



Dicle Fırat Journalists Association (DFG)

MAY 2026

REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST JOURNALISTS

"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!"

June 3, 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, freewebsiteurkey.com, and various national and local newspapers.

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

-The "number of detained journalists" mentioned in the report does not necessarily mean these journalists are currently in prison; they may have been detained and subsequently released.

EVALUATION

MAY 2026 REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST JOURNALISTS

Human rights violations against journalists and media organizations continued in May. Journalists faced multifaceted pressures, including detention, arrest, investigations, lawsuits, threats, and obstruction of news coverage. In addition to interventions targeting press and freedom of expression, access restrictions on online platforms persisted.

In May, numerous journalists were directly targeted due to their reporting. Among those targeted was Sarya Toprak, a reporter for BirGün Newspaper, who was singled out by AKİT Newspaper for her report on Uğurcan Açıkgöz, a suspect detained in connection with the Gülistan Doku case. The arrest of Yeliz Ayaz, the publisher of Aydınpost, over a news story published in Aydın, once again demonstrated that the disinformation law has been turned into a tool of pressure against journalists.

In May, 1 journalist and 1 media outlet were attacked. At least 2 journalists were targeted. 5 journalists were detained, while 1 journalist was arrested. 3 journalists were threatened. The work of at least 6 journalists covering news was obstructed. Three of these obstructions occurred during on-site events.

In the Hakan Tosun case, which is among the high-profile cases, the exclusion of journalists from the courtroom during the trial of Ayhan Şengüler—a director of the Kuran’a Hizmet Foundation facing charges of sexual assault against Hifa İkra Şengüler—and the obstruction of journalists covering the police raid on the CHP headquarters, resulting in their exposure to verbal harassment, were recorded as interventions against the public’s right to information. Investigations were launched against five journalists for their journalistic activities. While a new case was filed against one journalist, as of May, the trials of 28 journalists continued across 18 separate cases. Journalist Reyhan Hacıoğlu was sentenced to 4 years and 2 months in prison, while two other journalists were fined. Meanwhile, as of May 3, 2026, the number of journalists detained in Turkish prisons stood at 27.

As precarious working conditions in the media sector persisted, at least 4 journalists were laid off in May. The resignations of journalists at Halk TV in response to working conditions and management practices became one of the month’s notable labor and press freedom issues. The Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK) issued sanctions against 8 separate broadcasts in May. The sanctions imposed by RTÜK once again highlighted the ongoing administrative pressure on broadcasters.

Censorship practices in the digital media sector continued in May as well. At least one website was blocked. Access to nine news articles was restricted. Additionally, decisions were made to block access to or remove 193 social media posts. The fact that the X accounts of the Mezopotamya Agency and JinNews—both in Turkish and Kurdish—were shut down once again demonstrated that the government’s interventions against the free press have taken on a systematic nature.

As we have emphasized on every occasion, the approach to a free press is also an approach to democracy. We view the censorship practices in the digital media sphere as an indication that the government is persisting in its anti-democratic policies, and we do not accept them.

In May, human rights violations against journalists continued in the form of detention, arrest, investigation, prosecution, threats, censorship, and access restrictions. The criminalization of journalistic activities, the obstruction of newsgathering, and censorship practices in the digital sphere demonstrate that pressure on press freedom and freedom of expression persists.

Ensuring that journalists have safe working conditions, safeguarding freedom of thought and expression, and putting an end to impunity policies are among the fundamental requirements of a democratic society.

Dicle Firat Journalists Association

MAY 2026 REPORT ON RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST JOURNALISTS: STATISTICAL DATA

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

Attacked	Journalist	1
	Media Outlet	1
Journalists Targeted		2
Journalists Whose Homes Were Raided		-
Journalists Detained		5
Journalists Arrested		1
Journalists Subjected to Ill-Treatment		-
Journalists Who Have Been Threatened		3
Journalists Whose Reporting Was Blocked		6 (3 of whom were at the scene)
Violations Against Journalists in Prisons		-

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

Journalists Under Investigation		5
Journalists Against Whom Lawsuits Were Filed		1
Journalists Sentenced	Number of Individuals	28
	Prison Sentence	4 years 2 months
	Fine	55,400 TL
Journalists Whose Trials Are Ongoing	Number of Cases	18
	Number of Individuals	28
Number of Detained Journalists (as of May 3, 2026)		27

3-) VIOLATIONS OF JOURNALISTS' ECONOMIC/SOCIAL RIGHTS

Journalists Who Have Been Fired		4
---------------------------------	--	---

4-) Restrictions and Censorship Targeting Press and Media Organizations

RTÜK Fines	Number of Broadcasts	8
	Number of Fines	-

5-) ACCESS BLOCK ON INTERNET AND DIGITAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

Closed Website	1
News Articles Subject to Access Restrictions	9
Social Media Content Subject to Access Restrictions	193

MAY 2026
REPORT ON RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST JOURNALISTS
DETAILED DATA

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

May 1, 2026 - The Istanbul Governor's Office, which banned May Day celebrations in Taksim, closed numerous roads in Beyoğlu and the surrounding area to traffic. When the police moved their barricades slightly further forward, journalists were also prevented from doing their jobs. To prevent the filming of citizens under siege and those taken into custody, the police cordoned off the area with shields. Members of the press frequently argued with the police.

May 1, 2026 - Police prevented Doğa Tekneci of Nihaplus, who was covering the May Day Labor Day protests, from filming and threw her phone to the ground.

May 1, 2026 - Journalist Yusuf Çelik and Züleyha Müldür, who were covering the May Day protests, were detained by police in Mecidiyeköy, Istanbul. Those detained were released the following day.

May 1, 2026 - Cafer Mahiroğlu, owner of Halk TV, announced that the television signal went dark for 9 minutes and, according to information received via satellite, a cyberattack had been carried out.

May 2, 2026 - Süleyman Topbaş, the Aydın Provincial Representative of the Internet Journalists Federation (İGF), was attacked by a group identifying themselves as members of Ülkü Ocakları while walking with his wife in the evening at Atatürk City Square in the Efeler district.

May 4, 2026 - Following a report by BirGün reporter Sarya Toprak regarding Uğurcan Açıkgöz, a suspect detained in connection with the Gülistan Doku case, she has been systematically targeted by Yeni Akit columnist Zekeriya Say since April 18. After Sarya

Toprak and her family were targeted, her father, Hasan Toprak, a public servant with 30 years of service in Bursa, was removed from his position.

May 5, 2026 - Journalists were barred from attending the court hearing of Ayhan Şengüler, the director of the Kuran'a Hizmet Foundation, who is on trial for the rape of Hifa İkra Şengüler.

May 6, 2026 - Journalists were not permitted to enter the courtroom where the hearing was held at the Bakırköy 17th Heavy Penal Court regarding the October 2025 murder of journalist Hakan Tosun, who was beaten to death in the streets of Istanbul. It was stated that only 7 journalists would be allowed inside, citing the small size of the courtroom . Media workers protested this restriction. Subsequently, police used violence against journalists in front of the courtroom.

May 10, 2026 - During an event held in Tatvan to mark Mother's Day, police attempted to prevent JinNews reporter Aycan Metin from filming. It was reported that police threatened Aycan Metin, saying, "If you film, I'll file charges against you."

May 11, 2026 - TRT 1 Main News anchor Işıl Açıkkar was targeted on social media for using the phrase "I am also a mother of a pet" during her Mother's Day speech on live TV. It was alleged that Açıkkar was removed from the news program she hosted.

May 12, 2026 - Ali Çimen, the lawyer for the Gülistan Doku case, revealed that journalist Emurullah Dinç had been threatened by Cem Tekinoğlu.

May 13, 2026 - Sezer Küçükkurt, owner of Kocatepe Newspaper, was detained late at night on allegations of insulting the President in a cartoon published in his newspaper. After spending the night at the police station, Küçükkurt was released following his statement.

May 14, 2026 - Yelis Ayaz, the publisher of Aydınpost, and Emin Aydın, the Editor-in-Chief of tvDEN, were detained by police in connection with a news report published in Aydın. After undergoing procedures at the police station, tvDEN Editor-in-Chief Emin Aydın was transferred to the courthouse and released following questioning by the prosecutor's office.

May 14, 2026 – The Siverek Criminal Court of First Instance filed an objection to the release order issued for detained journalist Mehmet Yetim. Following the objection, the case was re-evaluated, and it was reported that a decision was made to continue Yetim's detention. It was noted that Yetim was sent back to prison.

May 16, 2026 – The Aydın Chief Public Prosecutor's Office stated that the claims circulating in some media outlets regarding "the son of an MP storming a school with a gun" were untrue. Yelis Ayaz, the publisher of Aydınpost, was arrested along with another journalist on the grounds of reporting on these claims.

May 22, 2026 - Journalist Mehmet Yetim, who was arrested on April 18 on charges of "spreading misleading information" (TCK 217A) in connection with a report on an incident where a parent attacked a teacher in the Siverek district of Şanlıurfa, was released.

May 22, 2026 - Journalist Ali Barış Kurt, whose 2-year, 4-month prison sentence for “organization propaganda” (TMK 7/2) in a case where he was tried for his professional activities was upheld by the Supreme Court of Appeals, was released after 1 year and 3 months.

May 24, 2026 - After CHP leader Özgür Özel refused to comply with an order to vacate the party headquarters following a court ruling that the presidential election had been annulled, police raided the CHP headquarters using plastic bullets and pepper spray. Journalists covering the police raid were obstructed by officials; while some were prevented from filming during the operation, others were subjected to verbal harassment. Police intervened against party members and journalists in front of the building, removing numerous lawmakers, party members, and journalists from the premises. The police removed members of the press, including bianet editor Evrim Kepenek, and citizens from in front of the building.

May 26, 2025 - The pro-AKP newspaper Yeni Akit singled out numerous journalists, including Cumhuriyet’s Ankara correspondent Sertaç Eş and the newspaper’s writer Murat Ağirel, by name, alleging they had received “payments from the CHP.”

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

May 5, 2026 - An investigation was launched against Ahmet Güneş, the editor of the Yeni Yaşam newspaper, on the grounds that he shared news regarding Northern and Eastern Syria on his social media account. Güneş gave a statement at the Istanbul Provincial Police Department as part of the investigation.

May 5, 2026 - The fourth hearing in the trial of journalist Hatice Şen, who is facing charges of “being a member of an organization,” was held at the Diyarbakır 1st High Criminal Court. The hearing, in which statements from confidential witnesses were included as evidence, was postponed to November 19, 2026, due to defense arguments.

May 5, 2026 - The final hearing in the trial of journalist Mehmet Şah Oruç, who was charged with “membership in an organization” and “making organization propaganda,” was held at the Bitlis 2nd High Criminal Court. The court, announcing its decision, ruled in favor of Oruç’s acquittal.

May 5, 2026 - The 10th hearing of the “insulting the President” case filed against journalist Sedef Kabaş over a total of 25 social media posts was held at the Istanbul Anatolia 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance. The court, assessing that Article 43/1 of the Turkish Penal Code could be applied in the event the alleged offense against Kabaş was proven, decided to recommend that the case be consolidated with another case pending at the Istanbul 36th Criminal Court of First Instance. The judge also rejected the request for an acquittal and adjourned the hearing to October 8 at 10:50 a.m.

May 5, 2026 - While Israel’s operation in Gaza was ongoing, a cartoon published in Leman magazine to criticize the war allegedly depicted the Prophet Muhammad and Jesus. As a result, the magazine’s staff members Zafer Aknar, Aslan Özdemir, Cebrail Okçu, Ali Yavuz, Doğan Pehlevan, and Mehmet Tuncay Akgün were charged with “inciting the public to hatred and hostility through the press.” The hearing took place at the Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of

First Instance. The court also ruled to lift the judicial control measure of “prohibition from leaving the country” imposed on Doğan Pehlevan. It was decided that the defendants, whose defenses had been heard, would be excused from attending future hearings. The hearing was postponed to October 13 at 2:00 p.m.

May 7, 2026 - The fifth hearing of the 250,000 TL compensation lawsuit filed by Bilal Erdoğan against journalist Furkan Karabay was held at the Istanbul 45th Civil Court of First Instance. Furkan Karabay’s attorney, Özge Naz Akkaya, requested that the court await the outcome of the criminal trial regarding the same post, which is being heard at the Istanbul 47th Criminal Court of First Instance. The court accepted the request and postponed the hearing to December 17.

May 7, 2026 - The third hearing in the case against Swedish journalist Joakim Medin, charged with “membership in an armed terrorist organization” and “propagandizing for the organization,” was held at the Istanbul 13th High Criminal Court. The court decided to await the response to the request regarding the taking of Medin’s statement abroad. The hearing was postponed to October 1 at 10:00 a.m.

May 8, 2026 - The trial of Zeynep Kuray, Mahsum Sağlam, Pelin Laçın, Yadigar Aygün, and Yağmur Filiz—who were charged with participating in a protest held in Şişhane in memory of journalists Nazım Daştan and Cihan Bilgin, who were killed in a drone attack in Syria—was heard at the Istanbul 39th Criminal Court of First Instance. In its ruling, the court acquitted all defendants of the charge of violating Law No. 2911 on Meetings and Demonstrations. However, Yağmur Filiz was fined 35,400 TL for the charge of “insulting a public official.”

May 11, 2026 - The former editors of the now-closed Taraf newspaper—Ahmet Altan, Yasemin Çongar, Yıldırım Oğur—and reporter Mehmet Baransu are being retried on charges of “using documents related to national security for purposes other than their intended use, and obtaining them by fraud” (TCK 326) and “disclosing and obtaining documents related to national security that are required to remain confidential” (TCK 327). The court adjourned the case until December 14, 2026, to address outstanding issues.

May 12, 2026 - Following a statement made in front of the Dicle Fırat Journalists’ Association (DFG) on December 20, 2024, an investigation was launched against DFG Co-Chair Selman Çiçek and journalists Heval Önkol, Dilan Kartal, and Hividar Öner on the charge of “participating in an unlawful assembly and march, and failing to disperse despite a warning.” As part of the ongoing investigation, a decision was made that “there is no basis for prosecution” due to the lack of “conclusive and credible” evidence.

May 13, 2026 - The hearing for the lawsuit filed by Serhat Albayrak, Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Turkuvaz Media Group, against Evrensel newspaper columnist and academic Ceren Sözeri regarding her article titled “Who Cost the AKP Votes?” was held at the Istanbul 2nd Civil Commercial Court. The court ruled to partially grant and partially dismiss the case. It ordered Ceren Sözeri to pay a total of 20,000 TL in compensation—10,000 TL to Serhat Albayrak and 10,000 TL to the Turkuvaz Media Group—with interest accruing from the article’s publication date in 2019 to the present. The court, however, rejected the plaintiff’s request for the article’s publication, citing that “it has

lost its relevance and there is no longer any legal benefit due to the time that has elapsed since the incident.”

May 13, 2026 - The indictment prepared against BirGün reporter İsmail Arı, who was accused of the news reports he published and the corruption he exposed, was accepted by the court. The indictment sought a sentence of 2 to 6 years for Arı on charges of “disseminating misleading information” and “violation of confidentiality.” In the indictment prepared by the Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office, journalist Arı faces charges of “publicly disseminating misleading information” and “violation of confidentiality.”

May 13, 2026 - The first hearing in the trial of detained journalist Merdan Yanardağ, who is being tried alongside the detained former Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (İBB) Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu and campaign director Necati Özkan on charges of “political espionage” (TCK 328/1). The court decided to send a letter to the Presidency of the National Intelligence Organization (MIT), inquiring whether any reports or findings existed regarding the defendants’ engagement in espionage activities under Article 328 of the Turkish Penal Code, taking into account the dates of the alleged offenses. The court ruled to continue the detention of the detained defendants Ekrem İmamoğlu, Hüseyin Gün, Merdan Yanardağ, and Necati Özkan, citing the following reasons: there are concrete pieces of evidence indicating a strong suspicion of guilt regarding the charges against them; there are witnesses yet to be heard— ; the evidence-gathering process has not been completed; and judicial control measures would be insufficient. The court also ruled regarding TELE1 that the actions of the administrative trustee fall “within the scope of the trustee’s legal authority and responsibility,” and determined that no further decision was necessary at this stage. Thus, the trustee arrangement and sale process regarding TELE1 continued. The trial was postponed to July 6, 2026.

May 13, 2026 - A new investigation was launched by the Van Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office against JINNEWS News Director Öznur Değer on the grounds of “making organization propaganda,” citing her news reports and social media posts as evidence. As part of the investigation file initiated by the Mardin Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office but transferred to the Van Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office due to a “lack of jurisdiction” ruling, Öznur Değer gave a statement at the Van Police Department’s Counter-Terrorism Unit (TEM) accompanied by her lawyer.

May 13, 2026 - The fifth hearing of the case against journalist Rüstem Batum, who faces charges of “insulting the President” (TCK 299) based on two posts he made on his X (formerly Twitter) account, was held on May 13, 2026, at the Istanbul 60th Criminal Court of First Instance. The court ruled to uphold the arrest warrant against Batum and adjourned the case until December 22, 2026.

May 13, 2026 – The first hearing was held in the case brought against 28 individuals, including Mezopotamya Agency (MA) reporter Zeynep Durgut, JinNews reporter Derya Ren, and Ajasa Welat reporter Mahmut Altıntaş, on charges of “resisting the performance of official duties” (TCK 265) and “participating unarmed in unlawful assemblies and demonstrations and failing to disperse voluntarily despite a warning.” The court panel decided to postpone the hearing to a later date to address deficiencies in the case file.

May 13, 2026 - The Muş Chief Public Prosecutor's Office issued a decision to drop charges in an investigation into "organization propaganda" involving five women, including journalist Ceylan Şahinli.

May 14, 2026 - The second hearing in the case against journalist Barış Terkoğlu, who is being tried on charges of "slander" (TCK 267/1) based on an article titled "The Smell Coming from the Kartalkaya File," published in the Cumhuriyet newspaper on February 10, 2025, following a complaint filed by Bolu Chief Public Prosecutor İbrahim Cansever and his wife Ayşe Cansever. Terkoğlu's attorney, Özge Naz Akkaya, was present. Akkaya requested an extension, stating that they were unable to prepare their client due to professional obligations. The court granted the request and postponed the case to January 19, 2027.

May 14, 2026 - The tenth hearing of the case filed against journalist Barış Terkoğlu on charges of "insulting a public official" (TCK 125). The tenth hearing of the case took place on May 14, 2026, at the Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance. Terkoğlu's attorney, Özge Naz Akkaya, requested that the court await the outcome of the case pending before the 5th Criminal Chamber of the Court of Cassation. The court decided to await the outcome of the decision to be rendered by the 5th Criminal Chamber of the Court of Cassation in Case No. 2024/26, which it is hearing in its capacity as a court of first instance regarding Salihoğlu. The trial was postponed to January 19, 2027.

May 14, 2026 – The final hearing was held in the case of journalist Reyhan Hacıoğlu, who was detained during home raids conducted on January 17, 2025, as part of an investigation initiated in Istanbul, arrested on January 20 on charges of "being a member of an organization," and released at the first hearing held on June 13. At the hearing held at the Van 2nd High Criminal Court, the panel announced its decision, sentencing Reyhan Hacıoğlu to 4 years and 2 months in prison on the charge of "knowingly and willingly aiding the organization despite not being part of its hierarchical structure," and ruled that the travel ban as a condition of judicial supervision would remain in effect.

May 14, 2026 - The fourth hearing of the case filed against Etkin Haber Ajansı (ETHA) reporter Züleyha Müldür, along with Ezgi Gürbüz and Simay Ada Kart, on charges of "membership in a terrorist organization" and "terrorist organization propaganda," was held at the Istanbul 14th Heavy Penal Court. During the hearing, Müldür and Kart requested their acquittal, the return of digital materials, and exemption from attending future hearings. The court ruled to return the digital materials from which images had been taken but rejected the request for the defendants to be exempted from attending future hearings, adjourning the case until July 7.

May 20, 2026 - KRT TV owner Fırat Bozırat filed charges against 17 media workers who went on strike in May 2025 over unpaid wages, accusing them of "threats" (TCK 106), "slander" (TCK 267), "inciting the public to hatred and hostility" (TCK 216), "violation of privacy" (TCK 134), "unlawful disclosure or acquisition of data" (TCK 136), and "disturbing the peace and quiet of individuals" (TCK 123).

May 20, 2026 - Following a news report about students participating in protests, the Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor's Office launched an investigation into Sefer Selçuk Özbek, the Editor-in-Chief of the website, and Gökay Başcan, the Editor-in-Chief of the newspaper, on

charges of “insulting the president.” Özbek and Başcan gave their statements to the Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office accompanied by their lawyers.

May 20, 2026 - An investigation was opened against journalist Şule Aydın following an email tip sent by an individual to the police departments of all 81 provinces. Aydın gave a statement at the police station regarding the tip, which included charges such as “insulting the president,” “disinformation,” “espionage,” and “spy activities.”

May 21, 2026 - A case against DW Turkish correspondent and journalist Alican Uludağ, filed on the grounds of 22 social media posts and alleging “insulting the President,” “publicly disseminating misleading information,” and “publicly disparaging the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the state’s judicial organs,” was heard at the Ankara 26th Criminal Court of First Instance. The court announced its interim ruling and ordered Uludağ’s release.

May 21, 2026 - The second hearing in the trial of JINNEWS News Director Öznur Değer, who is being tried alongside former Yeni Yaşam Newspaper Editor-in-Chief Osman Akın for a news report she wrote regarding torture that occurred during a raid on a home in the rural Marîne neighborhood of Nusaybin district, Mardin, on July 16, 2024, was held at the Mardin 2nd High Criminal Court. The hearing was postponed to June 16 to hear the defenses in response to the prosecution’s arguments.

3-) VIOLATIONS OF THE JOURNALIST’S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS

May 1, 2026 - Journalist Sorel Dağıstanlı announced that he was fired for a post he shared on social media in support of Selek.

May 12, 2026 - Due to allegations of workplace bullying stemming from Halk TV owner Cafer Mahiroğlu’s management style, insufficient wages for employees, changes in the channel’s editorial line, and a lack of alignment between journalistic principles and management expectations; In March, the team consisting of Ferit Demir, Serpil Yılmaz, Şule Aydın, Barış Terkoğlu, Murat Ağirel, Barış Pehlivan, and Timur Soykan announced their departure from Halk TV. In May, Seda Selek, Remziye Demirkol, Sorel Dağıstanlı, Buket Güler Ozan, Gözde Şeker, and Gökmen Karadağ also left the channel.

May 17, 2026 - The live broadcast period at Flash Haber TV, which was seized as part of a money laundering investigation and transferred to the Deposit Insurance Fund (TMSF), came to an end.

May 26, 2026 - The lawsuit filed by Ankara Bureau employees who were laid off during the receivership process at TELE 1 TV was resolved. The court ruled in favor of reinstating the employees who had been fired by the receivership administration. TELE 1 General Director of Broadcasting Merdan Yanardağ was detained on October 24, 2025, on charges of “political espionage” (TCK 328). That same evening, the Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office announced that the Istanbul Criminal Court of First Instance had decided to appoint the Deposit Insurance Fund (TMSF) as a receiver for ABC Radio Television and Digital Broadcasting Inc., the owner of the TELE 1 channel. Yanardağ was subsequently arrested on October 27.

May 31, 2026 - The employment of numerous staff members, including journalist Gülümhan Gülten, who served as the CHP General Secretariat Coordinator, photojournalist Alperen Kaya, and cameraman Serkan Balahan, was terminated. Since the terminated employees' exits were recorded in the Social Security Institution (SGK) system under "Code-48," they will be unable to benefit from certain rights such as seniority and notice pay, as well as unemployment benefits.

4-) RESTRICTIONS AND CENSORSHIP TARGETING PRESS AND MEDIA ORGANIZATIONS

May 18, 2026 – The Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK) announced that, in accordance with a decision by the Tarsus 2nd Criminal Court of Peace regarding the armed attack in Mersin, a broadcast ban had been imposed on coverage of the incident in Tarsus district of Mersin under Law No. 6112 and relevant regulations.

May 2026 – Throughout May, courts across Turkey imposed broadcast bans on various news stories on 7 occasions. (*Note: Data sourced from RTÜK*)

5-) ACCESS BLOCK ON INTERNET AND DIGITAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

May 1, 2026 – Pursuant to the decision of the Istanbul 4th Criminal Court of Peace dated December 18, 2025, Case No. 2025/13668 D. pursuant to Article 8/A of Law No. 5651; it was decided that the content listed in the daily violation table published by the Dicle Fırat Journalists' Association on September 20, 2024, be removed from the website and/or access to it be blocked.

May 5, 2026 - Access to the X accounts of Özgür TV, Yeni Demokrasi Newspaper, Kızıl Bayrak Newspaper, the Federation of Socialist Youth Associations (SGDF), the Revolutionary Youth Union (DGB), and the Independent Revolutionary Class Platform (BDSP) was blocked.

May 7, 2026 - According to a statement by the Mersin Provincial Police Department, the Cybercrime Unit blocked access to 89 social media accounts that were found to be sharing "misinformation," "inciting the public to hatred and hostility," and "encouraging criminal activity" on digital platforms.

May 8, 2026 - The website akpden.com, which publishes content regarding tax injustices and the sale of public assets as announced by CHP Chairman Özgür Özel, was blocked on the grounds of protecting national security and public order, pursuant to the decision dated May 8, 2026, and numbered 2026/6064, issued by the Ankara 1st Criminal Court of Peace.

May 14, 2026 - The X account of Ozan Demir, a reporter for Ajansa Welat, was suspended.

May 15, 2026 - Numerous news reports mentioning Necat Gülseven, the owner of TV100 (two reports from Birgün, Halk TV, Diken, Kısa Dalga, KRT, and social media posts) were blocked from access by a decision of the Istanbul 10th Criminal Court of Peace dated May 15, 2026, and numbered 2026/5373, on the grounds of protecting national security and public order.

May 18, 2026 - News reports by TürkGün, Hürriyet, and CNN Türk regarding an operation conducted in Samsun and Ordu over allegations that some doctors at the Ondokuz Mayıs University Health Application and Research Center had accepted bribes from patients were blocked on the grounds of protecting national security and public order.

May 21, 2026 - The Turkish and Kurdish X platform accounts of the Mezopotamya Agency (MA) were blocked from access in Turkey by the BTK.

May 21, 2026 - JINNEWS's Turkish and English X platform accounts were blocked in Turkey by the BTK.

May 26, 2026 - The Presidency of Communications imposed access restrictions on 93 digital media accounts that had reacted to the decision to close Bilgi University and the “absolute nullity” ruling against the CHP.

LIST OF DETAINED JOURNALISTS

1. Ahmet Uzan – News Director of Sabah Egeli Newspaper
2. Ali Ünal – Columnist for Zaman Newspaper
3. Cihan Berk – Pir News Agency (PİRHA) Correspondent in Dersim
4. Devrim Ayık – Staff Member at Özgür Halk Magazine
5. Elif Bayburt – Reporter for Etkin News Agency (ETHA)
6. Erdal Süsem – Editor of Eylül Magazine
7. Erol Zavar – Owner and Editor-in-Chief of Odak Magazine
8. Gültekin Avcı – Columnist for Bugün Newspaper
9. Hatice Duman – Owner and Editor-in-Chief of Atılım Newspaper
10. İsmail Arı – Reporter for BirGün Newspaper
11. Kadir Koç – Publisher of Hüryol
12. Mehmet Baransu – Writer for Taraf Newspaper
13. Merdan Yanardağ – Journalist at
14. Mikat Algül – General Manager of Mezitli FM
15. Murat Çapan – Managing Editor of Nokta Magazine
16. Mustafa Gök – Ankara Representative of Ekmek ve Adalet Magazine
17. Müslüm Koyun – Reporter for Etkin News Agency (ETHA)
18. Nadiye Gürbüz – Editor at Etkin News Agency (ETHA)
19. Osman Çalık – Samanyolu News Radio Program Director
20. Özden Kınık – TRT Employee
21. Pınar Gayıp – Editor at Etkin News Agency (ETHA)
22. Recai Morkoç – Editor at the Cihan News Agency Antalya Regional Office
23. Sami Tunca – Managing Editor of Mücadele Birliği Magazine
24. Semih Elitaş – Employee of Azadiya Welat Newspaper
25. Yelis Ayaz – Publisher of Aydınpost
26. Zihni Çakır – Journalist
27. Ziya Ataman – Reporter for Dicle News Agency (DİHA)