was held at the Diyarbakır 5th High Criminal Court. The court granted a request by Şahin and his attorney for additional time to prepare a defense against the prosecution’s sentencing recommendation presented at the previous session and set a new hearing date for November 24.

September 9, 2026 — The Artvin Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office filed an indictment charging journalists Semra Pelek, Eylem Emel Yılmaz, Dicle Baştürk, Metin Yoksu, Yavuz Akengin, translator Melisa Efe, and website developer Ozan Cırık with “membership in an organization.” In the indictment, the “date of the crime” is listed as June 13, 2025—the day the journalists were referred to the prosecutor’s office—while the “location of the crime” is listed as Artvin. However, the Artvin High Criminal Court referred the case to Istanbul on the grounds that it lacked jurisdiction. The Istanbul 26th High Criminal Court has accepted the case, and the trial is set to begin on November 24.

September 11, 2026 — A case was filed against journalist Timur Soykan on charges of “publicly disseminating misleading information” (TCK 217/A) and “publicly inciting the commission of a crime” (TCK 214). The Istanbul 32nd Criminal Court of First Instance acquitted Soykan.

September 14, 2026 — The fifth hearing in the case regarding the armed attack carried out on August 13, 2025, against Evrensel’s İzmir bureau was scheduled to take place today at the İzmir 42nd Criminal Court of First Instance. The hearing, which was expected to begin at 1:30 p.m., could not take place due to the judge’s absence. It was decided that the hearing would be held on January 14, 2027.

September 14, 2026—In an operation targeting the Socialist Party of the Oppressed (ESP) and its affiliated organizations in 22 cities, based on the allegation that the “MLKP is an armed terrorist organization,” journalist Pınar Gayıp, a staff member of the Etkin News Agency (ETHA) who was arrested on February 5, appeared before a judge seven months later. Pınar Gayıp, who was brought from the Bakırköy Women’s Closed Prison where she was being held, appeared before the Istanbul 23rd High Criminal Court, which ruled to release her on the condition that she not leave the country. The trial was postponed until December 7 at 10:15 a.m.

September 15, 2026 — The final hearing in the retrial of earthquake survivor and journalist Burcu Özkaya Günaydın, who was charged with “organization propaganda” due to social media posts she made during the Peace Spring Operation, was held at the Hatay 2nd High Criminal Court. The panel of the Hatay 2nd High Criminal Court did not issue an acquittal despite the ECHR ruling. Citing the expiration of the five-year probation period, the court decided to dismiss the case, with the right to appeal reserved.

September 15, 2026 — The Görele Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office filed a lawsuit approximately seven years after an interview was conducted on November 13, 2019, with Mürsel Küçükakal, one of the witnesses in the case regarding the death of Rabia Naz Vatan, who lost her life in the Eynesil district of Giresun. In the prosecutor’s indictment, journalist Canan Coşkun, documentary filmmaker Kazım Kızıl, and Rabia Naz’s father, Şaban Vatan, are charged with “depriving a person of their liberty through the use of force, threats, or deception by multiple persons acting in concert.” Kızıl also faces a charge of “attempting to influence a fair trial.” The first hearing in the case will take place on October 22 at 9:30 a.m.

September 15, 2026 — Erol Önderoğlu, former Turkey representative of Reporters Without Borders (RSF), human rights defender and Prof. Dr. Şebnem Korur Fincancı, and journalist Ahmet Nesin—who are being retried on charges of “incitement to commit a crime” (TCK 214), “glorifying a crime and a criminal” (TCK 215), and “organization propaganda” (TMK 7/2). The court decided to await the response to the letter of request sent abroad to obtain Ahmet Nesin’s defense statement. For this reason, the trial was postponed to December 24, 2026.

September 15, 2026 — Journalist Nadiye Gürbüz, an employee of the Etkin News Agency (ETHA) who was arrested on February 5 during an operation carried out in 22 cities targeting the Socialist Party of the Oppressed (ESP) and its institutions under the allegation that the “MLKP is an armed terrorist organization,” appeared before a judge at the Istanbul 25th High Criminal Court. The court ruled to extend Nadiye Gürbüz’s detention. The hearing was postponed until December 8.

September 16, 2026 — Following a complaint by MHP Chairman Devlet Bahçeli, a preliminary hearing was held on September 16, 2026, in the case filed against journalists Gözde Şeker and İbrahim Kahveci at the Ankara 52nd Criminal Court of First Instance on charges of “insult via audio, written, or visual communication” (TCK 125/2, 3.a, 4) and “slander” (TCK 267/1) were filed against journalists Gözde Şeker and İbrahim Kahveci in connection with the Sinan Ateş murder. The preliminary hearing for the case, which was filed at the Ankara 52nd Criminal Court of First Instance, was held on September 16, 2026, at the Istanbul Anadolu 38th Criminal Court of First Instance. The court postponed the case until October 20, 2026, to take the statement of the other defendant, Kahveci.

September 17, 2026 — The hearing in the case against journalist Barış Pehlivan, who is on trial on charges of “slander” and “insult” following a complaint filed by Supreme Court of Appeals member Yüksel Kocaman, was held at the Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance. The

court accepted the request to hear witnesses and adjourned the case until January 26, 2027. Journalist Pehlivan is on trial for an article titled “I Am Revealing the Killers,” published in the Cumhuriyet newspaper on September 22, 2023.

September 17, 2026 — The second hearing in the case against journalist Can Uğur, who is on trial at the Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance on charges of “publicly disseminating misleading information to the public,” was postponed to a later date after being conducted based on the case file due to the judge’s absence on official business.

September 17, 2026 — The hearing in the case against journalist Barış Pehlivan, who is on trial at the Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance on charges of “insulting a public official” following a complaint by Boğaziçi University Rector Mehmet Naci İnci, could not take place because the judge was on leave. The case was postponed to a later date.

September 17, 2026 — The first hearing for Elif Bayburt, a reporter for the Etkin News Agency (ETHA) who has been detained at the Bakırköy Women’s Closed Prison for approximately seven months, was held at the Istanbul 24th High Criminal Court. During the hearing, at which members of the public were not allowed into the courtroom, the court ruled to release Bayburt. Bayburt’s next hearing is scheduled for December 10 at 10:35 a.m.

September 17, 2026 - The third hearing in the case filed against journalists Erdoğan Alayumat, Tuğçe Yılmaz, Suzan Demir, Gülcan Dereli, Kemal Taylan Abatan, translator Serap Güneş, and sociologist Berfin Atlı on charges of “aiding an organization” due to their copyrighted news reports was held at the 13th Heavy Penal Court of the Istanbul Courthouse in Çağlayan. In its ruling, the court rejected the motions, decided to await the expert report, and adjourned the next hearing to December 8.

September 18, 2026 — The trial of journalist Alican Uludağ, who is facing charges of publicly insulting the President, publicly disseminating misleading information to the public, and publicly disparaging judicial bodies—and for whom a prison sentence of up to 19 years and 6 months is being sought—continued today at the 57th Ankara Criminal Court of First Instance. The court president, who had previously ordered a formal request to be sent to the Communications Directorate regarding Uludağ’s post titled “The Black Propaganda Mechanism Between the Judiciary and the Palace,” accepted Uludağ’s request regarding the post and adjourned the case until December 22.

September 21, 2026 — The 85th Criminal Court of First Instance in Anatolia sentenced journalist Neşe İdil to 2 months and 24 days in prison in a case brought against her on charges of “praising a crime and a criminal” (TCK 215). İdil had protested the arrest of an individual named M. E. U. following a post he made on the X platform regarding Yasemin Minguzzi.

September 22, 2026—The 12th hearing in the trial of journalist Abdurrahman Gök, who is facing charges of “being a member of an organization” and “spreading propaganda for an organization” based on his professional activities and the statements of informant Ümit Akbıyık, was held at the Diyarbakır 5th High Criminal Court. The hearing, during which the

defense attorneys also requested that outstanding procedural requirements be fulfilled, was adjourned until December 17 at 9:03 a.m. following a decision to inquire about the status of the case file currently before the Court of Cassation.

September 22, 2026 – The trial of journalist Fırat Fıstık, who was charged with “publicly disseminating misleading information” (TCK 217/A) following a complaint by the Ministry of National Defense, continued on September 22, 2026, at the Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance. Fıstık and his attorneys did not attend, citing a valid reason. The court accepted the excuse and postponed the trial until November 12, 2026. Fırat Fıstık is on trial on charges of “publicly disseminating misleading information” in connection with a news article titled “Ministry Purchases Goods from Israel,” published in Sözcü on November 14, 2024.

September 22, 2026 – The trial regarding the murder of journalist, documentary filmmaker, and environmental activist Hakan Tosun in Esenyurt, Istanbul, continued at the Bakırköy 17th High Criminal Court. As the defense attorneys failed to appear at today’s session—which was expected to be a sentencing hearing—the Hakan Tosun case was postponed to October 7, 2026.

September 22, 2026 – The first hearing in the trial of journalist İsmail Arı, who is facing “defamation” charges over articles published in BirGün regarding allegations of corruption at the Yunus Emre Foundation, was conducted based on the case file due to the judge’s absence. In the consolidated case against journalist Arı—who is being tried on “defamation” charges stemming from two separate complaints related to the Yunus Emre Foundation reports—, the on-duty judge postponed the trial to December 8, 2026, based on a decision made after reviewing the case file.

September 22, 2026 — The fifth hearing of the case against journalist İsmail Arı, who is being tried at the Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance on charges of “insult” (TCK 125) and “defamation” (TCK 267) at the Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance. The fifth hearing, scheduled for September 22, 2026, was conducted based on the case file due to the judge’s absence. The on-duty judge issued a ruling based on the case file and postponed the trial until December 8, 2026.

September 22, 2026 — The third hearing was held in the case against Ajansa Welat (AW) reporter Nedim Oruç—who was detained on January 14 while covering news in the Cizre district of Şırnak, subsequently arrested, and released at the first hearing on April 24—as well as 19 others, including 8 children, who were arrested during the same period on the grounds that they participated in the Rojava protests. The hearing took place at the Şırnak 1st High Criminal Court. The court panel adjourned the hearing until November 12 to allow for the completion of missing documents.

September 22, 2026 — A hearing was held at the Bakırköy 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance regarding the case filed against journalists Timur Soykan and Barış Pehlivan for remarks they made on the “Kayda Geçsin” program aired on October 15, 2024, while they were working at Halk TV. The court decided to inquire about the status of another

investigation file concerning Soykan and Pehlivan. The hearing was postponed to December 22 at 10:05 a.m.

September 24, 2026 – An investigation was launched against Ahmet Güneş, Managing Editor of Yeni Yaşam Newspaper, and Mehmet Ali Çelebi, Editor-in-Chief.

September 24, 2026 — **The 37th hearing in the trial** of 46 Kurdish journalists and media workers—known in the public sphere as the “KCK Press Trial”—who are charged with “membership in an organization” (TCK 314/2), “leading an organization” (314/1), and “organization propaganda” (TMK 7/2). The court ruled to await the execution of the arrest warrant for defendant İsmet Kayhan so that he could be brought before the court or made available via SEGBIS for the purpose of taking his defense statement. The court also issued a warrant for the compulsory appearance of defendant Sadık Topaloğlu, a journalist, for the purpose of taking his defense statement, and adjourned the case until February 4, 2027.

September 25, 2026 — A case was filed against 28 individuals, including Mezopotamya Agency (MA) reporter Zeynep Durgut, JINNEWS reporter Derya Ren, and Ajansa Welat reporter Mahmut Altıntaş, among 28 others, was held at the Silopi Criminal Court of First Instance. After a recess, the court panel announced its decision to refer the case to an expert for a report. The court adjourned the next hearing to February 3, 2027.

September 28, 2026 — A new case was filed against JINNEWS News Director Öznur Değer on the charge of “conducting organized propaganda in a continuous manner.” The indictment, prepared as part of an investigation launched by the Van Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office, was accepted by the Van 4th High Criminal Court.

September 28, 2026 — A case was filed against journalist Alican Uludağ on charges of “publicly disseminating misleading information” due to his posts claiming that the metro construction project contributed to the collapse of the Arslan Apartment Building in the Gebze district of Kocaeli, which resulted in the deaths of four people. The prosecution has requested that Uludağ be sentenced to between 1 year and 3 months and 5 years and 3 months in prison. The first hearing is scheduled for November 5, 2026.

September 29, 2026 — The third hearing in the trial of detained presidential candidate and Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (İBB) Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu, journalist Merdan Yanardağ, political advisor Necati Özkan, and businessman Hüseyin Gün, who are charged with “political espionage,” was held in Silivri by the Istanbul 25th High Criminal Court. At the hearing, the court ruled to extend the detention of İmamoğlu, Özkan, Yanardağ, and Gün; the hearing was adjourned until December 23.

September 29, 2026 — The sixth hearing in the case against Etkin Haber Ajansı (ETHA) reporter Züleyha Müldür and two others, charged with “membership in an armed terrorist organization,” was held at the Istanbul 14th High Criminal Court. The court sentenced Müldür to 6 years and 3 months in prison on the charge of “membership in an armed terrorist organization.”

3-) VIOLATIONS OF JOURNALISTS' ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS

September 2, 2026 – Ten media workers were laid off from the ANKA News Agency on economic grounds.

4-) RESTRICTIONS AND CENSORSHIP TARGETING PRESS AND MEDIA ORGANIZATIONS

September 2026 - Throughout September, courts across Turkey imposed publication bans 14 times regarding various news stories. (*Note: Data sourced from RTÜK*)

5-) ACCESS BLOCKADES TARGETING INTERNET AND DIGITAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

September 3, 2026 — The account of the Family Solidarity Network (@ailedayanismagi), established by the families of politicians and bureaucrats arrested in operations targeting municipalities run by the CHP and the New Party, as well as soL Haber's new account (@soLHaberSusmaz), and the account of photographer-writer Firat Erez (@FIRATEREZ) were blocked and made invisible in Turkey by X.

September 4, 2026 — Journalist Erk Acarer's X account (@ErkAcarerTV) was blocked on the grounds of protecting national security and public order and was made invisible in Turkey by X.

September 4, 2026 - Communications Director Burhanettin Duran announced that access to 2,034 digital media accounts had been blocked on the grounds of “organization propaganda, provocation, disinformation, and psychological operations.”

September 4, 2026 — Instagram shut down the Turkish-language account of the Mesopotamia Agency. Citing “Community Guidelines” as the reason for the shutdown, Instagram did not allow for an appeal or a request for reconsideration.

September 10, 2026 – A video in which Emek Youth condemned the police cordon in front of the CHP Istanbul Provincial Headquarters was blocked by a BTK decision.

September 12, 2026 - Numerous social media accounts, including those of journalist and Kaos GL Editor-in-Chief Yıldız Tar, the website of an LGBTI+ association, and accounts of LGBTI+ organizations, were blocked. (161 URLs) The access blocks were enforced pursuant to the decision dated September 12, 2026, and numbered 2026/9559 of the Istanbul 7th Criminal Court of Peace, and the decision dated September 12, 2026, and numbered 2026/9581 of the Mersin 4th Criminal Court of Peace.

The websites of eleven organizations—Kaos GL, CETAD, Muamma LGBT+, SPoD, 17 Mayıs, Lambdaistanbul LGBT+, Kırmızı Şemsiye, Pembe Hayat LGBT+ Association, Mersin 7 Renk LGBT, Association for the Struggle Against Sexual Violence, and HEVİ LGBT+—have been blocked.

September 13, 2026 — Following the blocking of access to LGBTI+ associations, organizations, and activists, an additional 41 X accounts and 15 Instagram accounts—including numerous university LGBTI+ groups—were blocked and made invisible from Turkey by X. (119 URLs)

September 14, 2026 - Numerous X and Instagram accounts, including those of Evrensel Newspaper, Amnesty International Turkey, Academics for Peace, and the Media and Law Studies Association (MLSA), were blocked pursuant to Decision No. 2026/9999 dated September 14, 2026, issued by the Mersin 3rd Criminal Court of Peace. (110 URLs)

September 15, 2026 – JINNEWS’s Instagram account “jinnews_ajans,” which publishes in Turkish, was suspended on the grounds of “violating Community Standards.”

September 15, 2026 - The X account (@tuncaybesikci) of Tuncay Beşikçi—who served as an expert witness in the Narin Güran murder case, shared posts regarding the murder and the trial process, and whose views were featured in the documentary “Şeytantepe”—was also blocked on the grounds of protecting national security and public order and was made invisible in Turkey by X.

September 15, 2026 - News reports by Cumhuriyet, Halk TV, and Birgün TV regarding the selection of JMW Jant—a subsidiary of Jantsa, in which Ercan Çerçioğlu (husband of Aydın Metropolitan Municipality Mayor Özlem Çerçioğlu, who resigned from the CHP to join the AKP) is a partner—as a supplier in TOGG’s new vehicle program, have been blocked under Article 8/A of Law No. 5651 on the grounds of protecting national security and public order.

September 16, 2026 – On September 16, numerous social media accounts—including those of İrfan Değirmenci, Şirin Payzın, soL Haber, the Women’s Coalition, and the Federation of Women’s Associations of Turkey on X—were blocked. Some of these accounts were made invisible from Turkey by X. (22 X accounts)

September 18, 2026 – Following a complaint filed by Arzu Erdem, Chair of the TYT Türk Board of Directors and former MHP Member of Parliament, and Nuray Başaran, Editor-in-Chief of TYT Türk, the Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of Peace ruled, under Article 8/A of Law No. 5651, to block access to the entire www.medyaradar.net and ordered the removal of the news article from publication on the grounds that the content in question violated personal rights. Following an appeal against the decision, the Court issued a new ruling lifting the access block on the Medya Radar website. As a result of this decision, the site was reopened to users.

September 21, 2026 – Access to journalist Naz Yavuzarslan’s X account was blocked in Turkey.

September 22, 2026 – As part of an “obscenity” investigation launched by the Bakırköy Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office, the X account of the Turkish Psychiatric Association (TPD) (@PsikiyatriDer) was blocked and made invisible in Turkey by X.

September 22, 2026 - At the gated community in Bodrum where former Central Bank of Turkey (TCMB) President Hafize Gaye Erkan's villa is located, news reports by Evrensel, Birgün, and Halk TV regarding disputes between Erkan and the site management and neighbors, as well as criminal complaints filed against Erkan and her father, Erol Erkan, were blocked by a decision of the Bodrum 2nd Criminal Court of Peace dated September 22, 2026, and numbered 2026/4338, on the grounds of a violation of privacy.

September 22, 2026 – The X account of the “We Will Stop Femicides Platform” was blocked by the Information and Communications Technologies Authority (BTK).

September 22, 2026 – Following an armed attack on a high school in Turgutlu, Manisa, 92 X accounts were blocked. The reason given for the block was alleged “posts intended to spread speculation.”

September 23, 2026 – As part of the investigation into the murder of Narin Güran, at the request of the Diyarbakır Chief Public Prosecutor's Office, the Diyarbakır 3rd Criminal Court of Peace issued a ruling on September 23, 2026, under Articles 8/A-1 and 8/A-3 of Law No. 5651, access to 99 X (Twitter) digital media accounts that posted content related to the incident in which Narin Güran was found dead in Tavşantepe Village was blocked.

September 23, 2026 – ReadAWrite (readawrite.com), a popular Thai online literature platform similar to Wattpad, was blocked pursuant to the decision dated September 23, 2026, and numbered 490.05.01.2026.-1089628, issued by the Cyber Security Directorate.

September 24, 2026 – The X account of Yaman Akdeniz, one of the founders of the Freedom of Expression Association (İFÖD), was blocked under Article 8/A of Law No. 5651 on the grounds of protecting national security and public order, and was made invisible from Turkey by X.

September 24, 2026 – During the process widely referred to in the public sphere as the “fund crisis,” news reports by Gazete Pencere, Evrensel, Birgün, BBC, Baba Ocağı, and Sözcü regarding the connections between certain investment and portfolio management companies—as well as their executives and partners—and well-known public figures were blocked on the grounds of protecting national security and public order.

September 24, 2026 – On September 24, 2026, at least 250 X accounts were blocked, and many were made invisible in Turkey by X. Among those blocked were the accounts of Haluk Hepkon, founder of Kırmızı Kedi Publishing; Başaran Aksu, one of the founders of Umut-Sen; journalist Ahmet Erkan; Engin Solakoğlu, a founding member of the Turkish People's Representatives Assembly (THTM) and a retired diplomat; and writer and researcher Ümit Şıracı.

September 24, 2026 – The wave of access restrictions that began ahead of the NATO Summit continues. Access has also been restricted to the third account of the Tevhid team. Access has

been restricted to numerous accounts, including those belonging to Enes Yelgün and Murat Müslihan, writers for Tevhid Magazine.

September 24, 2026 – As a result of efforts coordinated by the Communications Directorate: - 54 accounts targeting social harmony, spreading disinformation, and threatening national security, -18 accounts linked to FETÖ, -22 X accounts that targeted Turkey by exploiting developments in the Gulf and the Middle East and engaged in manipulation—were blocked by the Bakırköy Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office . It was revealed that the 94 X accounts subject to the access block were also active in provocative agenda-setting efforts.

September 25, 2026 – Access to the Turkish-language account of JİNNEWS, operating on X under the username @jinanas_trk, was blocked in Turkey.

September 25, 2026 – A large number of X accounts, including those of journalist Canan Kaya and former TMSF executive Abdullah Güzeldülger, were blocked today. Some of the accounts were made invisible from Turkey by X.

September 25, 2026 – Gofile.io, a file-upload, storage, and sharing service, was blocked pursuant to Bartın Magistrates’ Court Decision No. 2026/3448 dated September 25, 2026.

September 25, 2026 – Access to Erdem Atay TV’s X account was blocked.

September 26, 2026 – Journalist, author, and television host Ali Tarakçı’s X account (@alitarakcii) was blocked due to an investigation conducted by the Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office under Article 217/A of the Turkish Penal Code (TCK) regarding the crime of “publicly disseminating misleading information,” on the grounds of protecting national security and public order and preventing the commission of crimes, pursuant to the decision of the Ankara 7th Criminal Court of Peace dated September 26, 2026, No. 2026/10797. The account was made invisible from Turkey by X.

September 26, 2026 – On September 21, 2026, the X account of Prof. Dr. Veysel Ulusoy, founder of ENAG (Inflation Research Group), which had been blocked on the grounds of protecting national security and public order, was made invisible in Turkey by X on September 26, 2026.

September 26, 2026 – Eighty accounts, including those of media organizations, journalists, academics, and figures in the fields of economics and finance, were blocked on the grounds of protecting national security and public order. A large portion of these accounts were made invisible in Turkey by X. Among those blocked were Kısa Dalga; journalists Hilmi Hacaloğlu, Alptekin Dursunoğlu, and Razi Canikligil; investment and finance consultant Emre Şirin; political economist İnan Mutlu; academic Prof. Dr. Barış Övgün; and Başaran Aksu, one of the founders of Umut-Sen.

September 26, 2026 – Journalist Remzi Özdemir revealed that his home was raided on the grounds that he had criticized Tera Yatırım.

September 26, 2026 – Access was blocked to two articles published in Nefes newspaper—which covered Erdin Özel’s family ties and the billion-lira fortune of the detained Muhammed Yarız—as well as to an ANKA news report on a parliamentary motion that brought the investigation to the agenda of the Grand National Assembly, all on the grounds of “protecting national security and public order.”

September 26, 2026 - The X accounts of journalists Roza Arpa and Ersin Eroğlu (@ersineroglu_) were blocked under Article 8/A of Law No. 5651 on the grounds of protecting national security and public order, and were made invisible in Turkey by X.

September 28, 2026 — At least 55 X accounts, including those of Bizim TV, BirGün newspaper reporters Meral Danyıldız and Sarya Toprak, ANKA News Agency court reporter Esra Tokat, and attorneys Sena Yazıbağlı and Tuncay Koç, were blocked.

September 29, 2026 – Access to Kısa Dalga’s Instagram account was blocked from Turkey.

September 30, 2026 - The website of the independent online newspaper T24 (t24.com.tr) and its X account (@t24comtr), which has 1.9 million followers, were blocked by a decision dated September 29, 2026, and numbered 2026/8894, issued by the Istanbul 1st Criminal Court of Peace.

September 30, 2026 – An investigation conducted as part of the Freedom of Expression Association’s EngelliWeb project revealed that at least 147 additional X accounts that had posted about the funding crisis were blocked today. Among those blocked are individuals working in the finance and capital markets sectors, economists, academics, technical analysts, traders, and investors, as well as lawyers.

September 30, 2026 – Access to four digital media posts by journalist Metin Yoksu regarding Arif Güran’s “justice march” was blocked

LIST OF DETAINED JOURNALISTS

1. Ahmet Polad – Özgür TV host and ETHA writer
2. Ahmet Uzan – News Director at Sabah Egeli Newspaper
3. Ali Tarakcı – Journalist
4. Ali Ünal – Columnist for Zaman Newspaper
5. Devrim Ayık – Staff member at Özgür Halk Magazine
6. Erdal Süsem – Editor of Eylül Magazine
7. Erol Zavar – Owner and Editor-in-Chief of Odak Magazine
8. Fatih Ergin – Journalist
9. Hatice Duman – Owner and Editor-in-Chief of Atılım Newspaper
10. Hüseyin Aykan – Editor-in-Chief of Bolu Gündem Newspaper
11. İrem Delice – Journalist

12. Kadir Koç – Publisher of Hüryol
13. Mehmet Baransu – Writer for Taraf Newspaper
14. Merdan Yanardağ – Journalist
15. Miklat Algül – Editor-in-Chief of Mezitli FM
16. Murat Çapan – Managing Editor of Nokta Magazine
17. Mustafa Gök – Ankara Representative for Ekmek ve Adalet Magazine
18. Nadiye Gürbüz – Editor at Etkin News Agency (ETHA)
19. Osman Arslan – Journalist
20. Osman Çalık – Program Director, Samanyolu News Radio
21. Oya Lale Özcan Arslan – Journalist
22. Özden Kınık – TRT Employee
23. Recai Morkoç – Editor, Cihan News Agency Antalya Regional Bureau
24. Sami Tunca – Managing Editor of Mücadele Birliği Magazine
25. Selahattin Günday – Journalist
26. Semih Elitaş – Employee of Azadiya Welat Newspaper
27. Songül Yücel – Editor-in-Chief of Önsöz Magazine
28. Tuğba Tekerek – Journalist
29. Ziya Ataman – Reporter for Dicle News Agency (DİHA)

In September, Ali Çağatay, Pınar Gayıp, and Elif Bayburt were released, while Ahmed Polad, Oya Lale Özcan Arslan, Hüseyin Aykan, Selahattin Günday, Tuğba Tekerek, Osman Arslan, Ali Tarakcı, and Fatih Ergin were arrested.

We were unable to find any information regarding the cases of the journalists listed below during the month of September.

Furkan Karabay (September 15, 2026)

Nurcan Yalçın (September 22, 2026)

Barış Terkoğlu (September 28, 2026)

İsminaz Temel-Havva Cuştan (September 28, 2026)

Deniz Yücel (September 28, 2026)

Metin Cihan (September 29, 2026)