



DİCLE FIRAT JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION

“Journalists are the guarantee of a society’s free will. End pressure and human rights violations against journalists and remove obstacles to the public’s right to access information.”

NOTE: The data in this report has been compiled from Mezopotamya Agency, JINNEWS, Bianet, Evrensel, MLSA Turkey, expressioninterrupted.com, ifade.org.tr, @engelliweb, freewebturkey.com and various national and local media outlets. The figures represent minimum documented cases and may be higher. The number of “arrested journalists” does not necessarily mean that they are still imprisoned.

ASSESSMENT**REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST JOURNALISTS – APRIL 2026**

The data for April 2026 demonstrate that human rights violations against journalists continue in a multi-dimensional and systematic manner. Pressures targeting journalists' right to life, security, freedom of expression and professional activities have once again revealed a serious situation during this period.

Within the scope of violations against journalists' right to life and security, 2 media outlets were subjected to attacks or obstruction, 3 journalists' homes were raided, 3 journalists were detained and 1 journalist was arrested.

Following an incident that took place at a school in the Siverek district of Urfa, journalist Mehmet Yetim was arrested on the grounds that he shared posts related to the incident within the scope of an investigation launched over allegations of disseminating "misleading information" on social media. The arrest of Yetim has demonstrated the extent to which the Disinformation Law poses a serious threat to journalists.

In addition, 1 journalist was subjected to ill-treatment, 1 journalist was threatened and 2 journalists were prevented from covering news. It was also determined that at least 1 journalist was subjected to a rights violation in prisons.

These data indicate that journalists are under pressure not only in the public sphere but also in their private lives.

Violations targeting freedom of thought and expression have reached striking levels.

In April:

- Investigations were launched against 9 journalists
- Lawsuits were filed against 4 journalists
- 10 journalists were sentenced to a total of 17 years, 8 months and 28 days of imprisonment

In addition, trials concerning 118 journalists in 35 cases are ongoing.

As of 3 May 2026, the number of imprisoned journalists in Turkey is 31.

This situation demonstrates that journalistic activities are carried out under judicial pressure and that the practice of punishment has become widespread.

In the field of economic and social rights, no dismissals were recorded. However, this does not mean that precarity and structural problems in the sector have been resolved.

Obstruction and censorship practices targeting press and media organizations have continued.

The Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK):

- imposed sanctions on 13 broadcasts
- suspended 1 program
- issued administrative fines at varying rates

These measures indicate that administrative pressure in the field of broadcasting persists.

In the field of internet and digital media:

- Access to 29 news items was blocked
- Access to 18 social media contents was restricted

Although no internet site was completely shut down, it is understood that content-based censorship practices continue to be widely implemented

Overall, the data for April 2026 demonstrate that journalists face serious risks in terms of both physical security and professional activities.

World Press Freedom Day on 3 May serves as a reminder and a call for resistance against the pressure, prosecutions, arrests and violations of the right to life faced by journalists who struggle for truth.

For journalists, press freedom is not only a professional right but also an inseparable part of the public's struggle to access truth.

For this reason, 3 May gains meaning as the day of journalists who pay a price are attempted to be silenced, yet do not give up writing the truth.

A free press is the foundation of a democratic society.
The voice of truth cannot be silenced.

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STATISTICAL DATA – REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST JOURNALISTS (APRIL 2026)

1) VIOLATIONS AGAINST JOURNALISTS' RIGHT TO LIFE AND SECURITY

Subjected to attack or obstruction:	Journalists	-
	Media Outlets	2
Journalists targeted		-
Journalists whose homes were raided		3
Journalists detained		3
Journalists arrested		1
Journalists subjected to ill-treatment		1
Journalists threatened		1
Journalists prevented from covering news		2
Violations against journalists in prisons		1

2) VIOLATIONS OF FREEDOM OF THOUGHT AND EXPRESSION AGAINST JOURNALISTS

Journalists subjected to investigation		9
Journalists subjected to prosecution		4
Journalists sentenced	Number of Persons	10
	Total prison sentence	17 years 8 months 28 days
	Fines	-
Journalists on trial	Number of Cases	35
	Number of Persons	118
Number of imprisoned journalists (as of 3 May 2026)		31

3) VIOLATIONS AGAINST JOURNALISTS' ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS

Journalists dismissed	-
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4) OBSTRUCTION AND CENSORSHIP AGAINST PRESS AND MEDIA ORGANIZATIONS

RTÜK sanctions	Number of broadcasts	13
	Program suspensions:	1
	Administrative fines:	1 channel fined 1% 8 channels fined 2%

5) ACCESS RESTRICTIONS ON INTERNET AND DIGITAL MEDIA

Websites blocked	-
News articles blocked	29
Social Media Content blocked	18

DETAILED DATA – REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST JOURNALISTS (APRIL 2026)

1) VIOLATIONS AGAINST JOURNALISTS' RIGHT TO LIFE AND SECURITY

15 April 2026 – Journalists were not allowed into the courtroom during the first hearing of the case in which imprisoned Pir News Agency (PİRHA) reporter Cihan Berk is being tried on charges of “membership in an organization.”

16 April 2026 – At around 04:00 in the morning, Sabah Newspaper reporter Lütfü Yalgı, who works in Siverek, was taken into custody. The journalist was released on the same day.

18 April 2026 – Following an incident at a school in the Siverek district of Urfa, journalist Mehmet Yetim was taken into custody from his home in the morning on the grounds that he shared posts related to the incident within the scope of an investigation launched over allegations of disseminating “misleading information” on social media. After his procedures at the police station, he was referred to the courthouse and arrested.

27 April 2026 – Imprisoned DW Turkish reporter Alican Uludağ stated that he has been held in a single-person cell since 26 February, that he submitted a petition to the Ministry of Justice requesting transfer to Ankara, but did not receive a response. The court ruled for the continuation of his detention and decided that he would attend the hearing via SEGBİS from Silivri.

28 April 2026 – The offices of Özgür Gelecek Newspaper and Yeni Demokrasi in Istanbul were raided in the early morning by breaking down the doors.

30 April 2026 – It was learned that, in a meeting held at the Security Branch of the Ankara Police Department prior to May 1, it was decided that the distribution of newspapers, magazines and leaflets, particularly Evrensel and BirGün, would not be allowed in the May Day area.

30 April 2026 – During a hearing in the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (İBB) case, journalist Erhan Tekten was taken into custody on the grounds of recording footage. The Bakırköy Chief Public Prosecutor's Office announced that an investigation had been launched.

30 April 2026 – JINNEWS News Director and Van Branch Chair of the Mesopotamian Journalists Association (MKG), Öznur Değer, was subjected to verbal harassment and threats by Halil İtaç while conducting a street interview in Van. Değer filed a complaint.

30 April 2026 – In the Turkish Grand National Assembly, a Now TV reporter was physically obstructed by Süleyman Soylu while asking a question, preventing both questioning and recording.

2) VIOLATIONS OF FREEDOM OF THOUGHT AND EXPRESSION

01 April 2026 – A lawsuit was filed against, editor of Siyasi Haber, Mehmet Murat Yıldırım on the grounds of his social media posts and journalistic activities. In the indictment, his news reports, opinion columns and political evaluations were made the subject of the accusation. In the indictment prepared by the Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office, it was requested that journalist Mehmet Murat Yıldırım be tried on charges of "insulting the President." The case will be heard at the Ankara Criminal Court of First Instance on 8 September 2026.

01 April 2026 – The first hearing of the case filed against journalist Timur Soykan at the Eskişehir 3rd Criminal Court of First Instance on charges of "insult" (Article 125 of the Turkish Penal Code), following a complaint by AKP-affiliated social media user Tuğrul Selmanoğlu, was held on 1 April 2026. Soykan gave his defense through instruction at the Anadolu 9th Criminal Court of First Instance. The court ruled that the file be sent to the Eskişehir 3rd Criminal Court of First Instance.

02 April 2026 – The indictment in the case in which journalist Alican Uludağ has been under arrest since 20 February due to his social media posts was accepted. The Istanbul 26th Criminal Court of First Instance examined the file prepared with charges including "publicly insulting the President", "publicly degrading the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the judicial organs of the state" and "publicly disseminating misleading information." The prosecutor demanded that Uludağ be sentenced to up to 19.5 years of imprisonment.

02 April 2026 – An investigation was launched against T24 reporter Can Öztürk due to his news report titled "Allegations of harassment and abuse in conversion sessions; children accused, Prof. Dr. Ahmet Akın denied: These children have gone off the rails!" A previous investigation had been opened against Öztürk on the charge of "disseminating misleading information" (Article 217/A of the Turkish Penal Code) due to this report and a decision of non-prosecution had been issued in that file. This time, Öztürk gave a statement within the scope of a new investigation initiated on the allegation of "unlawful acquisition of personal data" (Article 136 of the Turkish Penal Code).

06 April 2026 – While the main trial against journalist Evrim Deniz at the Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance on charges of "unlawfully giving or obtaining personal data" due to her article titled "A gang suspect is building a police station" published on Bianet continued, Deniz's statement was taken through instruction at the İzmir 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance. The main hearing of the case will be held at the Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance on 23 June at 11:00. The indictment stated that the news report published on 28

May 2025 included information belonging to the complainants. It was expressed that this information was shared through indictment visuals and that it had the nature of “personal data.”

07 April 2026 – The 6th hearing of the case filed against Mezopotamya Agency (MA) reporters Esra Solin Dal and Mehmet Aslan and journalist Erdoğan Alayumat on charges of “membership in an organization” was held at the Istanbul Courthouse in Çağlayan, at the 25th High Criminal Court. The court accepted the lawyers’ excuses and adjourned the hearing to 9 June in order for the defense statements on the merits to be prepared.

07 April 2026 – An indictment was prepared against Mezopotamya Agency (MA) reporter Mehmet Aslan in relation to the merged file on charges of “membership in an organization.” In the indictment accepted by the Istanbul 25th High Criminal Court, the news reports prepared by Aslan were made the subject of the accusation.

07 April 2026 – The first hearing of the retrial of journalist Neşe İdil, following a violation decision by the Constitutional Court (AYM), on charges of “making propaganda for an organization” (Article 7/2 of the Anti-Terror Law), was held at the Istanbul 22nd High Criminal Court. The prosecutor, who presented his opinion on the merits, requested that İdil be punished in line with the previous decision for the alleged crime of “making propaganda for an organization.” İdil and her lawyer requested time to submit statements against the opinion on the merits. The court accepted the request and adjourned the case to 22 April 2026.

07 April 2026 – The 17th hearing of the case in which journalist Rüstem Batum is being tried on charges of “insulting the President” (Article 299 of the Turkish Penal Code) was held on 7 April 2026 at the Istanbul 5th Criminal Court of First Instance. The case was adjourned to 8 October 2026.

07 April 2026 – The investigation opened against Mezopotamya Agency (MA) reporter Zeynep Durgut due to her report on tree cutting carried out in the Êzidî village of Kîwex, affiliated with the İdil district of Şırnak, was completed. In the investigation initiated upon the complaint of the HÜDA-PAR Midyat District Chair, a decision of non-prosecution was issued.

09 April 2026 – The 10th hearing of the case in which 19 journalists and media workers are being tried on charges of “membership in an organization” and “making propaganda for an organization” within the scope of an investigation based in Diyarbakır was held at the Diyarbakır 4th High Criminal Court. The court decided to continue the international travel ban and adjourned the hearing to 9 July.

09 April 2026 – The third hearing of the case in which journalist Altan Sancar, who reported on the “absolute nullity debates” that came to the agenda together with the case opened on the allegation of irregularities at the 38th Ordinary Congress of the CHP and made social media posts on this issue, is being tried on charges of “publicly disseminating misleading information” was held at the Ankara 27th Criminal Court of First Instance. In his opinion on the merits, the public prosecutor requested that Sancar be punished under Article 217/A of the Turkish Penal Code. The court stated that the evidence in the file had been collected. The final

statement of the defendant could not be taken due to his absence. In the decision, it was ruled that the elements of the crime had not been constituted and an acquittal decision was issued.

09 April 2026 – Following a complaint by Cuneyd Zapsu, one of the founders of the AKP and the owner of Balsu Gıda, an investigation was launched against soL writer Orhan Gökdemir, reporter İrem Yıldırım and Responsible Managing Editor Emre Alım. Accusations were directed against the writers and employees of soL, who gave statements at the Vatan Police Headquarters on 8 March, due to two news reports. Investigations were initiated against İrem Yıldırım and Orhan Gökdemir, who gave opinions in the news, on charges of “insult” (Article 125), “slander” (Article 267), “incitement to commit a crime” (Article 214) and “incitement to hatred and hostility” (Article 216). In the investigation against Emre Alım, charges of “insult,” “slander,” “incitement to commit a crime,” and “incitement to hatred and hostility” were also directed.

10 April 2026 – An investigation was launched against journalist Bahadır Özgür due to his news report titled “Million-dollar sales from Mersin to ISIS,” published in BirGün newspaper in 2022. It was learned that the investigation was initiated by the Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office upon a criminal complaint by the Financial Crimes Investigation Board (MASAK). Journalist Özgür was accused of “disclosing a confidential report containing state intelligence information.” Özgür gave a statement to the Terror Crimes Investigation Bureau of the Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office.

11 April 2026 – An investigation was launched against journalist Ömer Tur due to his reaction on social media to chants containing insults directed at Kurdish politician Leyla Zana by Bursaspor supporters. Tur, against whom an investigation was initiated by the Bursa Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office went to the Bağlar Police Station and gave a statement.

13 April 2026 – The 10th hearing of the case filed against journalist Rüstem Batum on charges of “insulting the President” (Article 299 of the Turkish Penal Code) was held on 13 April 2026 at the Istanbul 76th Criminal Court of First Instance. The case was adjourned to 21 October 2026.

14 April 2026 – Journalist Barış Pehlivan was sentenced to 1 year and 3 months of imprisonment on charges of “publicly disseminating misleading information.” Sharing the sentence on his social media account, Pehlivan stated that he received this prison sentence due to his remarks: “Approximately 10,000 of the current judges are mostly lawyers affiliated with the AKP; they carry the relationships they established in their former professions into the judiciary. In exchange for bribery and extortion, they are able to release people.”

14 April 2026 – The third hearing of the case filed against Mezopotamya Agency (MA) reporter Berivan Kutlu on charges of “making propaganda for an organization,” based on her television connections from the region and her posts on her X account following the earthquakes centered in Maraş on 6 February, was held at the Diyarbakır 4th High Criminal Court. At the hearing, the prosecutor requested time to prepare the opinion on the merits. The court accepted the request and adjourned the hearing to 16 July.

14 April 2026 – The second hearing of the case filed against JinNews reporter Elfazi Toral, Demokratik Modernite employee Sema Korkmaz, and one other person, who were detained

while following a press statement in front of the DEM Party Istanbul Provincial Building, on charges of “resisting to prevent the execution of duty” (Article 265 of the Turkish Penal Code) and “participating in unlawful meetings and demonstrations without weapons and not dispersing despite warnings,” was held on 14 April 2026 at the Istanbul 25th Criminal Court of First Instance. The case was adjourned to 3 November 2026.

14 April 2026 – The 10th hearing of the case filed against journalist Hakkı Boltan on charges of “insulting the President” and “insulting a public official” was held at the Diyarbakır 12th Criminal Court of First Instance. The court, finding the offense proven, sentenced Boltan to 1 year, 2 months and 17 days of imprisonment for the charge of “insulting the President.” The suspension of the announcement of the verdict (HAGB) was not applied.

14 April 2026 – The decision hearing of the case in which journalists Timur Soykan, Barış Pehlivan, Şule Aydın and Murat Ağirel were tried due to the allegations they brought to the agenda in the program “Kayda Geçsin,” broadcast on Halk TV on 8 October 2024, regarding the continuation of Turkey’s trade with Israel and the smuggling of gold in the VIP section of Istanbul Airport, was held at the Bakırköy 34th Criminal Court of First Instance. The court ruled for the acquittal of Şule Aydın on charges of “violation of confidentiality” and “publicly disseminating misleading information.” Timur Soykan was acquitted of “publicly disseminating misleading information” and “publicly denigrating religious values adopted by a segment of the public,” but was sentenced to 10 months of imprisonment for “violation of confidentiality,” and the announcement of the verdict was postponed. Barış Pehlivan was acquitted of “violation of confidentiality,” but sentenced to 1 year and 3 months of imprisonment for “publicly disseminating misleading information.” Murat Ağirel was acquitted of “violation of confidentiality” and “publicly denigrating religious values,” but sentenced to 1 year and 3 months of imprisonment for “publicly disseminating misleading information.”

14 April 2026 – Journalist Zafer Arapkirli was tried at the Istanbul 23rd Criminal Court of First Instance on charges of “publicly disseminating misleading information” and “inciting hatred and hostility” due to his social media post on his X account regarding allegations of massacres against Alevis in certain regions during the internal conflicts that took place in Syria following the overthrow of the Assad regime. The court announced its decision, sentencing Arapkirli to 2 years and 6 months of imprisonment for “publicly disseminating misleading information” while acquitting him of the charge of “inciting hatred and hostility.”

14 April 2026 – The third hearing of the case in which journalist Fırat Tunç, against whom a lawsuit was filed after he was detained in Van while protesting the killing of Nazım Daştan and Cihan Bilgin and while covering news, was held on 14 April at the Van 4th High Criminal Court. Tunç attended the hearing via SEGBİS from Diyarbakır. The case was adjourned to 20 May 2026. The fourth hearing of the case will be held at the Diyarbakır 5th High Criminal Court at 09:30.

15 April 2026 – The first hearing of the case in which imprisoned PİRHA reporter Cihan Berk is being tried on charges of “membership in an armed terrorist organization” was held at the Tunceli 1st High Criminal Court. Berk, who was not brought to the courtroom, attended the hearing via SEGBİS from Elazığ No. 2 Prison. The court ruled for the continuation of his detention and adjourned the hearing to 3 June.

15 April 2026 – In the trial in which six people, including journalist Ender İmrek, were tried on charges of “membership in an organization,” the Istanbul 23rd High Criminal Court ruled for the acquittal of all defendants. The court also ordered the return of seized items.

16 April 2026 – In the decision hearing of the case filed against journalist Bilge Aksu at the Istanbul 14th High Criminal Court on charges of “membership in an organization,” the court sentenced Aksu to 6 years and 3 months in prison, citing her cultural and artistic writings published in Yeni Özgür Politika and PolitikArt as evidence.

16 April 2026 – The trial of journalist Timur Soykan on charges of “publicly disseminating misleading information” and “inciting the public to commit a crime” due to his social media posts was held at the Istanbul 32nd Criminal Court of First Instance. The court ruled for the continuation of Soykan’s travel ban and adjourned the hearing to 16 June.

16 April 2026 – The ninth hearing of the case filed against journalist Umut Taştan and 50 others, who were detained while covering the Gezi protests in 2022, was held at the Istanbul 44th Criminal Court of First Instance. The hearing was postponed to 15 October.

16 April 2026 – The tenth hearing of the case against former Mezopotamya Agency reporter Mehmet Şah Oruç, who is being tried on charges of “membership in an organization” and “making propaganda for an organization” with a possible sentence of up to 22.5 years, was held at the Bitlis 2nd High Criminal Court. The hearing was postponed to 5 May due to the absence of his lawyer.

16 April 2026 – In the 20th hearing of the case against journalist Abdullah Kaya, who is being tried for covering the Ağrı Mountain Festival, the Ağrı 2nd High Criminal Court decided to await the outcome of the case at the Court of Cassation and postponed the hearing to 18 June.

20 April 2026 – A new lawsuit was filed against JINNEWS Director Öznur Değer on charges of “resisting to prevent the execution of duty” and “insult” after she reacted to being subjected to torture during a house raid in 2025 and to the psychological violence inflicted on her family. The first hearing will be held on 14 July.

21 April 2026 – The 13th hearing of the case against journalist Metin Cihan, who is being tried on charges of “insulting a public official” following a complaint by former Minister of Treasury and Finance Berat Albayrak, was held at the Istanbul 36th Criminal Court of First Instance. The hearing was postponed to 29 September.

21 April 2026 – The second hearing of the case against bianet editor Tuğçe Yılmaz, who is being tried on charges of “denigrating the Republic of Turkey” (TCK 301) due to an interview she conducted with Armenian youth in Turkey, was held at the Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance. The court granted time for defense and postponed the hearing to 20 October.

22 April 2026 – In the retrial of journalist Neşe İdil following a violation ruling by the Constitutional Court, the Istanbul 22nd High Criminal Court reissued the previous sentence of 1 year and 3 months in prison for “propaganda for an organization.” The right to appeal remains open.

23 April 2026 – The indictment prepared against imprisoned journalist Alican Uludağ was accepted by the Ankara 57th Criminal Court of First Instance. Uludağ will appear before a judge on 21 May on charges including “insulting the President,” “disseminating misleading information,” and “denigrating state institutions.”

24 April 2026 – At a detention review hearing held via SEGBİS at the Ankara 6th Criminal Judgeship of Peace, imprisoned journalist İsmail Arı requested release. Despite stating that the alleged offense did not require imprisonment and that his detention was related to his journalistic activities, the court ruled for the continuation of his detention.

24 April 2026 – Journalist Mehmet Üçar was sentenced to 1 year, 6 months and 11 days in prison on charges of “making propaganda for an organization” due to his writings in Yeni Özgür Politika and PolitikArt. The court ruled for the suspension of the announcement of the verdict (HAGB).

24 April 2026 – The first hearing of the case against journalist Nedim Oruç and 19 others (including 8 children), who were detained in Cizre and accused of participating in protests, was held. The court ruled for their release and adjourned the hearing to 25 June.

27 April 2026 – The hearing of the case against journalist Can Öztürk and 14 students, who were detained while covering Boğaziçi University protests, was held at the Istanbul 69th Criminal Court of First Instance. Requests by defense lawyers were rejected, and the hearing was postponed to 3 July.

28 April 2026 – The trial of journalist Barış Terkoğlu on charges of “insulting a public official” due to his articles published in Cumhuriyet newspaper was held. The court requested additional information and postponed the hearing to 24 November.

28 April 2026 – The second hearing of the case against several journalists and media workers accused of “knowingly and willingly aiding an organization” due to royalties received for their articles was held. The court postponed the hearing to 17 September for examination of digital materials.

28 April 2026 – The fourth hearing of the case against journalist İsmail Arı and responsible editor Yaşar Gökdemir on charges of “defamation” was held. The hearing was postponed to 20 October.

29 April 2026 – An investigation was launched against writer Mine Kırıkkanat on charges of “inciting hatred and hostility” due to her remarks about former CHP leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu.

30 April 2026 – Journalist İsmail Arı stated in a letter from prison that a case had been filed against him on charges of “insulting a public official” due to a social media post he reshared in 2023. The first hearing will be held on 17 September.

30 April 2026 – In the case against T24 writer Tolga Şardan, he was acquitted of “disseminating misleading information” but sentenced to 5 months in prison for “denigrating judicial institutions,” with the announcement of the verdict postponed.

30 April 2026 – In another case against Tolga Şardan, the court acquitted him of charges of “denigrating the military or law enforcement.”

30 April 2026 – The hearing of the case filed against multiple journalists due to the book “Metastaz 2: Cendere” on charges of “insult” and “defamation” was held and postponed to 27 October.

30 April 2026 – The 35th hearing of the “KCK Press Case,” in which 46 journalists and media workers are being tried on charges including “membership in an organization” and “propaganda,” was held. The court made several procedural decisions and adjourned the hearing to 24 September.

3) VIOLATIONS AGAINST JOURNALISTS’ ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS

20 April 2026 – The Savings Deposit Insurance Fund (TMSF) put up for sale the commercial and economic integrity of TELE 1 television, which it had seized, with an estimated value of 28 million TL.

25 April 2026 – The sales process for TELE 1 was initiated. The sales announcement prepared by the Savings Deposit Insurance Fund (TMSF) was published in the Official Gazette. According to the announcement, the “TELE1 TV Commercial and Economic Integrity,” created by bringing together the assets, rights and properties, as well as the contracts belonging to ABC Radio Television and Digital Broadcasting Inc. and TELE1 Production Media and Advertising Services Industry and Trade Ltd. Co., was put up for sale.

4) OBSTRUCTION AND CENSORSHIP AGAINST PRESS AND MEDIA ORGANIZATIONS

13 April 2026 – The Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK) granted the Tele2 Haber YouTube channel, which was determined to be providing broadcasting services without obtaining a broadcasting license, a period of 72 hours to either pay the license fees (internet television broadcasting license and on-demand broadcasting service license) or terminate its broadcasting services. The relevant announcement was published on 13 April 2026 in accordance with the decision taken at RTÜK’s meeting dated 5 February 2026 and numbered 202605. If the necessary license is not obtained or broadcasting services are not terminated within 72 hours, access to the channel will be blocked.

22 April 2026 – RTÜK imposed an administrative fine and program suspension sanction on the media service provider TLC for violating the provision of Law No. 6112 on the Establishment and Broadcasting Services of Radio and Television, which states that “broadcasts cannot encourage or normalize violence.”

22 April 2026 – RTÜK imposed an administrative fine on TV8 for violating the provision of Law No. 6112, which states that broadcasts “must respect human dignity and privacy and cannot include expressions that go beyond the limits of criticism, or are humiliating, degrading or defamatory toward individuals or institutions.”

22 April 2026 – RTÜK ruled that the statements made in the program “Açık Futbol,” broadcast on Kanal 26 Television on 13 April 2026, exceeded the limits of criticism and were degrading, contrary to human dignity and humiliating, and imposed an administrative fine for violating the provision that “broadcasts must respect human dignity and privacy and cannot include expressions that go beyond the limits of criticism or are humiliating, degrading or defamatory toward individuals or institutions.”

30 April 2026 – RTÜK imposed a 2% administrative fine on Halk TV on the grounds that the statements made by CHP Member of Parliament Cemal Enginyurt in the program “Sansürsüz” regarding the political stance and education policies of Minister of National Education Yusuf Tekin “exceeded the limits of criticism” and were “of a degrading nature.”

30 April 2026 – RTÜK imposed a 1% administrative fine on SZC TV on the grounds that the statements made by TİP Member of Parliament Sera Kadıgil in the program “Nokta Atışı” regarding the Parliament, state institutions and anti-drug policies “degraded state institutions” and “exceeded the limits of criticism.”

30 April 2026 – RTÜK imposed a 2% administrative fine on NOW TV on the grounds that the principle that “broadcasts cannot encourage or normalize violence” was violated, due to the episodes of the series “Yeraltı” broadcast on 4 March, 11 March, 18 March, 25 March, 1 April and 8 April 2026.

30 April 2026 – RTÜK imposed a 2% administrative fine on Kanal D for violating the same principle, due to the episodes of the series “Eşref Rüya” broadcast on 25 March, 1 April and 8 April 2026.

30 April 2026 – RTÜK imposed separate 2% administrative fines on digital platforms: Netflix for the sixth episode of the series “Trigger,” Prime Video for the film “Gangs of Lagos,” and HBO Max for the fourth episode of the first season and the fourth episode of the second season of the series “Altın Çocuk.” In addition, according to the RTÜK decision, the films and series subjected to sanctions on digital platforms will also be removed from the catalog.

April 2026 – Throughout April, courts across Turkey imposed broadcast bans 13 times on various news reports. (Note: Data obtained from RTÜK)

5) ACCESS RESTRICTIONS ON INTERNET AND DIGITAL MEDIA

03 April 2026 – Journalist Sema Bingöl’s X account was blocked by X at the request of the Information and Communication Technologies Authority (BTK).

04 April 2026 – Following the Turkish X account of the Kurdish-language news platform Nûpel Kurdî, its Kurdish X account was also blocked by X at the request of BTK.

04 April 2026 – The Bluesky account of Mezopotamya Agency was suspended.

06 April 2026 – Journalist Abdurrahman Gök’s X account was blocked by X at the request of BTK.

06 April 2026 – Journalist Roza Arpa’s X account was blocked by X at the request of BTK.

06 April 2026 – Journalist Dilan Babat’s X account was blocked for the second time by X at the request of BTK.

06 April 2026 – The Kurdish Instagram account of Mezopotamya Agency (MA) was once again shut down.

13 April 2026 – The Instagram account of the platform “İstanbul Yargılıyor” (@istanbulyargiliyor), which informed the public by sharing allegations, defenses and real-time developments in the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (İBB) case, was blocked under Article 8/A of Law No. 5651 on the grounds of protecting national security and public order. The account was made invisible from Turkey by Instagram.

13 April 2026 – The X account of journalist İslam Özkan was blocked in Turkey at the official request of BTK due to his criticisms regarding President Erdoğan’s meeting with the CEO of BlackRock.

14 April 2026 – Journalist Doğan Cihan’s X account was blocked by X in line with the request of the Information and Communication Technologies Authority and pursuant to Article 8/A of Law No. 5651.

14 April 2026 – News reports on ntv.com.tr, Ufranatik and Yeni Şafak regarding an incident in which at least 16 people were injured after a person entered a high school with a firearm in the Siverek district of Urfa were blocked under Article 8/A of Law No. 5651 on the grounds of protecting national security and public order.

15 April 2026 – Journalist Bilal Güldem’s X account was blocked by X at the request of BTK.

15 April 2026 – Journalist Doğan Cihan’s X account was blocked by X at the request of BTK.

15 April 2026 – Erk Acarer’s X account (@seddesizesek) was blocked under Article 8/A of Law No. 5651 on the grounds of protecting national security and public order. The account has not yet been made invisible from Turkey by X.

16 April 2026 – News reports in Dünya, Elips Haber and Yeri Birlik regarding footage showing that the perpetrator of the armed attack at Maraş Ayser Çalık Secondary School practiced shooting at a shooting range with his father were blocked under Article 8/A of Law No. 5651 on the grounds of protecting national security and public order.

17 April 2026 – The Facebook account of Yeni Yaşam Newspaper was closed on the grounds that it did not comply with “Community Standards.”

17 April 2026 – The TikTok account of Yeni Yaşam Newspaper was closed. In the notification made by TikTok, it was stated that “You cannot request a new review,” thereby closing the appeal process.

17 April 2026 – Within the scope of an investigation initiated ex officio by the Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office on the crimes of “publicly inciting to commit a crime” and “praising a crime and a criminal” under the Turkish Penal Code, the YouTube channel named “Minecraft Parodileri,” which has 7.5 million subscribers and more than 7 billion views, was blocked under Article 8/A of Law No. 5651 and made invisible from Turkey by YouTube.

17 April 2026 – News reports in Alanya Postası, Haberi Bizden and Alanya Gazetesi regarding allegations that AKP Antalya Provincial Chair Ali Çetin used a land belonging to the General Directorate of Foundations at a low rental price and that the property, although designated as a school area in the zoning plan, was used for different purposes, were blocked on the grounds of violation of privacy by the decision of the Antalya 1st Criminal Judgeship of Peace dated 17 April 2026 and numbered 2026/2823.

17 April 2026 – News reports in Nefes, Veryansın and T24 regarding allegations that a mansion belonging to AKP Antalya Provincial Executive Zihni Kilit and his family was restored by the Antalya Metropolitan Municipality and that rent was paid to the family were blocked on the grounds of violation of privacy by the decision of the Antalya 1st Criminal Judgeship of Peace dated 17 April 2026 and numbered 2026/2822.

22 April 2026 – Two news reports published in Yeniçağ and Cumhuriyet regarding allegations of a 36 million dollar fraud in which paving stones were sent instead of pure copper to a Swiss-based company operating in China were blocked under Article 8/A of Law No. 5651 on the grounds of protecting national security and public order.

23 April 2026 – The Instagram account of Mezopotamya Agency was blocked.

27 April 2026 – News reports in Anka, Bianet and Evrensel regarding the detention of a doctor who argued with Public Prosecutor Mehmet Bülbül in Osmaniye in 2021 and the lawsuit filed against him were blocked on the grounds of protecting national security and public order by the decision of the Adana 1st Criminal Judgeship of Peace dated 27 April 2026 and numbered 2026/4303.

27 April 2026 – News reports in Diken, BirGün and soL regarding the blocking of access to various news about Sabah newspaper writer Hilal Kaplan were also blocked on the grounds of protecting national security and public order by the decision of the Istanbul 2nd Criminal Judgeship of Peace dated 28 April 2026 and numbered 2026/3965.

News reports about Hilal Kaplan had previously also been blocked by the following decisions:

Decision of the Istanbul 8th Criminal Judgeship of Peace dated 13 November 2025 and numbered 2025/11603

Decision of the Istanbul Anatolian 10th Criminal Judgeship of Peace dated 24 October 2023 and numbered 2023/9519

Decision of the Istanbul 6th Criminal Judgeship of Peace dated 14 April 2023 and numbered 2023/3431

29 April 2026 – Statements made by CHP Chair Özgür Özel on the matter, Ahmet Mücahid Ören's own statement, and two news reports in Cumhuriyet, Sözcü, Bianet and BirGün, as well as reports in Gazete Pencere, Yeniçağ, Evrensel and Diken regarding the blocking of access to news in February 2026, were also blocked on the grounds of protecting national security and public order by the decision of the Istanbul 6th Criminal Judgeship of Peace dated 29 April 2026 and numbered 2026/3827.

News reports regarding the correspondence of İhlas Holding CEO Ahmet Mücahid Ören appearing in the Epstein documents had also been blocked in February 2026 on the grounds of protecting national security and public order.

30 April 2026 – The X account of Fırat News Agency was blocked by X at the request of BTK.

LIST OF IMPRISONED JOURNALISTS

Ahmet Uzan – News Director, Sabah Egeli Newspaper
Ali Barış Kurt – Journalist
Alican Uludağ – Reporter, DW Turkish
Ali Ünal – Columnist, Zaman Newspaper
Bilal Özcan – Journalist
Cihan Berk – Dersim Correspondent, Pir News Agency (PİRHA)
Devrim Ayık – Staff Member, Özgür Halk Magazine
Elif Bayburt – Reporter, Etkin News Agency (ETHA)
Emin Aydın – Editor-in-Chief, Aydın Denge News Website
Erdal Süsem – Editor, Eylül Magazine
Erol Zavar – Owner and Managing Editor, Odak Magazine
Gültekin Avcı – Columnist, Bugün Newspaper
Hatice Duman – Owner and Managing Editor, Atılım Newspaper
İsmail Arı – Reporter, BirGün Newspaper
Kadir Koç – License Holder, Hüryol
Mehmet Baransu – Writer, Taraf Newspaper
Mehmet Yetim – Journalist
Merdan Yanardağ – Journalist
Miktat Algül – Editor-in-Chief, Mezitli FM
Murat Çapan – Responsible Managing Editor, Nokta Magazine
Mustafa Gök – Ankara Representative, Ekmek ve Adalet Magazine
Müslüm Koyun – Reporter, Etkin News Agency (ETHA)
Nadiye Gürbüz – Editor, Etkin News Agency (ETHA)
Osman Çalık – Broadcast Director, Samanyolu News Radio
Özden Kınık – Employee, TRT
Pınar Gayıp – Editor, Etkin News Agency (ETHA)
Recai Morkoç – Editor, Antalya Regional Office, Cihan News Agency
Sami Tunca – Managing Editor, Mücadele Birliği Magazine

Semih Elitaş – Staff Member, Azadiya Welat Newspaper

Zihni Çakır – Journalist

Ziya Ataman – Reporter, Dicle News Agency (DİHA)