20 December 2019 – On 30 November 2019, PEN International and English PEN co-organised a workshop that notably aimed at highlighting the plight of imprisoned journalists in Turkey, and led to the creation of a database of their detailed profiles.

Data was aggregated from sources including Bianet, the Committee to Protect Journalists, the International Press Institute, the Media and Law Studies Association as well as Platform 24 and its affiliate Expression Interrupted. Data, where available, covers biographical details, charges against the journalist, as well as details of arrest, trial and detention.

For more information, please contact Aurélia Dondo, Europe Programme Coordinator at aurelia.dondo@pen-international.org

ABDULKADIR TURAY

DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Reporter working for Dicle News Agency (DIHA).

DATE of ARREST: He was taken into custody on 5 May 2016; arrested on 9 May 2016; and convicted on 28 September 2018.

DETAILS of ARREST:

Source 1: International Press Institute

Turay was arrested in Mardin province of Turkey on allegations of “aiding and abetting a terrorist organization” and “membership of a terrorist organization.”

DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: Media and Law Studies Association

Last updated on 3 December 2018

Abdulkadir Turay, a former journalist for now-defunct media outlet Dicle News Agency, has been sentenced to 9 years imprisonment for past news articles and notes. Turay has already been imprisoned for 2 years. Nine defendants appeared at Mardin 2. High Criminal Court on terrorism charges today. In addition to Turay, Savur Municipality Deputy Co-chair Osman Ok and Democratic Regions Party members Mehmet Sait Tuncer, Yusuf Erat, Şakir Turan, Davut Tekin, Hamdullah Öz, Naci Arslan and Yalçın Bulgan all face terrorism charges. The
defendants submitted their defense statements in Kurdish. They requested acquittal and drew attention to the fact that the prosecution’s case relies on the testimony of two anonymous witnesses. Turay claimed that the testimony of the anonymous witnesses was not reflective of the truth. “I had been working as a journalist since 2014 until when I was detained 2016. I was an insured employee of DiHA. All the information I gathered from my source were newsworthy. They cannot be presented as evidence of crime.” Şehmuz Taşkin, a lawyer for the defense, then took the floor. Taşkin noted that even the anonymous witnesses do not specify what actions his clients are alleged to have done on behalf of any terrorist organizations. He also observed that the witnesses had changed their statements after the emergence of new evidence, indicating that they are not to be relied on. Lawyers for the defense went on to cite decisions of the Constitutional Court and European Court of Human Rights which declare that anonymous witness statements are an insufficient evidential basis for conviction. The prosecution then reasserted their final opinion and requested the conviction of Hamdullah Öz, Mehmet Sait Tuncer, Yalçın Bulgan, Gazeteci Abdulkadir Turay, Yusuf Erat, Mevlüde Ökmen, Osman Ok and Şakir Turan. The prosecution has however requested that Davut Tekin and Naci Arslan be acquitted. The court sentenced Turay to 9 years imprisonment. Öz and Bulgan received sentences of 10 years and 6 months, whereas Ökmen, Arslan and Tekin were sentenced to 7 years and 6 months. Erat received a sentence of 3 years and 9 months. Turan, Ok, and Tuncer each received sentences of 6 years. The court chose to release Ok from imprisonment. The defendants face a cumulative 74 years and 3 months imprisonment.

**PRISON SENTENCE:** 9 years

**LEGALIZATION USED:** Turkish Criminal Law (TCK) 314-2

**CURRENT LEGAL STATUS:** Convicted

**CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION:** Mardin E Type Prison

**CONDITIONS of DETENTION:** N/A

**HEALTH CONCERNS:** N/A

**SOURCES:**

For more information in English:


http://bianet.org/english/human-rights/174593-diha-reporter-turay-4-others-arrested

For more information in Turkish:


DATE of BIRTH: 18 June 1972

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Columnist-commentator for Meydan newspaper.

DATE of ARREST: He was taken into custody on 25 July 2016. He was arrested on 29 July 2016.

DETAILS OF ARREST:

Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

Abdullah Kılıç, print/broadcast coordinator for Habertürk, was ordered arrested on July 30, 2016 as part of a purge of journalists allegedly linked to U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gülen, who Turkey’s government accuses of having established a “parallel state structure” and who it blames for the failed July 15, 2016 coup attempt.

DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

Kılıç is one of 29 journalists charged in a case accusing them of having been part of the Gülen movement’s “media wing”. They face up to 10 years in prison if convicted. As of May 2, 2017, other journalists imprisoned in connection with the case include, Ahmet Memiş, Atilla Taş, Bayram Kaya, Bünnyamin Köseli, Cemal Azmi Kalyoncu, Cihan Acar, Cuma Ulus, Emre Soncan, Gökçe Fırat Çulhaoğlu, Habib Güler, Halil İbrahim Balta, Hanım Büşra Erdal, Hüseyin Aydin, Murat Aksoy, Mustafa Erkan Acar, Mutlu Çölgeçen, Oğuz Usluer, Seyid Kılıç, Ufuk Şanlı, Ünal Tanık, Yakup Çetin and Yetkin Yıldız. Six other journalists face charges in the case, including Ali Akkuş, Bülent Ceyhan, Davut Aydin, Muhammed Sait Kuloğlu, Muhterem Tanık and Said Sefa, the latter of whom reportedly had fled the country. On March 31, 2017 a court in Turkey ordered 21 of the imprisoned defendants released conditionally, but prosecutors successfully objected to the release of eight of them and the release order for the other 13 was blocked hours later. The defendants – with the exception of Akkuş, who was freed after having been imprisoned since July 30, 2016 – remained behind bars and the judges who made the order were suspended. Prosecutors later brought new charges against 13 of the journalists on charges of trying to overthrow the government and the constitutional order. Those facing the new charges include Cihan Acar, Mustafa Erkan Acar, Akkuş, Aksoy, Aydin, Çetin, Çulhaoğlu, Abdullah Kılıç, Seyid Kılıç, Köseli, Taş, Usluer and Yıldız.

Source 2: Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)

Police in Istanbul detained Abdullah Kılıç, a former columnist for the shuttered daily newspaper Meydan, on July 25, 2016, as part of a purge of suspected followers of exiled preacher Fethullah Gülen. The Turkish government accuses Gülen of maintaining a terrorist organization and “parallel state structure” (FETÖ/PDY, as the government calls it) within Turkey and alleges that it masterminded a failed July 2016 military coup. Istanbul’s First Court of Penal Peace ordered the journalist jailed pending trial on terrorism charges. According to records of the columnist’s interrogation and the order jailing him, which CPJ reviewed, prosecutors questioned Kılıç on the suspicion that he was a member of FETÖ/PDY’s "media arm," based on his work for Zaman and other newspapers the government accuses of manipulating the public to support the organization and the attempted coup. The government took over Zaman and affiliated publications in March 2016 and shut them down by decree in July that year, alleging links to the Gülenist network. Prosecutors questioned Kılıç.
on suspicion of "committing crimes in the name of a [terrorist] organization without being a member," "knowingly and willingly helping a [terrorist] organization without being involved in the organization's hierarchical structure," "founding or leading an armed terrorist organization," and "being member of an armed terrorist organization," according to the documents. Kılıç denied the charges, court documents show. He said that although he worked at Zaman until February 2011, he subsequently worked at other newspapers and television stations and had reported critically on the Gülenist network. Kılıç also said he had criticized previous attempted coups in documentaries, columns, and on social media. Kılıç said he left Meydan in April 2015, after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in a speech warned, "For the last time: those who stay within this [Gülenist] structure will pay the price and suffer consequences," and that he had worked in the flower business since. Meydan and more than 100 other media outlets were closed by decree along with Zaman on July 27, 2016. Kılıç went on trial with several other journalists. When the trial began in March 2017, an Istanbul court ordered Kılıç and several of the other journalists to be released while the case was heard. However, authorities brought fresh charges and the journalists were ordered to remain in custody, according to news reports. Authorities ordered an investigation into the judges who had ordered the release and they were relieved of duty, according to reports. In the original indictment, all but one of the co-accused were charged with “being a member of an armed [terrorist] organization,” which carries up to 10 years in prison. The second indictment listed the charges as “attempting, through violence and force, to disrupt and replace the order as recognized by Turkey’s Constitution” and “attempting through violence and force to eliminate or prevent Parliament from carrying out its duties.” Both charges carry a maximum life sentence without parole. CPJ found both indictments to be similar to those presented at trials of other journalists in Turkey. Prosecutors cited as evidence in these cases journalistic activity or acts of free speech and communication, or cited circumstantial evidence such as being employed by a certain media outlet or having an account at a bank allegedly linked to Gülenists. The first indictment accused the defendants of manipulating the public perception of FETÖ to turn citizens against the government, which prosecutors argued, made the journalists members of the group that Turkey alleges is behind the attempted coup. The second indictment, which was presented as an addition to the original case, argued that the journalists should be held responsible for more than alleged membership to the group. In Kılıç’s case, prosecutors cited as evidence in the first indictment his columns at Meydan and his tweets. Witness testimony from former colleagues alleged that Kılıç was pro-Gülen, and the prosecutors alleged that he had an account at Bank Asya, which the government alleged was a Gülenist institution. The second indictment included as evidence Kılıç’s mobile phone activity and communication records with people who were wanted or on trial for alleged Gülenist activity. Some of these people had the Bylock App on their phones, according to authorities, who claim that the app is evidence of being a FETÖ member. Kılıç did not have the app installed on his phone, according to the indictment. An Istanbul court on March 8, 2018, found Kılıç and at least 21 of the other journalists on trial guilty of “being a member of a [terrorist] organization,” and sentenced Kılıç to six years and three months in prison, according to reports. The court acquitted all the defendants of the more serious coup-related charges in the second indictment. At least 18 of the journalists were sent to prison for varying prison terms. Two of them—Atilla Taş and Murat Aksoy—were sentenced and released for time served, and the
journalists Bünyamin Köseli and Cihan Acar remain free pending the appeal, according to reports. Lawyers for Kılıç told CPJ they are appealing the verdict. As of late 2018, the local appeal process was ongoing. The lawyers said they filed a case with the European Court of Human Rights, citing a lack of evidence that Kılıç was a member of a terrorist organization. As of late 2018, Kılıç was held in Silivri Prison, Istanbul.

Source 3: Media and Law Studies Association (MLSA)

The details of the trial on the 22-23 February 2018 can be found here (Updated: 22 February 2018)

Trial of 28 journalists for aiding “media arm” of coup group to resume on 7 March

The next hearing in the trial of 28 defendants, 18 of whom are imprisoned, on charges of being part of the media arm of the Fethullah Gülen network, which Turkey says is a terrorist organization and accuses of being behind the coup d’état attempt of 2016 will be heard on March 7. The last hearing was held over two days on 22 and 23 February. Defendants submitted statements for the last time before the verdict. A total of 13 suspects testified in the trial including former Bugün reporter Cihan Acar, Türk Solu magazine chief columnist Gökçe Fırat Çuhlhoğlu, Zaman reporters Habip Güler and Halil İbrahim Balta submitted their final statements. Former Haberdar journalist Ahmet Memiş, Zaman journalist Ali Akkuş, Aksiyon reporter Bünyamin Köseli, Meydan columnist Atilla Taş and former Subuo News editor-in-chief Muhammet Sait Kuloğlu, who were released pending trial, also testified in the trial. Initially, there were 29 defendants, but in the 22-23 February hearing, the case of Emre Soncan, a Zaman defense correspondent. Defendants mostly explained what they had meant in a certain tweet or article, highlighting the true character of the case as a free speech trial. Cihan Acar noted that ten tweets he posted within two hours were included as evidence against him: “Will I still be accused if I could take those two hours out of my life?” Other journalists argued that their articles only showed their support for the government. The defendants include columnist Murat Aksoy, former singer and Meydan columnist Atilla Taş and Habertürk network’s former broadcasts coordinator Oğuz Usluer. Abdullah Kılıç, a former news coordinator for the Habertürk newspaper, testified first. He said he had no ties to any terror group. He also read his tweets condemning the coup posted as the coup attempt occurred on 15 July 2016. He shared several articles and tweets criticizing the Fethullah Gülen network. The case of former Zaman defense reporter Emre Soncan — who now faces new charges in another case — was separated in the hearing. In the previous hearing, the prosecutor asked for prison terms of between 7.5 to 15 years for 24 of the of the suspects on charges of membership and again for up to 15 years in prison for three on charges of having aided a terrorist group without being its member.

Background of trial

In the first hearing of the trial on 31 March, 21 defendants were released from prison. However, the judges were swiftly suspended and eight were rearrested following a prosecutor’s objection to the release ruling — now possible under a Cabinet decree. For the other 13, the prosecutors launched a new investigation which was later merged with this trial. The charges of “attempting to overthrow the government”, for which the punishment is a life sentence, were dropped later for all 13 and the initial accusation of “terror organization membership” remained in place for most of the suspects. The prosecutor submitted his final opinion in a session in February. The defendants for whom the prosecutor demands 7.5 to 15 years for terror organization membership are: Atilla Taş
(Meydan newspaper), Bayram Kaya (Zaman newspaper), Cemal Azmi Kalyoncu, Cihan Acar (Bugün newspaper), Emre Soncan (Zaman), Habip Güler(Zaman), Halil İbrahim Balta(Zaman), Hanım Büşra Erdal(Zaman), Ufuk Şanlı (Millet), Cuma Ulus (Habertürk), Mutlu Çolgeçen (Sabah), Amet Memiş (Haberdar), Ünal Tanık (Rota haber news website), Büyük Namık, Mustafa Erkan Acar (Zaman) and Oğuz Usluer (Habertürk TV). For Murat Aksoy (Yeni Şafak, and later independent columnist) and Gökçe Fırat Çulhaoğlu (Türk Solu) the prosecutor asked for “aiding a terror organization without its membership”, which is punishable by between 7.5 to 15 years.

Bülent Ceyhan, a former Habertürk employee, and Sait Sefa, the editor-in-chief of the Haberdar news website, are wanted as fugitives in the case. The defendants are accused on the basis of their articles and tweets, although a few are also accused of using ByLock, a mobile application which the government links to affiliation with the Gülen network, which it calls as FETÖ/PDY, or the Fethullahist Terror Organization/Parallel State Structure.

PRISON SENTENCE: 6 years and 3 months

LEGISLATION USED: Turkish Criminal Law (TCK) 314-2

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: Istanbul, Silivri Prison

CONDITIONS of DETENTION:

Information on his conditions of detention and health concerns can be found in a questionnaire by Platform 24 (P24).

The Turkish version of the questionnaire is available here.

HEALTH CONCERNS: See the questionnaire

SOURCES:

For more information in English:


https://cpj.org/data/people/abdullah-kilic/index.php

For more information in Turkish:

Bianet: https://medyagozlemveritabani.org/gazeteci-abdullah-kilica-orgut-uyeliginden-6-yil-3-ay-hapis-cezasi-verildi/


(Kurdish and English versions are available)
On his application to the European Court of Human Rights:


On the ruling of the Court of Appeal:


ABDULLAH OZYURT

DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Reporter for Zaman newspaper and Cihan News Agency

DATE of ARREST: He was ordered arrested on the 25 July 2016.

DETAILS of ARREST:

Source 1: International Press Institute

Police detained Abdullah Özyurt, a reporter for Zaman, shortly after the failed July 15, 2016 coup attempt during sweeps targeting journalists believed to be part of the religious movement led by Pennsylvania-based cleric Fethullah Gülen, who Turkey’s government accuses of having established a “parallel state structure” and for being behind the coup attempt. Özyurt was ordered arrested and placed in pre-trial detention on July 25, 2016.

DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: Committee to Protect Journalists

A court in the southern province of Adana on July 25, 2016, ordered Abdullah Özyurt, a reporter for the shuttered daily newspaper Zaman, jailed pending trial as part of a sweeping purge of journalists and others suspected of following exiled preacher Fethullah Gülen, the daily newspaper Evrensel reported, citing the Doğan News Agency. The government accuses Gülen of maintaining a terrorist organization and "parallel state structure" (or FETÖ/PDY, as the government calls it) within Turkey that it blames for orchestrating a failed military coup on July 15, 2016. The Evrensel report did not specify when police detained the journalist. Zaman was among the more than 100 newspapers, broadcasters, news agencies, and magazines the Turkish government ordered closed by decree on July 27, 2016, using emergency powers it assumed after the attempted coup, saying the media outlets were FETÖ/PDY mouthpieces, according to Turkey’s Official Gazette. CPJ research shows that Turkish authorities have persistently targeted Zaman journalists with prosecutions and arrest on allegations of terrorism. As of late 2016, Özyurt was jailed in Hatay Prison, a family member told CPJ, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of retribution.

Source 3: Expression Interrupted

The 11th High Criminal Court of Adana sentenced Gezici, who was the only imprisoned defendant in the case, as well as Yüksel Evsen and Mustafa Naim Yağcı, to nine years in prison, while Abdullah Özyurt, a former reporter for the Zaman daily, who had been released and put on house arrest in September, to 7 years and 6 months in jail. An arrest warrant was issued for Özyurt.

PRISON SENTENCE: 7 years and 6 months

LEGISLATION USED: Turkish Criminal Law 314\2

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: N/A

CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A

HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

SOURCES:

For more information in Turkish:

https://medyagozlemveritabani.org/ zaman-gazetesi-muhabiri-abdullah-ozyurta-feto-uyeliginden-7-yil-6-ay-hapis-cezasi-verildi/
Ahmet Altan, a renowned novelist and former editor-in-chief of the now-defunct Taraf newspaper, was first arrested on 10 September 2016 along with his brother, Mehmet Altan, over alleged links with a network led by exiled cleric Fethullah Gülen, which the government accuses of maintaining a terrorist organization — “the Fetullahist Terrorist Organization (FETÖ/PDY)” — and of staging a failed coup attempt on 15 July 2016. Altan and his brother were arrested for giving “subliminal messages” in support of the coup attempt during a television program they attended on the shuttered Can Erzincan TV on the night of 14 July 2016. This accusation was later dropped following an international backlash. On 21 September, they were questioned by the prosecutor of the case. According to minutes of the interview, Altan was charged with “attempting to overthrow the government,” “being a member of an armed terrorist organization” and “propaganda for a terrorist organization.” On 22 September, the Istanbul 10th Criminal Judgeship of Peace ordered Altan be released on judicial control and banned him from traveling abroad. His brother Mehmet Altan was jailed pending trial. But on 23 September, Altan was rearrested less than 24 hours later, following an objection from the prosecutor. According to the arrest decision reviewed by P24, the Taraf newspaper was founded to implement FETÖ’s goals and that its coverage of a series of alleged conspiracies such as Balyoz and Ergenekon cases was an attempt to shape the public opinion in line with instructions. It also said Altan’s comments during the Can Erzincan TV program on 14 July 2016 indicated that he had known about the coup attempt beforehand and cited his columns as further evidence that he had attempted to “overthrow the government” and is a “member of FETÖ/PDY.” Altan’s lawyers filed an individual application with the Constitutional Court on behalf of him on 8 November 2016. More than two months later, the lawyers took his case to the European Court of Human Rights on 12 January 2017, citing lack of action from the Turkish Constitutional Court. The European Court of Human Rights responded in February that although it does not give the application a formal priority treatment under its Rule 41, it will take it up as soon as possible. In June 2017, the Strasbourg court further said that it had asked the Turkish government to present its defense on applications regarding the ongoing pre-trial detention of seven Turkish journalists, namely Ahmet and Mehmet Altan, Nazlı Ilıcak, Murat Aksoy, Atilla Taş, Şahin Alpay and Ali Bulaç. In a letter to the Altan brothers’ lawyers, the court said that it gave the Turkish government until 4 October 2017 to respond to a set of questions about the pre-trial detention of the journalists. Ahmet Altan has been indicted along with 16 other people, including his brother, Mehmet Altan, and Nazlı Ilıcak. State news agency Anadolu announced on 15 June 2017 that an indictment against the 17 people has been accepted by Istanbul 26th High Criminal Court. The indictment sought three aggravated life sentences for Altan and his brother Mehmet Altan, as well as Nazlı Ilıcak, who co-hosted the program on Can Erzincan TV on the night of 14
July 2016, on charges of “attempting to overthrow the constitutional order, Parliament, and the government.” They also face an additional prison term of up to 15 years for “aiding a terrorist organization without being members.”

The full text of the indictment against Altan and other defendants — in Turkish — is available here.

The first hearing of Altan’s trial was held on 19-23 June at Istanbul 26th High Criminal Court, at the end of which the judges ruled to keep him and five other imprisoned defendants in jail. The next hearing of the trial was held on 19 September 2017.

Altan’s defense statement, which he presented to the court from prison via video conferencing system, is available here.

On 19 September, Altan attended the second hearing of his trial again via video conferencing system from Silivri Prison, where he was held.

The full text of Altan’s statement to the court is available here.

The court again ruled to keep all imprisoned defendants, including Altan, behind bars at the end of the second hearing, citing the gravity of the charges, length of the prison term that the charges carry and the possibility that the defendants might flee. The third hearing in the trial was held on 13 November. At the end of the trial, where all four of the Altan brothers’ lawyers were expelled from the courtroom for trying to speak on procedural issues, the court again decided to keep all imprisoned defendants behind bars.

A summary of the hearing is available here.

The fourth hearing was held on 11 December 2017, at the 26th High Criminal Court of Istanbul. The prosecutor submitted his final opinion in the hearing, asking for an aggravated life sentence for six of the suspects on charges of “attempting to overthrow the Constitutional order,” under Article 309/1 of the Turkish Penal Code (TCK). The court also ruled, in its interim decision, to keep all of the imprisoned suspects in prison and adjourned the session until February. The final hearing in the case was held on 12-16 February 2018. The first day of the five-day hearing took place in Çağlayan Courthouse in downtown Istanbul but the rest of the trial was moved to Silivri at the decision of the presiding judge. Altan presented his final defense statement to the court on the second day of the hearing. Altan’s statement was interrupted several times by the chief judge, who warned him concerning the contents of his statement. The judge warned Altan that his microphone would be switched off in case he “continued to divert from the prosecutor’s final opinion” and went on to “criticize the president.” In the face of the warning by the chief judge, Altan had to skip two pages towards the end of his defense statement.

The full text of the defense statement presented to the court by Altan is available here.

The court announced its verdict at the end of the five-day hearing on 16 February, sentencing Altan and five other imprisoned defendants to aggravated life in prison for “attempting to overthrow the constitutional order.”

The appeal process

After the verdict was taken to appeal, the 2nd Criminal Chamber of the Istanbul Regional Court of Justice, which acts as an appellate court, formally accepted the case on 27 June 2018. With that decision, the court ruled to release Mehmet Altan based on an earlier Constitutional Court ruling but decided to keep the rest of the defendants, including Ahmet Altan, in jail. The first appeal hearing took place on 21 September 2018, when all six defendants in the case made their defense statements before the 2nd Criminal Chamber of the Istanbul Regional
Court of Justice. After the defense statements, the prosecutor submitted his final opinion of the case, insisting on the original charge and requesting that the defendants be given aggravated life sentences for “attempting to overthrow the constitutional order.” Issuing an interim ruling at the end of the hearing, the appellate court rejected requests from defense lawyers for the release of the five imprisoned defendants and adjourned the trial until 2 October 2018 to allow time for the defendants and their lawyers to prepare their final defense statements. During the final hearing on 2 October, all six defendants made their final defense statements in response to the prosecutor’s final opinion. Ahmet Altan was the last defendant to address the court during the hearing. “This ugly vaudeville of a trial that began with ‘subliminal messages’ and reached its peak with the prosecutor’s latest accusation of ‘intangible threat’ has shown us the truth we have been facing,” Altan said, adding: “Firstly, that a certain someone is hellbent on our continued imprisonment. Secondly, that it is impossible to keep us in prison through lawful methods. And, that some members of the judiciary can even risk their reputation, or committing crime due to the desperation that is caused by the conflict between the desire to keep us in jail at all costs and the reality of the rule of law.” “There is not even one substantial evidence in this case file,” Altan continued, adding; “That is why [the prosecution] has been coming up with absurdities like ‘subliminal message,’ ‘immaterial force’ and ‘intangible threat.’” “I do not mind spending my life in a prison cell because I feel as though I have been wandering among the pages of a comic book. Nothing seems be of gravity or scary,” Altan said. “If you try and reach a guilty verdict based on accusations such as ‘subliminal,’ ‘immaterial force’ or ‘intangible threat’ that verdict loses all its gravity.” “Can an intangible threat be supported with substantial evidence?” Altan asked, adding that the prosecutor’s final opinion was also ignoring the Constitutional Court’s judgment in favor of Mehmet Altan by way of alleging crime without concrete evidence. Announcing its verdict at the end of the hearing, the 2nd Criminal Chamber of the Istanbul Regional Court of Justice rejected the appeals against the aggravated life sentences given in February by the trial court, and ruled for the continuation of detention of all imprisoned defendants in the case. The case is now headed for the Supreme Court of Appeals, which is the second phase in the appeal process.

Supreme Court of Appeals ruling

On 8 January 2019, the Office of the General Prosecutor of the Supreme Court of Appeals requested the reversal of the appellate court’s verdict in the case. The Office of the General Prosecutor said in their judicial opinion submitted to the 16th Criminal Chamber of the Supreme Court of Appeals that Ahmet Altan, Mehmet Altan and Nazlı Ilıcak should have been charged with “aiding a terrorist organization without being its member” instead of the much serious charge of “attempting to overthrow the constitutional order.” The judicial opinion asserted that “force and violence” were the essential elements of the charge of “attempting to overthrow the constitutional order” as described in TCK 309, adding that the concepts of “immaterial force” or “threat” were unacceptable in proving this charge in respect of the principle of legality. In the event the Chamber rules in line with the Office of the General Prosecutor’s judicial opinion, the case file against the Altan brothers and Ilıcak will return to the trial court for retrial, this time on the charge of “aiding a terrorist group.” On 16 January 2019, Altan’s lawyer Figen Çalışkuşu filed a petition with the 16th Criminal Chamber of the Supreme Court of Appeals in response to the general prosecutor’s judicial opinion. Çalışkuşu asserted in her petition that the new accusation
sought for Altan in the judicial opinion, “aiding a terrorist organization without being its member,” was unacceptable and that her client should be acquitted and released. On 5 July 2019, the 16th Criminal Chamber of the Supreme Court of Appeals overturned the verdict rendered by the trial court that sentenced Ahmet Altan, Mehmet Altan, Nazlı Ilıcak and three of their co-defendants to aggravated life imprisonment on the charge of “Attempting to overthrow the constitutional order.” The Chamber ruled that Mehmet Altan should be acquitted while Ahmet Altan and Nazlı Ilıcak should face the lesser charge of “aiding a terrorist organization without being its member.”

Retrial
The 26th High Criminal Court of Istanbul, issuing its decision for retrial on 18 July 2019, said it would take up the case on 8 October 2019. The court rejected the requests for Ahmet Altan, Nazlı Ilıcak and their three co-defendants, who have all been in pre-trial detention for more than three years as part of this case, to be released pending trial. The retrial of the “coup” case against Ahmet Altan, his brother, Mehmet Altan, and their four co-defendants got under way on 8 October 2019 at the 26th High Criminal Court of Istanbul. At the end of the hearing, the court decided to abide by the Supreme Court of Appeals ruling and to keep the five imprisoned defendants in the case in pre-trial detention. The trial adjourned until 4 November 2019.

Verdict and release
The second hearing of the retrial of Altans case took place on 4 November 2019 at the 26th High Criminal Court of Istanbul. Announcing its verdict at the end of the hearing, the court convicted both Ahmet Altan and Nazlı Ilıcak of “aiding a terrorist organization without being its member” and ruled to release both, taking into consideration the time they spent in pre-trial detention. The court handed down Ahmet Altan a prison sentence of 10 years and 6 months. Ruling in line with the prosecutor’s final opinion, the court acquitted Mehmet Altan and lifted the judicial control measures imposed on him. The court convicted the three remaining defendants in the case — Fevzi Yazıcı, Yakup Şimşek and Şükrü Tuğrul Özşengül — of “membership in a terrorist group” and ruled for the continuation of their detention. Altan was released from the Silivri Prison later on 4 November 2019 as per the court’s ruling after spending 1,138 days behind bars as part of this case.

Prosecutor’s objection and re-arrest
The Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office objected to Altan’s release on 6 November 2019. The trial court rejected the objection, which was then reviewed by the 27th High Criminal Court of Istanbul, the next court of first instance, which is authorized to review decisions by the 26th High Criminal Court. Accepting the prosecutor’s objection, the 27th High Criminal Court ruled on 12 November 2019 for Altan’s re-arrest on the grounds that “the judicial control measures imposed on him” remained “insufficient considering flight risk … the intensity of his actions, the duration of the prison sentence he was given, the time he spent in detention on remand … as well as his conduct following his release.” The court refused to notify Altan’s lawyer Çalıkuşu of the ruling. News of the ruling and the arrest warrant against Altan was made public by the pro-government Sabah daily first. Altan was re-arrested at around 9 p.m. on 12 November at his Istanbul home, several hours after the 27th High Criminal Court issued a warrant for Altan as it revoked the 26th High Criminal Court’s order for his release. He was taken to the Istanbul Police Department, where he remained in custody until the next day. On 13 November, Altan appeared before the 27th High Criminal Court, where he was informed about the decision for his re-arrest. Altan was sent back
to the Silivri Prison on 13 November 2019, only eight days after his release pending appeal.

**Constitutional Court application**

Altan’s lawyers filed an individual application with the Constitutional Court on behalf of him on 8 November 2016. Two months later, on 12 January 2017, the lawyers took his case to the European Court of Human Rights, citing lack of action from the Constitutional Court. On 4 July 2018, the Constitutional Court’s First Section reviewed Altan’s individual application concerning admissibility and merits. The section then referred Altan’s application to the Plenary. On 26 April 2019, the Constitutional Court announced that its Plenary would finally take up Altan’s individual application, along with those filed on behalf of nine other journalists, including his co-defendant Nazlı Ilıcak, on 2 May 2019. Rendering its judgment on 3 May, the Plenary rejected Altan’s application, finding no rights violations in his file. The court also rejected the application of Nazlı Ilıcak, Altan’s co-defendant in the “coup” case. The court rendered all decisions, except for the one concerning Ilıcak’s file, through a majority vote. The Constitutional Court’s Plenary issued the judgments concerning its 3 May 2019 decisions on 26 June 2019 on its official website. The judgments concerning the rejected applications said, in a nutshell, that “the assessments made by the investigation authorities and the decisions rendered by the courts that ruled for [the journalists’] arrests could not be deemed as ‘arbitrary and baseless’.” In Ahmet Altan’s application, the President of the Constitutional Court Zühtü Arslan, Vice President Engin Yıldırım and three other justices disagreed with the majority opinion. All five judges were of the opinion that Altan’s arrest violated his rights to liberty and security and freedom of expression and freedom of the press.

“Propaganda” and “insult” cases

Altan is also charged with “spreading propaganda for a terrorist organization” and “insulting the president” in a separate case. The charges stem from an article Altan wrote in 2016, “Ezip Geçmek,” which is also included as evidence in the case file of the “coup” trial.

The indictment in Turkish is available here.

Both trials are overseen by the Istanbul 26th High Criminal Court. The first hearing of this case took place on 5 December 2017. Altan presented his defense statement during the hearing. At the second hearing, held on 4 January 2018, the prosecutor submitted his final opinion, demanding prison sentences for Altan on charges of “insulting the president” and “spreading propaganda for the terrorist organization (PKK)” through several expressions in Altan’s column. The Istanbul 26th High Criminal Court sentenced Altan to five years and 11 months in prison for “spreading propaganda for a terrorist organization” and “insulting the president” in his column at the end of the final hearing held on 28 February 2018. In his final defense statement to the court before the verdict was announced, Altan defended the views expressed in his column and pointed out once again the fact that he was put on trial twice for the same article. On 19 March 2019, Altan was given a prison sentence of 11 months and 20 days on the charge of “insulting the president” in a separate case where the accusation stemmed from a 2016 article titled “Yeni Ergenekon” that was published on P24’s website. The 30th Criminal Court of First Instance of Istanbul commuted the sentence to a fine of TL 7,000. Altan is currently in Silivri Prison, serving a 10-year and 6-month sentence he was given on 4 November 2019 at the end of the retrial of the Altans case.

**PRISON SENTENCE:** 10 years and 6 months

**CURRENT LEGAL STATUS:** Convicted
**CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION:** Silivri Prison, İstanbul

**CONDITIONS of DETENTION:**
Information on his conditions of detention and health concerns can be found in a [questionnaire](https://cpj.org/data/people/ahmet-husrevaltan/index.php) by Platform 24 (P24).

The Turkish version of the questionnaire is available [here](https://expressioninterrupted.com/tr/ahmet-altan/).

**HEALTH CONCERNS:** See questionnaire above.

**SOURCES:**

For more information in English:
https://cpj.org/data/people/ahmet-husrevaltan/index.php

For more information in Turkish:
https://expressioninterrupted.com/tr/ahmet-altan/

https://medyagozlemveritabani.org/?fwp_search=Ahmet%20Altan
AHMET FEYZULLAH ÖZYURT

DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Columnist

DATE of ARREST:

DETAILS of ARREST:
Source 1: Expression Interrupted

The 35 journalists are being sought on charges of “membership in a terrorist,” organization, the state-owned Anatolian News Agency said. The agency also reported that the warrants had been issued as part of a probe into the “media arm of the Fethullahist Terrorist Organization (FETÖ).”

Nine of the 35 journalists were taken into police custody in the morning of August 10. Those who were detained are BirGün newspaper’s internet editor Burak Ekici, shuttered Zaman daily’s and Cihan News Agency reporter Muhsin Pilgir, İhlas news agency investigations chief editor Ömer Faruk Aydemir, Cüneyt Seza Özkan who worked as a news editor at the shuttered Samanyolu Haber news station, former Türkiye newspaper columnist Ahmet Sağılı, Yusuf Duran, Ahmet Feyzullah Özyurt, Sait Gürkan Tuzlu and Mutlu Özay.

DETAILS of TRIAL: N/A

PRISON SENTENCE: N/A

LEGISLATION USED: Turkish Criminal Law 314/2

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: N/A

CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A

HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

SOURCES:

For more information in English:

For more information in Turkish:
Ahmet Memiş, a reporter for Haberdar, was ordered arrested on Sept. 2, 2016 as part of a purge of journalists allegedly linked to U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gülen, who Turkey’s government accuses of having established a “parallel state structure” and who it blames for the failed July 15, 2016 coup attempt. Memiş is one of 29 journalists charged in a case accusing them of having been part of the Gülen movement’s “media wing”. They face up to 10 years in prison if convicted. As of May 2, 2017, other journalists imprisoned in connection with the case include Abdullah Kılıç, Atilla Taş, Bayram Kaya, Bünaymim Köseli, Cemal Azmi Kalyoncu, Cihan Acar, Cuma Ulus, Emre Soncan, Gökçe Fırat Çulhaoğlu, Habib Güler, Halil İbrahim Balta, Hanım Büşra Erdal, Hüseyin Aydın, Murat Aksoy, Mustafa Erkan Acar, Muhammed Sait Kuloğlu, Muhterem Tanık and Said Sefa, the latter of whom reportedly had fled the country. On March 31, 2017 a court in Turkey ordered 21 of the imprisoned defendants released conditionally, but prosecutors successfully objected to the release of eight of them and the release order for the other 13 was blocked hours later. The defendants – with the exception of Akkuş, who was freed after having been imprisoned since July 30, 2016 – remained behind bars and the judges who made the order were suspended. Prosecutors later brought new charges against 13 of the journalists on charges of trying to overthrow the government and the constitutional order. Those facing the new charges include Cihan Acar, Mustafa Erkan Acar, Akkuş, Aksoy, Aydın, Çetin, Çulhaoğlu, Abdullah Kılıç, Seyid Kılıç, Köseli, Taş, Usluer and Yıldız.

Police detained Ahmet Memiş, news coordinator of internet news portal Haberdar, on July 24, 2016. Memiş, then 42, turned himself in to police in Istanbul when he learned that they went to his home to detain him in his absence, according to press reports. According to court documents CPJ reviewed, the judge who ordered the journalist’s detention pending trial on suspicion of being a member of a terrorist organization asked him about his work for Haberdar and for the news website Rotahaber, where Memiş worked as an editor from 2010 to 2015. Both websites stopped operating soon after a failed military coup on July 15, 2016, amid a sweeping crackdown on suspected followers of exiled preacher Fethullah Gülen. The Turkish government accuses Gülen of maintaining a terrorist organization and parallel state structure, which it calls FETÖ/PDY and which it alleges was behind the attempted coup. The judge also asked Memiş if he had any involvement with a Twitter account named Fuat Avni (@fuatavni), which claims to be the work of someone from within Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan’s inner circle. Memiş denied any connection to the account. Memiş was asked...
about news reports on Fuat Avni’s tweets in Rotahaber and whether he was in any way responsible for publishing opinion columns in Haberdar. Memiş’s wife, Pınar Memiş, told CPJ that her husband decided to prepare his own defense for the trial because they could not afford legal fees. The Turkish legal system allows defendants to ask for a public defender if they cannot afford a lawyer. “He was not a member of a [terrorist organization], he did not aide them financially. He was just a journalist,” Pınar Memiş said. Memiş is on trial with several other journalists. In the original indictment, all but one of them were charged with “being a member of an armed [terrorist] organization,” which carries up to 10 years in prison, according to reports. The indictment accused the defendants of manipulating public perception of FETÖ to turn people against the government, which, prosecutors argued, made them members of the group. CPJ found the indictment to be similar to those presented at trials of other journalists in Turkey. Prosecutors cited as evidence journalistic activity or acts of free speech and communication, or cited circumstantial evidence such as being employed by a certain media outlet or having an account at a bank allegedly linked to Gülenists. In Memiş’s case, prosecutors cited as evidence his employment at Haberdar and Rotahaber and alleged that he published content from, and reports about, the Fuat Avni Twitter account. When the trial started in March 2017, an Istanbul court ordered Memiş and several of the other journalists to be released while the case was heard, according to news reports. Prosecutors successfully appealed the decision, and authorities ordered an investigation into the judges who had ordered the release and they were relieved of duty, according to the reports. An Istanbul court on March 8, 2018, found Memiş and at least 21 of the other journalists on trial guilty of “being a member of a [terrorist] organization,” and sentenced Memiş to seven years and six months in prison, according to reports. The court acquitted all the defendants of the more serious coup-related charges in the second indictment. At least 18 of the journalists were sent to prison for varying prison terms. Two of them—Atilla Taş and Murat Aksoy—were sentenced and released for time served, and the journalists Bünyamin Köseli and Cihan Acar remain free pending the appeal, according to reports. Lawyers for the journalists told CPJ they are appealing the verdict. As of late 2018, the local appeal process was ongoing. As of late 2018, Memiş was being detained in Silivri Prison, Istanbul.

**Source 3:** *Bianet* – 9 March 2018

**Sentence Passed in ‘FETÖ Media Organization’ in Which 28 Journalists Tried**

Sentence has been passed in trial of 28 media workers 18 of whom are arrested including journalist Murat Aksoy and musician Atilla Taş charged with “being a member of an illegal organization” and “attempting coup”. Sentence has been passed in trial of 28 media workers 18 of whom are arrested including journalist Murat Aksoy and musician Atilla Taş charged with “being a member of an illegal organization” and “attempting coup”. The defendants are accused of being affiliated with "Fethullahist Terrorist Organization (FETÖ)“ media organization. İstanbul 25th Heavy Penal Court ordered acquittal of all defendants over charge of “coup attempt“. Taş and Aksoy received sentence over “aid” The court separated files of Bülent Ceyhan and Said Sefa whose warrants weren’t executed. The court sentenced Atilla Taş to 3 years 1 month and 15 days in prison on charge of “Knowingly and willingly aiding an illegal organization as a non-member”. The court rejected prosecutor’s demand for arrest of Taş. International travel ban imposed on Taş continues. The court sentenced Murat Aksoy to 2 years and 1 month in prison on charge of “Knowingly and willingly aiding an illegal organization as a non-member”. The court rejected prosecutor’s demand for
arrest of Aksoy. International travel ban imposed on Aksoy continues.

One acquittal

Defendant Muhterem Tanık was acquitted of all charges.

Jail term for “membership”

The court sentenced defendants Ahmet Memiş, Ali Akkuş, Muhammet Sait Kuloğlu, Multlu Çölgeçen, Seyid Kılıç, Ünal Tanık, Erkan Acar, Oğuz Usluer, Davut Aydın, Ufuk Şanlı, Yetkin Yıldız, Cuma Ulus to 7 years and 6 months in prison on charge of “being a member of an illegal organization. Cihan Acar, Bünyamin Köseli, İbrahim Balta, Bayram Kaya, Cemal Azmi Kalyoncu, Habip Güler, Hanım Büşra Erdal, Yakup Çetin, Hüseyin Aydın, Abdullah Kılıç ve Gökcə Fırat Çulhaoğlu were sentenced to 6 years and 3 months in prison by the same charge.

One arrest

Ali Akkuş, who was pending trial without arrest, was arrested. The names of those tried in alphabetical order is as follows:


CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested

PRISON SENTENCE: 7 years and 6 months

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: Istanbul, Silivri Prison

CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A

HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

SOURCES:

For more information in English:

For more information in Turkish:
https://medyagozlemveritabani.org/gazeteci-ahmet-memise-orgut-uyeliginden-7-yil-6-ay-hapis-cezasi-verildi/

First hearing:


Second hearing:


On the ruling of the Court of Appeal:
DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Columnist/op-ed contributor for Zaman newspaper. Former manager of Cihan media company which was affiliated with Feza Media Group. Feza Media Group is best known by publishing Zaman newspaper.

DATE of ARREST: 5 August 2016

DETAILS of ARREST:

Source 1: International Press Institute

Ahmet Metin Sekizkardeş, a columnist/op-ed contributor for Zaman newspaper, was ordered arrested on Aug. 5, 2016 as part of the government purge of individuals accused of spreading propaganda for the outlawed movement headed by U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gülen, who Turkey’s government accuses of having established a “parallel state structure” and who it blames for the failed July 15, 2016 coup attempt.

DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: International Press Institute

On April 27, 2017, an Istanbul court accepted an indictment against Sekizkardeş and 29 other former Zaman Media Group employees that accuses them of attempting to overthrow the government, the Constitution and Parliament, and which seeks three consecutive life sentences for each suspect. The indictment also seeks another 15 years for each suspect on charges of being members of a terrorist organisation. The indictment alleges that Zaman, which was founded in 1986, was fully taken over by the Gülen movement the following year and was able to continue operating only due to the group’s financial support. It also accuses the group of “using the media as a weapon” to “manipulate society”, and alleges that Zaman employed “columnists with ideas that could have supported the organization”. The newspaper was shuttered in May 2016 after it was seized by the state. As of April 28, 2017, other journalists imprisoned in the case include Ahmet Turan Alkan, Alaattin Güner, Ali Bulaç, Cuma Kaya, Faruk Akkan, Hakan Taşdelen, Hüseyin Turan, İbrahim Karayeğen, Mehmet Özdemir, Mümtazer Türköne, Murat Avcioğlu, Mustafa Ünal, Şahin Alpay, Şeref Yılmaz and Zafer Özsoy.

Source 2: Expression Interrupted

In his defense statement, Ahmet Metin Sekizkardeş rejected accusations that he had been a vice chair of the executive board in the company, adding that he is an academic. He also rejected allegations that he was a ByLock user, an encrypted messaging app purported to be used by the members of the Fethullah Gülen network. Sekizkardeş told the court that all of his academic work during his time with the Fatih University was under the supervision of the Higher Education Board (YÖK), adding that there was no court decision or any criminal investigation at the time suggesting that the university might be under the guidance of a terrorist group. Adding that accusations in the prosecutor’s final opinion were not substantial, Sekizkardeş requested his acquittal and release from detention.

Source 3: Platform 24 (P24)

Eighteen defendants whose files were separated from the ongoing trial into the columnists and employees of the shuttered Zaman newspaper appeared before the 13th High Criminal Court of Istanbul on April 27. They began making their
final defense statements in response to the accusations in the prosecutor’s final opinion, submitted during the previous hearing. Eight of the defendants -- Hüseyin Turan, Ahmet Metin Sekizkardes, Murat Avcioglu, Osman Nuri Arslan, Ahmet Irem, Zafer Ozsoy, Alaattin Guner and Cuma Kaya -- gave their defense statements during Friday’s session. The lawyer representing defendant Osman Nuri Ozturk requested that his file is separated from this case, while the court decided to hear the statement of Serif Yilmaz at a later session after his lawyer refused to address the court during Friday’s session on grounds of new evidence against him to have been presented through witness testimony. The hearing will continue with more defense statements on Monday, April 30.

PRISON SENTENCE: 9 years

LEGISLATION USED: Turkish Criminal Law 314\2

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: N/A

CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A

HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

SOURCES:

For more information in English:


On the Zaman trial:

https://m.bianet.org/bianet/medya/189901-zaman-davasini-basliyor-gazeteciler-darbesebbusu-ile-yargilaniyor

First hearing:

https://m.bianet.org/bianet/medya/189902-zaman-davasinin-ilk-durumasinda-saniklar-savunma-yapiyor


Second hearing:

https://m.bianet.org/bianet/medya/189968-zaman-davasinda-tahliye-yok

https://m.bianet.org/bianet/medya/192285-zaman-davasinda-uc-tahliye

Final hearing:

https://m.bianet.org/bianet/insan-haklari/195863-zaman-davasinda-esas-hakkinda-mutalaa-aciklandi

https://m.bianet.org/bianet/ifade-ozgurlugu/198939-zaman-davasinda-karar-6-gazeteciye-hapis-cezasi
Ahmet Yavaş, Erzurum correspondent for state-owned Turkish Radio and Television Network (TRT), was arrested on July 23, 2016 as part of a purge of journalists allegedly linked to U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gülen, who Turkey’s government accuses of having established a “parallel state structure” and who it blames for the failed July 15, 2016 coup attempt.

Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office has ordered detention for 34 former employers of TRT claimed to be users of ByLock, an encrypted communication software allegedly used among members of the Gülen Community. (İstanbul - BIA News Desk 12 July 2017, Wednesday 15:27) According to the report of the state-run Anadolu Agency, Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office has ordered the detention as a part of the investigation into members of "Fethullahist Terrorist Organization (FETÖ)" in state institutions and organizations. Eight TRT employees behind bars According to the quarterly Media Monitoring Reports by bianet, as of April 1, 2017, there are eight TRT employees among journalists taken into custody under the State of Emergency declared on July 20 and put behind bars. Since July 20, 63 journalists and media representatives working in national and local media outlets close to the Gülen Community were put behind bars. The names of the eight former TRT employees are as follows: Ahmet Yavaş (TRT radio Erzurum correspondent), Ali Yüce (TRT radio broadcasting manager), Ersin Şanlı (TRT domestic news manager), Hakan Aksel (TRT News and Sports Department Coordinator Assistant and Producer), Halil İbrahim Mert (TRT TV Erzurum cameraperson), Nuri Durna (TRT Erzurum correspondent), Yağış Güler (TRT Erzurum correspondent), Seyid Kılıç (TRT correspondent).
ALİ AHMET BÖKEN

DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Turkish Radio and Television Network (TRT) Coordinator, columnist for now-closed Samanyolu TV, which was allegedly linked to the Gülen movement.

DETAILS of ARREST:

Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

Ali Ahmet Böken, a former TRT News Coordinator, was arrested as part of a purge of journalists allegedly linked to U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gülen. Accused of “membership in a terrorist organisation”, he faces up to 15 years in prison. Böken was also a former columnist for now-closed Samanyolu TV, which was allegedly linked to the Gülen movement.

DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: Expression Interrupted

Former TRT executive Ali Ahmet Böken convicted of “membership in an armed terrorist organization” sentenced to 9 years, 9 months in prison. Jailed journalist Ali Ahmet Böken, a former executive for the Turkish public broadcaster TRT, was sentenced to 9 years and 9 months in prison on April 3, 2018, on the charge of “membership in a terrorist organization” during the final hearing of the trial against him at the 18th High Criminal Court of Ankara. Böken’s imprisonment on remand will continue during the appeal process, the court also ruled. In his closing statements, the prosecutor requested between 7.5 years and 15 years in prison for Böken for “membership in FETÖ,” the name given by the Turkish government to the religious Fethullah Gülen network. Böken said in his defense statement that he didn’t commit any crime and only did his job as a journalist. Böken also said he has never used ByLock, an encrypted mobile messaging application purported to be used exclusively by the members of the Fethullah Gülen network. He only used Kakao Talk, another application under scrutiny, Böken said, adding that his use of the app wasn’t related to the activities of any organization. “I didn’t do anything other than serving my country,” Böken said, as his lawyers demanded his acquittal. Böken has been in pretrial detention since August 2016 and was dismissed from the TRT in September 2016.

PRISON SENTENCE: 9 years and 9 months

LEGISLATION USED: Turkish Criminal Law 314/2

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: N/A

CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A

HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

SOURCES:

For more information in English:


For more information in Turkish:


ALİ AKKUŞ

**DATE of BIRTH:** N/A

**GENDER:** Male

**PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND:** Editor for Zaman newspaper

**DATE of ARREST:** 30 July 2016

**DETAILS of TRIAL:**

**Source 1:** International Press Institute (IPI)

An editor for Zaman newspaper, Ali Akkus was detained shortly after the failed July 15, 2016 coup attempt during sweeps targeting journalists believed to be part of the religious movement led by Pennsylvania-based cleric Fethullah Gülen, who Turkey’s government accuses of having established a “parallel state structure” and of being behind the coup attempt. Akkus is accused of “being a member of an armed terrorist organisation.”

**Source 2:** Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)

Ali Akkuş, a news editor for the shuttered daily Zaman, was taken into custody on March 8, 2018 after an Istanbul court found him guilty of "being a member of a [terrorist] organization, and sentenced him to seven years and six months in prison, according to reports. Police first detained Akkuş alongside dozens of other journalists in July 2016 as part of a broad purge of suspected followers of exiled preacher Fethullah Gülen, whom the Turkish government accuses of maintaining a terrorist organization and "parallel state structure" (FETÖ/PDY, by its Turkish acronym) and of masterminding a July 15, 2016, failed military coup. An Istanbul court in March 2016 ordered the Feza Media Group, which owned Zaman and several other media outlets, placed under trustees appointed by the government on the grounds that the court considered it a FETÖ/PDY mouthpiece. The government used emergency powers assumed after the failed July 15, 2016, military coup to order the newspaper closed by decree on July 27, 2016. In the indictment against Akkuş, prosecutors cited as evidence the journalist's employment at Zaman, as well as several of his tweets that were allegedly critical of the government and its oppression of Turkish media.

**PRISON SENTENCE:** 7 years, 6 months

**LEGISLATION USED:** N/A

**CURRENT LEGAL STATUS:** Arrested

**CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION:** N/A

**CONDITIONS of DETENTION:** N/A

**HEALTH CONCERNS:** N/A

**SOURCES:**

For more information in English:


For more information in Turkish:


ALİ AŞİKAR

DATE of BIRTH: N/A
GENDER: Male
PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Reporter for Azadiya Welat
DATE of ARREST: 26 August 2016

DETAILS of TRIAL:
Source 1: International Press Institution (IPI)

Ali Aşikar, a reporter of the now-closed Azadiya Welat, was arrested on Aug. 26, 2016 and charged with “committing crime in the name of a terrorist organisation.” Aşikar was detained along with Erdem Mühirci from Dicle News Agency (DİHA) on accusations of terrorist propaganda and held in Van M-type prison. Azadiya Welat, one of Turkey’s first Kurdish-language daily newspapers, was shut down on Oct. 29, 2016 under State of Emergency Decree 675.

PRISON SENTENCE: N/A
LEGISLATION USED: N/A
CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested
CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: Van M-type prison
CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A
HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

SOURCES:
For more information in English:

For more information in Turkish:
https://expressioninterrupted.com/tr/olaganustu-halde-gazeteciler-17/
DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Columnist for Zaman newspaper, author and translator

DATE of ARREST: 14 August 2016

DETAILS of ARREST:

Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

A columnist for Zaman newspaper, Ali Ünal was arrested on Aug. 14, 2016 at his home in the western province of Uşak. He is accused of being a follower of Pennsylvania-based cleric Fethullah Gülen, who Turkey’s government accuses of having established a “parallel state structure” and who it blames for the failed July 15, 2016 coup attempt.

DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

Ünal was charged with being a member of a terrorist organisation and reportedly sent to a detention facility in Istanbul on Aug. 15, 2016. In March 2016, an Istanbul court ordered the Feza Media Group, which owned Zaman, placed under trustees appointed by the government. Zaman was closed by government decree on July 27, 2016.

Source 2: Committee to Protect Journalists

Police detained Ali Ünal, a former columnist and lead writer for the shuttered daily newspaper Zaman, at his house in the western province of Uşak on August 14, 2016, as part of a sweeping purge of suspected followers of exiled preacher Fethullah Gülen, according to press reports. The government accuses Gülen of maintaining a terrorist organization and "parallel state structure" (or FETÖ/PDY, as the government calls it) within Turkey that it blames for orchestrating a failed military coup on July 15, 2016. Authorities transferred Ünal to a detention facility in Istanbul on August 15, 2016, CNN Turk reported, and a court in Istanbul arraigned the journalist the following day on accusations of "being a member of an armed terrorist organization," "aiding a [terrorist] organization," and "making propaganda for a [terrorist] organization," according to press reports, which did not identify the name of the detention center where he was held. A court in March 2016 ordered the government to appoint trustees to manage Feza Media Group, which formerly published Zaman, saying the company had links to FETÖ/PDY. The government then used emergency powers it assumed after the failed July 2016 coup attempt to order the newspaper closed by decree. Police have arrested dozens of former Zaman journalists on terrorism charges, citing their former employment at the newspaper as evidence. In July 2017, the state-run Anatolia News Agency reported that prosecutors presented a 228-page indictment against Ünal to the 2nd Uşak Court of Serious Crimes. The indictment did not specify the exact charges but said that authorities recognized Ünal as a leader of FETÖ. If convicted, the journalist could be sentenced to two life sentences without the possibility of parole plus a further 29 and a half years. Anatolia reported that the indictment described Ünal as head writer for Zaman and claimed he was “managing the media operations of FETÖ” to manipulate the public. The indictment claimed that Ünal was allegedly close to and in direct contact with Gülen; had traveled abroad 46 times and met
with Gülen on most trips; and translated some of Gülen’s books, Anatolia reported. The indictment did not specify the time frame for the alleged travel and meetings. The indictment added that Ünal had an app called Kakoa Talk, which is similar to Bylock, the encrypted communication app that authorities claim is evidence of FETÖ membership. Ünal also had an account at Bank Asya, which the government also claims is evidence of FETÖ membership. The first hearing of the trial was held on January 4, 2018, the state-owned Anatolia Agency reported. In his court testimony, Ünal said the only connection he had with the Fethullah Gülen community was as a columnist and translator. He said he had an account at Bank Asya because that was how he was paid for his work at Zaman. Ünal denied installing the Kakoa Talk program on his phone. Ünal denied all the charges against him and said he was against military coups. In another hearing on July 18, 2018, Ünal said he did not travel to the U.S. under the orders of an organization and he does not have a close relationship with Fethullah Gülen, reports said. “I have no activity, but my writing. I am on trial for my ideas. I just wrote columns,” Ünal said at the hearing. The prosecution and their witnesses argue that Ünal was a close adviser to Fethullah Gülen according to the same reports. Ünal’s trial was ongoing in late 2018, reports said. As of late 2018, CPJ was unable to find contact details for a legal representative for Ünal. He was held in Izmir No.2 F Type prison, according to news reports. A court in Uşak on November 14, 2018 convicted Ali Ünal, a former columnist for the shuttered daily Zaman, of “founding and leading an armed terrorist organization” and sentenced him to 19 years and six months in prison, the news website Diken reported. The court acquitted the journalist of coup-related charges, which could have resulted in life sentences, according to the report. In his final statement to the court, Ünal said that he was not named as an organization leader in any other FETÖ trials so he did not understand why he was being tried as one. He said, “I have no connections to any terrorist organizations. I started to travel to the U.S. after 1996 for translating books. I have met with Fethullah Gülen five to six times. He liked me asking questions, so I have had some meetings. I do not know anybody from the organization’s structure in the military, judiciary or police. The prosecution accuses me of “attempting to overthrow the constitutional order.” I heard of the coup on July 16, on the TV.”

Source 3: Expression Interrupted

Ali Ünal was a longtime columnist for the Zaman daily, which was shut down through a statutory decree under Turkey’s state of emergency in the aftermath of the failed coup attempt of 15 July 2016. Ünal was taken into custody on 14 August 2016 in his hometown of Uşak as part of an investigation into the members of the religious movement led by Fethullah Gülen, labeled in 2016 by the government as a terrorist organization and accused of being the perpetrators behind the failed coup. Ünal, his brother, Mustafa Ünal, and two others who were arrested during the same operation were taken to the court on 16 August. The court jailed all four on the charges of “membership in an armed terrorist organization,” “aiding a terrorist organization” and “disseminating propaganda for a terrorist organization.” The indictment into Ali Ünal was submitted to the 2nd High Criminal Court of Uşak in July 2017, almost one year after Ünal was jailed pending trial. The 228-page document accused Ünal of being one of “the leaders of FETÖ/PDY” and claimed he had direct ties to Fethullah Gülen. The indictment said Ünal translated Gülen’s books, made 46 trips abroad, and he met with Gülen during a majority of those trips. The indictment sought two life sentences for Ünal for being an administrator of “FETÖ/PDY” and an additional 29.5 years in prison. Evidence against Ünal includes 17 of his newspaper columns and various spoken
remarks. His cell phone, seized by authorities during his arrest, is subject to examination as part of the case. The first hearing of Ali Ünal’s trial on the charges of “attempting to overthrow the constitutional order,” “establishing and leading an armed terrorist organization” and “membership in a terrorist organization” was held on 4 January 2018 at the 2nd High Criminal Court of Uşak. Ünal’s brother is a co-defendant in the case. In his defense statement during the nine-hour hearing, Ali Ünal talked about the 17 newspaper columns for which he is indicted. Asserting that he had been in prison for 17 months, Ünal pleaded for his release. In its interim ruling at the end of the hearing, the panel ruled for the separation of Mustafa Ünal’s file and his release under judicial control measures while ordering the continuation of Ali Ünal’s detention. The court adjourned the trial until 27 February 2018. At the second hearing of the trial on 27 February, the trial court again ruled for the continuation of Ünal’s detention. The court adjourned the trial until 10 May 2018 to allow additional time for the examination of Ünal’s mobile phone. During the third hearing (For details about the third hearing on 10 May, the prosecution submitted additional evidence against Ünal, consisting of two newspaper columns and a news story published in pro-government dailies Yeni Akit and Akşam. Ünal’s lawyer, Ayşe Süeda Ünal, requested that Nurettin Veren, who penned the two Yeni Akit columns and Hasan Polat, a defendant in another case whose statement before the prosecutor was cited in the Akşam story, testify before the court. Ünal, who addressed the court via the video conferencing system SEGBİS from the Buca Kiriklar High Security Prison in İzmir, objected to Veren’s credibility as a witness, saying Veren used to be part of the Gülen movement for 30 years and he turned hostile against him after he had refused to support him as a witness in a lawsuit against Gülen. Ünal also responded to accusations against him, saying he was charged on the basis of 17 articles cited in the indictment but that 11 of them were published in 2011 and 2012 and had nothing to do with the charges. Ünal said the government had acted together with the Gülen movement until 17 December 2013, when news of a corruption investigation targeting businessmen and politicians close to the government broke out, and that the pro-government media had also strongly supported the group until that date. “It is unacceptable that such massive support from the government is left aside but I am put on trial for attempted coup by writing columns once a week,” Ünal said. “One of the biggest supporters of the group of which I am now accused of being a mastermind was the government,” he said. Ünal also denied accusations that he had supported alleged coup plot trials “Ergenekon” and “Balyoz,” saying there was not a single column where he clearly spoke in favor of these trials. “The biggest defender of these trials was Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and this is very well known by the public,” Ünal said. After Ünal completed his defense statement, the court went on to announce its interim decision in which it ruled that Veren and Polat testify as witnesses in a courtroom near their place of residence. The panel also ruled for the continuation of Ünal’s detention and adjourned the trial until 18 July 2018. The court also ruled to ask the Information and Communication Technologies Authority (BTK) again to determine the IMEI number of a mobile phone that was seized when Ünal was arrested. The phone was later returned to Ünal’s lawyer but, according to the lawyer, was lost when she moved her office. During the hearing, the presiding judge asked Ünal’s lawyer about the IMEI number, too, but the lawyer protested, asking why the authorities did not get the number during the 16 months when they preserved the device as evidence. The trial’s fourth hearing (For more information about the fourth hearing click here) was held on 18 July
2018. Yeni Akit columnist Nurettin Veren testified against Ünal during the hearing, after which the prosecutor submitted her final opinion. In his testimony via SEGBİS, Veren claimed that Ünal was among top level leaders of “FETÖ” and served as an aide to Fethullah Gülen. Ünal addressed the court via SEGBİS from the Buca Prison during the hearing. Responding to Veren’s testimony, Ünal said he rejected all allegations. He said Veren’s claims were baseless and false and added that he has never had secret meetings with Gülen nor taken any orders from him. Ünal also said he was not Gülen’s advisor. Noting that he spoke in nearly 1,000 conferences, all of which were public events, Ünal said that he was standing trial because of his thoughts and ideas. “I only wrote newspaper columns,” Ünal said. Two books written by Ünal were then submitted to the court as evidence against him. Ünal’s lawyer Ayşe Süeda Ünal addressed the court next. She said there was no ban in place for the books in question. “My client’s right to a fair trial is being violated. His name was not mentioned in the main FETÖ indictment,” the lawyer also said. The lawyer added that witnesses should be heard in the courtroom and that failing to observe this rule constituted a violation of the right to a fair trial. The prosecutor then submitted her final opinion of the case, seeking aggravated life sentences for Ünal on the separate coup charges of “attempting to overthrow the constitutional order,” “attempting to overthrow the parliament” and “attempting to overthrow the government” and an additional prison term of up to 20 years under Article 39 of the Turkish Penal Code, which covers “assisting a crime.” The prosecutor then merged aggravated life sentence charges under Article 309, as it encompasses other offences. Ünal was originally charged with participating in the coup attempt of July 2016 as well as “leading a terrorist organization” in the indictment. The prosecutor also requested that Ünal be remanded in prison.

Responding to the prosecutor’s final opinion, Ünal rejected the accusations and said the case file did not include even one evidence to prove the allegations. Ünal and his lawyer requested additional time to prepare the final defense statement in response to the prosecutor’s final opinion. In its interim ruling at the end of the hearing, the court ruled for the continuation of Ünal’s detention and adjourned the trial until 5 September 2018. The fifth hearing of the trial was held on 5 September in Uşak. The prosecutor temporarily replacing the original prosecutor in the case reiterated the charges in the prosecutor’s final opinion submitted during the previous hearing. Ünal then told the court that he was unable to prepare his final defense statement due to health issues and requested for additional time. His lawyer told the court that Ali Ünal was referred to a hospital for suspected cancer symptoms. The lawyer also requested for additional time for the defense statement. The chief judge agreed to grant additional time for the defense, but said the panel would proceed without hearing the final defense statement and announce its verdict in the event the defense is not ready by the next hearing, which is set for 14 November 2018. On 14 November, Ünal appeared before the 2nd High Criminal Court of Uşak for the final hearing. Before the announcement of the verdict, Ünal made his final defense statement. Addressing the court via SEGBİS from the Izmir No. 2 F Type High Security Prison, Ünal rejected the accusations. Explaining to the court that he has been a newspaper columnist for 26 years and that his columns appeared in Zaman for 20 years, Ünal said he wrote and translated dozens of books in Turkish and English.Asserting that his name did not appear in any other court cases targeting the Gülen movement, Ünal said he had not assumed any duties within the movement. Ünal told the court that none of the witnesses who testified in
his case could point to any substantial evidence to support the charge of “establishing and leading an armed terrorist organization.” After Ünal and his lawyer completed their final defense statements, the prosecutor requested Ünal’s conviction on the charges of “attempting to overthrow the constitutional order,” “establishing and leading an armed terrorist organization” and “membership in an armed terrorist organization.” Announcing its verdict following a brief recess, the panel of judges acquitted Ünal of “attempting to overthrow the constitutional order,” but convicted him of “establishing and leading an armed terrorist organization” and sentenced the columnist to 19 years and 6 months in prison. Ünal is still behind bars in the Izmir No. 2 F Type High Security Prison.

PRISON SENTENCE: 19 years and 6 months

LEGISLATION USED: Turkish Criminal Law 314/1

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: Izmir No. 2 F Type High Security Prison

CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A

HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

SOURCES:

For more information in English:


For more information in Turkish:


ALİ YÜCE

DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: TRT Radio Broadcast Chief

DATE of ARREST: 19 August 2016

DETAILS OF ARREST:

Source 1: International Press Institute

Ali Yüce, a broadcasting supervisor for state-owned Turkish Radio and Television Network (TRT), was ordered arrested on Aug. 19, 2016 as part of the government’s investigation following the July 15, 2016 coup attempt.

DETAILS OF TRIAL:

Source 1: Bianet, 12 July 2017

34 Detention Order for 34 Former TRT Staff

Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office has ordered detention for 34 former employers of TRT claimed to be users of ByLock, an encrypted communication software allegedly used among members of the Gülen Community. Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office has ordered detention for 34 former employers of Turkish Radio and Television Corporation (TRT) claimed to be users of ByLock, an encrypted communication software allegedly used among members of the Gülen Community. According to the report of the state-run Anadolu Agency, Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor’ Office has ordered the detention as a part of the investigation into members of "Fethullahist Terrorist Organization (FETÖ)" in state institutions and organizations.

Eight TRT employees behind bars

According to the quarterly Media Monitoring Reports by bianet, as of April 1, 2017, there are eight TRT employees among journalists taken into custody under the State of Emergency declared on July 20 and put behind bars. Since July 20, 63 journalists and media representatives working in national and local media outlets close to the Gülen Community were put behind bars. The names of the eight former TRT employees are as follows: Ahmet Yavaş (TRT radio Erzurum correspondent), Ali Yüce (TRT radio broadcasting manager), Ersin Şanlı (TRT domestic news manager), Hakan Aksel (TRT News and Sports Department Coordinator Assistant and Producer), Halil İbrahim Mert (TRT TV Erzurum cameraperson), Nuri Durna (TRT Erzurum correspondent), Yalçın Güler (TRT Erzurum correspondent), Seyid Kılıç (TRT correspondent).

PRISON SENTENCE: N/A

LEGISLATION USED: N/A

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: Ankara Sincan L Type Prison

CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A

HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

SOURCES:

For more information in Turkish:

https://bianet.org/bianet/insan-haklari/188217-34-eski-trt-calisani-hakkinda-gozalti-karari#
AYŞENUR PARILDALK

DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Female

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Editor for zaman newspaper

DATE of ARREST: Taken into custody on the 3rd of August, 2016, arrested on the 21st of November, 2017

DETAILS of ARREST:

Source 1: International Press Institute

Ayşenur Parıldak, an editor for the now-closed Zaman newspaper, was detained on Aug. 3, 2016. She is suspected of being a follower of U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gülen, who Turkey’s government blames for the July 15, 2016 coup attempt. Parıldak was ordered arrested on charges of “being a member of a terrorist organisation” on Aug. 11, 2016.

DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

At an Oct. 10, 2017 hearing, an Ankara court declined to order Parıldak’s release from pre-trial detention, citing new evidence in the case. Parıldak - who is accused of being a user of “Bylock”, a secretive, encrypted-communications application said to have been used by Gülen’s followers - convicted to 7 years 6 months imprisonment.

Source 2: Expression Interrupted

27-year-old Ayşenur Parıldak, a former court reporter for the shuttered Zaman and a student of law at the Ankara University, was arrested on the campus of her school on August 3, 2016 and imprisoned pending trial on August 11 on charges of “being a member of FETÖ terrorist organization.” Parıldak faces a prison term of 7.5 to 15 years on the formal charges of terrorist group membership. She appeared before a court in February for first hearing six months after her imprisonment. On May 1, Ankara 14th High Criminal Court ordered her release pending trial on judicial control and subject to a travel ban but she was rearrested hours later upon objection to her release by the prosecutor who cited new evidence regarding her alleged use of ByLock, an encrypted messaging application which authorities say is used exclusively by members of the Gülenist network and proof of “FETÖ membership.” Parıldak was convicted and sentenced to seven years and six months in jail for “membership in an armed terrorist organization” at the end of the hearing on November 21, 2017. In her final defense statement to the court, Parıldak rejected the accusation that she had used ByLock. She also denied that her social media posts cited by the prosecution constituted a crime and requested her acquittal.
The court originally sentenced Parıldak to nine years in jail but then reduced the sentence to seven years and six months, taking into consideration her “good conduct” during the trial. The court also ruled that Parıldak remain in prison while the verdict is appealed. Parıldak is currently behind bars in Ankara Women’s Prison.

PRISON SENTENCE: 7 years and 6 months

LEGISLATION USED: N/A

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested
CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: Ankara Women’s Prison

CONDITIONS of DETENTION:

Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

In a letter sent from prison in October 2016, Parıldak alleged that she had been subjected to sexual violence in prison and placed in solitary confinement.

HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

SOURCES:

For more information in English:

https://cpj.org/data/people/aysenur-parildak/index.php

For more information in Turkish:


https://bianet.org/bianet/medya/177720-zaman-gazetesi-nin-eski-muhabiri-aysenur-parildak-tutuklandi


AYTEKİN GEZİÇI

DATE of BIRTH: 10 October 1974

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Local journalist/writer


DETAILS of ARREST:
Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

Aytekin Gezici, a local journalist/writer, was ordered arrested on July 25, 2016 as part of the ongoing investigation into the failed July 15, 2016 coup attempt. Gezici is being held in the Adana-Kürkçüler E-type prison.

DETAILS of TRIAL:
Source 1: Expression Interrupted

Aytekin Gezici, who worked as a reporter for numerous local and nationwide media outlets throughout his journalism career, including the now closed down Zaman daily, was arrested in the southern Adana province on July 23, 2016. Gezici was arrested along with six other journalists as part of an investigation in the aftermath of the July 15 coup attempt. Gezici was jailed pending trial two days later, on July 25, 2016. A total of 11 people in Adana, among them owners of several local TV stations and newspapers, were detained as part of the same investigation. Among them, Gezici and one other journalist were jailed while the remaining nine were released pending trial under various judicial control measures. At the end of the investigation, an indictment was issued against 13 individuals that also included Gezici. The indictment accused all 13 suspects of “membership in the Fethullahist Terrorist Organization,” seeking up to 15 years imprisonment for each. The 11th High Criminal Court of Adana accepted the indictment and the trial got underway on March 10, 2017. During the second hearing of the case on April 7, 2017, Gezici addressed the court from the Hatay Prison via the videoconferencing system SEGBİS. Gezici rejected the accusations. During the third hearing of the trial on June 9, 2017, Gezici again addressed the court via SEGBİS. Gezici told the court that he was being accused based on false testimony by a witness. Gezici said the witness was a member of a terrorist group. He also requested for his release. The court ruled for the continuation of Gezici’s detention and adjourned the trial until July 12, 2017. The prosecutor submitted his final opinion of the case during that hearing, requesting that seven of the defendants — Aytekin Gezici, Abdullah Özyurt, Yüksel Evsen, Rifat Söylemez, Abdurrahim Haklikul, Mustafa Naim Yağışlı and Osman Palamut — are convicted of “terrorist group membership” and the remaining four, Hakan Bülent Yardımcı, Taner Talaş, Ali Bekmezci ve Salim Büyükkaya, are acquitted. The court ruled for the continuation of detention of Gezici and Özyurt and adjourned the case until September. Gezici addressed the court once again via the videoconferencing system SEGBİS during the fifth hearing of the case in September, telling the panel that he had been in detention for 14 months and asked for his release and his acquittal. The trial was adjourned further when the new prosecutor appointed to the case requested for additional time to prepare his final opinion of the case. The court ordered the case file to be sent to the newly appointed prosecutor and adjourned the trial. The court also ruled for
Özyurt to be released pending the conclusion of the trial, placing him under house arrest. The new prosecutor submitted his final opinion of the case during the next hearing of the case in October 2017, requesting between nine and 15 years of imprisonment for the defendants. Giving his defense statement before the court during that hearing, Gezici said the trial was based on false accusations by a witness. Other defendants also rejected the accusations. The court ruled for the continuation of Gezici’s detention and adjourned the trial for final defense statements to be prepared. At the final hearing of the case, held on February 16, 2018, the 11th High Criminal Court of Adana convicted four defendants including Gezici of “membership in a terrorist organization” and handed down prison sentences between 7.5 and 9 years. Gezici was sentenced to 9 years in prison. Gezici has been in the Hatay Prison as part of this case for almost two years. According to his relatives, Gezici has been in a single-person cell since February.

**PRISON SENTENCE:** 9 years

**LEGISLATION USED:** Turkish Criminal Law 314/2

**CURRENT LEGAL STATUS:** Arrested

**CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION:** Hatay Prison

**CONDITIONS of DETENTION:** N/A

**HEALTH CONCERNS:** N/A

**SOURCES:**

For more information in Turkish:

https://expressioninterrupted.com/tr/aytekin-glezici/


http://platform24.org/medya-izleme/2829/olaganustu-h-l-de-gazeteciler---138


http://www.hurriyet.com.tr/adanada-feto-sanigi-gazetecilerden-1i-tahliye-40580229
DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Zaman, Diyarbakır Regional Bureau Chief

DATE of ARREST: 1 August 2016

DETAILS of ARREST:

Source 1: International Press Institute

He was arrested as part of the ongoing investigation into the failed July 15, 2016 coup attempt.

DETAILS of TRIAL: N/A

PRISON SENTENCE: 7,5 years

LEGISLATION USED: N/A

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: N/A

CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A

HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A
DATE of BIRTH: 11 November 1982
GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Reporter for Yeni Hayat newspaper and a former reporter for the shuttered daily Zaman

DATE of ARREST: 29 July 2016
DETAILS of ARREST:

Source 1: International Press Institute
Bayram Kaya, a reporter for Yeni Hayat newspaper and a former reporter for the shuttered daily Zaman, was ordered arrested on July 30, 2016 as part of the purge of journalists allegedly linked to U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gülen, who Turkey’s government accuses of having established a “parallel state structure” and who it blames for the failed July 15, 2016 coup attempt. Kaya is one of 29 journalists charged in a case accusing them of having been part of the Gülen movement’s “media wing”. They face up to 10 years in prison if convicted.

DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: International Press Institute
As of May 2, 2017, other journalists imprisoned in connection with the case include Abdullah Kılıç, Ahmet Memiş, Atilla Taş, Bünüyamin Köseli, Cemal Azmi Kalyoncu, Cihan Acar, Cuma Ulus, Emre Soncan, Gökçe Fırat Çulhaoğlu, Habib Güler, Halil İbrahim Balta, Hanım Büşra Erdal, Hüseyin Aydin, Murat Aksoy, Mustafa Erkan, Acar, Mutlu Çölgeçen, Oğuz Usluer, Seyid Kılıç, Ufuk Şanlı, Ünal Tank, Yakup Çetin and Yetkin Yıldız. Six other journalists face charges in the case, including Ali Akkuş, Bülent Ceyhan, Davut Aydın, Muhammed Sait Kuloğlu, Muhterem Tank and Said Sefa, the latter of whom reportedly had fled the country. On March 31, 2017 a court in Turkey ordered 21 of the imprisoned defendants released conditionally, but prosecutors successfully objected to the release of eight of them and the release order for the other 13 was blocked hours later. The defendants – with the exception of Akkuş, who was freed after having been imprisoned since July 30, 2016 – remained behind bars and the judges who made the order were suspended. Prosecutors later brought new charges against 13 of the journalists on charges of trying to overthrow the government and the constitutional order. Those facing the new charges include Cihan Acar, Mustafa Erkan Acar, Akkuş, Aksoy, Aydın, Çetin, Çulhaoğlu, Abdullah Kılıç, Seyid Kılıç, Köseli, Taş, Usluer and Yıldız.

Source 2: Expression Interrupted
Bayram Kaya, a former reporter for Zaman and the short-lived Yeni Hayat daily, was arrested by the police days after the failed coup attempt of 15 July 2016 as part of an operation targeting journalists working for media outlets affiliated with the banned movement led by Fethullah Gülen, billed by the government as “Fetullahist Terrorist Organization (FETÖ)”. The indictment seeks up to 15 years in jail for Kaya on the charge of “membership in FETÖ terrorist organization.” The prosecutor accuses Kaya of “attempting to legitimize the crimes committed by the [terrorist] organization, garner public support for conspiracy cases conducted by the organization, delegitimize the fight against the organization and manipulate the public opinion to support the coup attempt to be conducted by the organization” through three books he authored and Twitter posts. Kaya is one of the 29 defendants cited in the indictment. His co-
defendants include journalists from a wide range of media outlets including the shuttered Zaman newspaper, Cihan news agency, Aksiyon weekly, Meydan newspaper, Habertürk TV and the state broadcaster TRT. The full text of the indictment (in Turkish) can be accessed here.

Following the first hearing of the trial held on 31 March 2017, the Istanbul 25th High Criminal Court agreed to release Kaya pending trial but he was summarily rearrested upon the prosecutor’s objection to his release. The judges who ordered the release of Kaya and 20 other co-defendants were swiftly suspended from their job and reassigned to other courts outside Istanbul. Six defendants, Atilla Taş, Murat Aksoy, Ali Akkuş, Davut Aydın, Bûnyamin Köseli and Cihan Acar, were subsequently released in the later stages of the trial, while Kaya and others were ordered to remain behind bars. At the court hearing on 6 February 2018, the prosecutor submitted his final opinion of the case, demanding up to 15 years in jail for all but three defendants — Murat Aksoy, Gökçe Fırat Çulhaoğlu and Muhterem Tanık — for “FETÖ membership.” Kaya was charged on the basis of his tweets, the fact that he had worked for Zaman and Yeni Hayat dailies, Bank Asya bank account transactions, and for allegedly downloading the encrypted messaging application ByLock, which the authorities say was used exclusively by members of the Gülen movement. During the court hearing on 22-23 February 2018, Kaya presented his final defense to the court, responding to the accusations against him. He denied having downloaded the ByLock application, saying a technical expert opinion he presented to the court refutes the claim. The court announced its verdict in the case at the end of the final hearing held on 7-8 March 2018. Kaya, along with 10 other co-defendants, was sentenced on the charge of “membership in an armed organization” to 6 years and 3 months in prison. The court ruled for the continuation of detention of the imprisoned defendants in the case pending the appeal process. In October, the appeals against prison sentences given to 25 defendants in the case were rejected by an appellate court. The 2nd Criminal Chamber of the Istanbul Regional Court of Justice rendered its decision on 22 October. The court made the ruling without a public hearing despite defense lawyers’ requests for a hearing. The appellate court also ruled for the continuation of detention of all jailed defendants in the case. Convictions against the journalists are now expected to be taken to the Supreme Court of Appeals.

**PRISON SENTENCE:** 6 years and 3 months

**LEGISLATION USED:** Turkish Criminal Law 314/2

**CURRENT LEGAL STATUS:** Arrested

**CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION:** Kaya is currently jailed in Istanbul’s Silivri Prison.

**CONDITIONS of DETENTION:** N/A

**HEALTH CONCERNS:** N/A

**SOURCES:**

For more information in English:


For more information in Turkish:

https://expressioninterrupted.com/tr/bayram-kaya-2/

https://medyagozlemveritabani.org/gazeteci-bayram-kayaya-orgut-uyeliginden-6-yil-3-ay-hapis-cezasi-verildi/


**BEYTULLAH ÖZDEMİR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE of BIRTH:</th>
<th>N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GENDER:</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND:</td>
<td>Zaman Düzce bureau chief</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DATE of ARREST:</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DETAILS of ARREST:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source 1:</td>
<td>International Press Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Details:</td>
<td>Beytullah Özdemir, the Düzce representative for the now-shuttered newspaper Zaman, was ordered arrested on Oct. 27, 2016 as part of the ongoing investigation into the failed July 15, 2016 coup attempt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DETAILS of TRIAL:</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRISON SENTENCE:</td>
<td>7 years 6 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEGISLATION USED:</td>
<td>Turkish Criminal Law 314/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CURRENT LEGAL STATUS:</td>
<td>Arrested</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION:</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONDITIONS of DETENTION:</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEALTH CONCERNS:</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOURCES:</td>
<td>For more information in Turkish:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BURÇİN DOKGÖZ

DATE of BIRTH: N/A
GENDER: Female
WIKIPEDIA ENTRY: No
PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Former Çorum reporter for Zaman and Cihan News Agency
DATE of ARREST: 21 August 2016
DETAILS of ARREST:
Source 1: International Press Institute
Burçin Dokgöz, a reporter for the now-closed Zaman newspaper and for Cihan News Agency in the northern Anatolian city of Çorum, was ordered arrested on Aug. 21, 2016 as part of a purge of journalists allegedly linked to U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gülen, who Turkey’s government accuses of having established a “parallel state structure” and who it blames for the failed July 15, 2016 coup attempt. The case also reportedly targets five other journalists: Lokman Erdoğan, Nadir Yücel, İdris Okur, Musa Ayan and Murat Öztürk.
DETAILS of TRIAL: N/A
PRISON SENTENCE: N/A
LEGISLATION USED: Turkish Criminal Law 314/2
CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested
CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: N/A
CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A
HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A
SOURCES:
For more information in English:
Some related information can be found here: https://expressioninterrupted.com/lokman-erdogan/
For more information in Turkish:
CEMAL AZMİ KALYONCU

DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Columnist and op-ed contributor with the Journalists and Writers Foundation

DATE of ARREST: 30 July, 2016

DETAILS of ARREST:

Source 1: International Press Institution (IPI)

Cemal Azmi Kalyoncu, a columnist and op-ed contributor with the Journalists and Writers Foundation, was ordered arrested on July 30, 2016 as part of a purge of journalists allegedly linked to U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gülen, who Turkey’s government accuses of having established a “parallel state structure” and who it blames for the failed July 15, 2016 coup attempt. Kalyoncu is one of 29 journalists charged in a case accusing them of having been part of the Gülen movement’s “media wing”. They face up to 10 years in prison if convicted.

DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

As of May 2, 2017, other journalists imprisoned in connection with the case include Abdullah Kılıç, Ahmet Memiş, Atilla Taş, Bayram Kaya, Bünyamin Köseli, Cihan Acar, Cuma Ulus, Emre Soncan, Gökçe Fırat Çulhaoğlu, Habib Güler, Halil İbrahim Balta, Hanım Büşra Erdal, Halepin Aydın, Murat Aksoy, Mustafa Erkan Acar, Mutlu Çölgeçen, Oğuz Usluer, Seyid Kılıç, Ufuk Şanlı, Ünal Tanık, Yakup Çetin and Yetkin Yıldız. Six other journalists face charges in the case, including Ali Akkuş, Bülent Ceyhan, Davut Aydin, Muhammed Sait Kuloğlu, Muhterem Tanık and Said Sefa, the latter of whom reportedly had fled the country. On March 31, 2017 a court in Turkey ordered 21 of the imprisoned defendants released conditionally, but prosecutors successfully objected to the release of eight of them and the release order for the other 13 was blocked hours later. The defendants – with the exception of Akkuş, who was freed after having been imprisoned since July 30, 2016 – remained behind bars and the judges who made the order were suspended. Prosecutors later brought new charges against 13 of the journalists on charges of trying to overthrow the government and the constitutional order. Those facing the new charges include Cihan Acar, Mustafa Erkan Acar, Akkuş, Aksoy, Aydin, Çetin, Çulhaoğlu, Abdullah Kılıç, Seyid Kılıç, Köseli, Taş, Usluer and Yıldız.

Source 2: Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)

Police in Istanbul detained Cemal Azmi Kalyoncu, an author and former columnist for the magazine Aksiyon, on July 26, 2016, as part of a sweeping purge of journalists and others suspected of following exiled preacher Fethullah Gülen, according to press reports. The government accuses Gülen of maintaining a terrorist organization and "parallel state structure" (or FETÖ/PDY, as the government calls it) within Turkey that it blames for orchestrating a failed military coup on July 15, 2016. Istanbul’s Fifth Court of Penal Peace on June 30, 2016, arraigned Kalyoncu and 16 other journalists, ordering them jailed pending trial on charges of "being members of an armed terrorist organization," according to the media monitoring group P24. The daily newspaper Hürriyet reported that the 17 journalists were questioned by prosecutors on accusations of
"being members of an armed terrorist organization," "founding or leading an armed terrorist organization," "knowingly and willingly helping [a terrorist] organization without being involved in the organization's hierarchical structure," and "committing crimes in the name of a [terrorist] organization without being a member." A court in March 2016 ordered Aksiyon's parent company, the Feza Media Group, put under the trusteeship of figures selected by the government, saying the company and the newspaper had ties to the Gülenist network. On July 27, 2016, the government used emergency powers it assumed after the July 2016 failed coup attempt to close the magazine, saying it was a FETÖ/PDY mouthpiece. CPJ research shows that authorities have targeted dozens of former journalists from media outlets owned by the Feza Media Group with arrest and prosecution on terrorism charges since the failed July 2016 coup attempt. In the original indictment, all but one of the 17 co-accused in Kalyoncu's case were charged with "being a member of an armed [terrorist] organization," which carries up to 10 years in prison, according to reports. The indictment accused the defendants of manipulating public perception of FETÖ to turn people against the government, which, prosecutors argued, made them members of the group. CPJ found the indictment to be similar to those presented at trials of other journalists in Turkey. Prosecutors cited as evidence journalistic activity or acts of free speech and communication, or cited circumstantial evidence such as being employed by a certain media outlet or having an account at a bank allegedly linked to Gülenists. In Kalyoncu's case, prosecutors cited as evidence his employment by Zaman and Aksiyon, and his social media activity as evidence of membership of the group. When the trial started in March 2017, an Istanbul court ordered Kalyoncu and several of the other journalists to be released while the case was heard, according to news reports. Prosecutors successfully appealed the decision, and authorities ordered an investigation into the judges who had ordered the release and they were relieved of duty, according to the reports. An Istanbul court on March 8, 2018, found Kalyoncu and at least 21 of the other journalists on trial guilty of "being a member of a [terrorist] organization," and sentenced Kalyoncu to six years and three months in prison, according to reports. The court acquitted all the defendants of the more serious coup-related charges in the second indictment. At least 18 of the journalists were sent to prison for varying prison terms. Two of them-- Atilla Taş and Murat Aksoy—were sentenced and released for time served, and the journalists Bûnyamin Köseli and Cihan Acar remain free pending the appeal, according to reports. Lawyers for the journalists told CPJ they are appealing the verdict. As of late 2018, the local appeal process was ongoing. In response to a June 2018 poll of jailed journalists carried out by the P24 Independent Journalism Association, Kalyoncu said that he has vertigo and a heart condition, and prison authorities were providing him with access to doctors and medication.

**PRISON SENTENCE:** 6 years and 3 months

**LEGISLATION USED:** Turkish Criminal Law 314/2

**CURRENT LEGAL STATUS:** Arrested

**CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION:** Silivri Prison, Istanbul

**CONDITIONS of DETENTION:**

Information on his conditions of detention and health concerns can be found in a [questionnaire](#) by Platform 24 (P24).

The Turkish version of the [questionnaire](#) is available here.

**HEALTH CONCERNS:** See questionnaire above.

**SOURCES:**
For more information in English:


For more information in Turkish:

https://medyagozlemveritabani.org/gazeteci-cemal-azmi-kalyoncuya-orgut-uyeliginden-6-yil-3-ay-hapis-cezasi-verildi/


http://www.hurriyet.com.tr/fetonun-medya-yapilanmasi-davasinda-3-40408935

CUMA ULUS

DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Former publication coordinator for daily Millet Newspaper

DATE of ARREST: Detained on 26 June, 2016

DETAILS of ARREST:

Source 1: Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)

Police in Istanbul detained Cuma Ulus, a former news editor for the shuttered daily newspaper Millet, on July 26, 2016, as part of a sweeping purge of journalists and others suspected of following exiled preacher Fethullah Gülen, according to press reports.

DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)

The government accuses Gülen of maintaining a terrorist organization and "parallel state structure" (or FETÖ/PDY, as the government calls it) within Turkey that it blames for orchestrating a failed military coup on July 15, 2016. Istanbul's Fifth Court of Penal Peace on June 30, 2016, arraigned Ulus and 16 other journalists, ordering them jailed pending trial on charges of "being members of an armed terrorist organization," according to the media monitoring group P24. The daily newspaper Hürriyet reported that the 17 journalists were questioned by prosecutors on accusations of "being members of an armed terrorist organization," "founding or leading an armed terrorist organization," "knowingly and willingly helping [a terrorist] organization without being involved in the organization's hierarchical structure," and "committing crimes in the name of a [terrorist] organization without being a member." The daily newspaper Millet was one of several media outlets owned by the Koza İpek Group, which the government took over in October 2015, alleging it had links to FETÖ/PDY. Trustees appointed by the government hollowed out media outlets the company owned and shut them down in March 2016, saying they were not financially viable. The government-appointed management fired Ulus from Millet immediately after taking control of the newspaper, according to media reports. In the original indictment, all but one of the 17 co-accused in Ulus's case were charged with "being a member of an armed [terrorist] organization," which carries up to 10 years in prison, according to reports. The indictment accused the defendants of manipulating public perception of FETÖ to turn people against the government, which, prosecutors argued, made them members of the group. CPJ found the indictment to be similar to those presented at trials of other journalists in Turkey. Prosecutors cited as evidence journalistic activity or acts of free speech and communication, or cited circumstantial evidence such as being employed by a certain media outlet or having an account at a bank allegedly linked to Gülenists. In Ulus's case, prosecutors cited as evidence his employment by Millet, a statement that he made to a news agency, his social media activity, his account at Bank Asya, which authorities claim is a Gülenist bank, and his attendance at an alleged Gülenist college. When the trial started in March 2017, an Istanbul court ordered Ulus and several of the other journalists to be released while the case was heard, according to news reports. Prosecutors successfully appealed the decision, and authorities ordered an investigation into the judges who had ordered the release and they were relieved of duty, according to the reports. An Istanbul court on March 8, 2018 found Ulus
and at least 21 of the other journalists on trial guilty of “being a member of a [terrorist] organization,” and sentenced Ulus to seven years and six months in prison, according to reports. The court acquitted all the defendants of the more serious coup-related charges in the second indictment. At least 18 of the journalists were sent to prison for varying prison terms. Two of them—Atilla Taş and Murat Aksoy—were sentenced and released for time served, and the journalists Bünnyamin Köseli and Cihan Acar remain free pending the appeal, according to reports. Lawyers for the journalists told CPJ they are appealing the verdict. As of late 2018, the local appeal process was ongoing. Ulus was being detained in Silivri prison.

**PRISON SENTENCE:** 7 years and 6 months

**LEGISLATION USED:** Turkish Criminal Law 314/2

**CURRENT LEGAL STATUS:** Arrested

**CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION:** Silivri Prison, İstanbul

**CONDITIONS of DETENTION:** N/A

**HEALTH CONCERNS:** N/A

**SOURCES:**

For more information in English:

About the second hearing:

For details about the trial:

**For more information in Turkish:**


https://medyagozlemveritabani.org/gazeteci-cuma-ulusa-orgut-uyeliginden-7-yil-6-ay-hapis-cezası-verildi/


http://platform24.org/guncel/2095/olaganustu-h-l-de-gazeteciler---ozel

**For more information in Kurdish:**

CÜNEYT SEZA ÖZKAN

DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Editor for Samanyolu TV.

DATE of ARREST: He was ordered arrested on 16 August, 2017

DETAILS of ARREST:
Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

Cüneyt Seza Özkan, a former news editor at now-shuttered Samanyolu TV, was ordered arrested on Aug. 16, 2017 on accusations of links to U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gülen, who Turkey’s government accuses of having established a “parallel state structure” and who it blames for the failed July 15, 2016 coup attempt. Özkan was detained for allegedly having used mobile phone encryption application Bylock, which Turkish prosecutors consider to be evidence of membership in the Gülen movement.

DETAILS of TRIAL:
Source 1: Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)

Istanbul police on August 10, 2017, detained Cüneyt Seza Özkan, former news editor at the shuttered Samanyolu TV, according to news reports. Özkan was one of 35 journalists and media workers whose arrest a Turkish court mandated the week before as part of a sweeping purge of suspected followers of exiled preacher Fethullah Gülen, according to reports. The Turkish government accuses Gülen of maintaining a terrorist organization and "parallel state structure" (FETÖ/PDY, as the government calls it) within Turkey and alleges that it masterminded a failed July 2016 military coup. Özkan’s arrest is part of an investigation into journalists and others who allegedly used the Bylock app, according to press reports. Authorities allege that use of the encrypted messaging app is proof of FETÖ/PDY membership. Turkey issued arrest warrants for 35 journalists and media workers. Of those, nine were ordered to be jailed pending trial and as of late 2017, two were released under house arrest, according to news reports. As of late 2017, no court date had been scheduled. In late 2018, CPJ was unable to find details of a lawyer who could provide further information on the case, or to review a copy of the indictment.

Source 2: Bianet - 17 August 2017

9 Journalists Arrested in ByLock Investigation

9 of the 11 journalists taken into custody on claims that they had been using ByLock, an encrypted communication software allegedly used among members of Gülen community, have been arrested. 11 journalists were taken into custody on August 10 as a part of an investigation launched by the Istanbul Chief Prosecutor's Office. The journalists were referred to the İstanbul 13th Criminal Judgeship of Peace yesterday (August 17) for arrest. 9 of the journalists have been arrested and imprisoned. They are: Yasir Kaya (former Fenerbahçe TV News Director), Ömer Faruk Aydemir (former Chief of Information of İhlas News Agency News), Mutlu Özay, Cüneyt Seza Özkan (editorial directors of now-closed Samanyolu News), Burak Ekici (BirGün internet editor), Mehmet Ali Ay, Muhsin Pilgir (correspondents of now-closed Zaman newspaper and Cihan News Agency News), Sait Gürkan Tuzlu (correspondent of now-closed Cihan News Agency) and Ahmet Feyzullah Özyurt. According to the court decision, "the suspects were identified to have used the secret and encrypted communication software ByLock used among
members of the armed Fethullahist Terrorist Organization". Vatan Newspaper page designer Yusuf Duran and former columnist in Türkiye Newspaper Ahmet Sağır, who were also among the detained journalists, have been released on probation. Duran and Sağır will be under house arrest during the trial.

**PRISON SENTENCE:** 7 years and 6 months

**LEGISLATION USED:** Turkish Criminal Law 314/2

**CURRENT LEGAL STATUS:** Arrested

**CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION:** N/A

**CONDITIONS of DETENTION:** N/A

**HEALTH CONCERNS:** N/A

**SOURCES:**

For more information in English:

For more information in Turkish:


http://platform24.org/guncel/2349/olaganustu-h-l-de-gazeteciler----97

For more information in Kurdish:
http://bianet.org/kurdi/medya/189187-di-carçoveya-lepirsina-bylocke-de-9-rojnameger-hatin-girtin
EMRE SONCAN

DATE of BIRTH: N/A
GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Military affairs correspondent for the Zaman newspaper

DATE of ARREST: He was ordered arrested on July 30, 2016

DETAILS of ARREST:

Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

Emre Soncan, military affairs correspondent for the now-closed Zaman newspaper, was ordered arrested on July 30, 2016 as part of a purge of journalists allegedly linked to U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gülen, who Turkey’s government accuses of having established a “parallel state structure” and who it blames for the failed July 15, 2016 coup attempt.

DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

Soncan is one of 29 journalists charged in a case accusing them of having been part of the Gülen movement’s “media wing”. On April 10, 2018, Soncan was sentenced to 7,5 years on terror charges. He has been jailed in Silivri Prison, Istanbul for almost years. Last hearing was held at the İstanbul 25th High Criminal Court. The court first gave a nine-year sentence to Soncan on charges of "membership of a terrorist organization", then reduced it to seven-and-a-half years. As of May 2, 2017, other journalists imprisoned in connection with the case include Abdullah Kılıç, Ahmet Memiş, Atilla Taş, Bayram Kaya, Bünüyamin Köseli, Cemal Azmi Kalyoncu, Cihan Acar, Cuma Ulus, Gökçe Firat Çalışoğlu, Habib Güler, Halil İbrahim Balta, Hanım Büşra Erdal, Hüseyin Aydın, Murat Aksoy, Mustafa Erkan Acar, Mutlu Çölgeçen, Oğuz Usluer, Seyid Kılıç, Ufuk Şanlı, Ünal Tanık, Yakup Çetin and Yetkin Yıldız. Six other journalists face charges in the case, including Ali Akkuş, Bülent Ceyhan, Davut Aydın, Muhammed Sait Kuloğlu, Muhterem Tanık and Said Sefa, the latter of whom reportedly had fled the country. On March 31, 2017 a court in Turkey ordered 21 of the imprisoned defendants released conditionally, but prosecutors successfully objected to the release of eight of them and the release order for the other 13 was blocked hours later. The defendants – with the exception of Akkuş, who was freed after having been imprisoned since July 30, 2016 – remained behind bars and the judges who made the order were suspended. Prosecutors later brought new charges against 13 of the journalists on charges of trying to overthrow the government and the constitutional order. Those facing the new charges include Cihan Acar, Mustafa Erkan Acar, Akkuş, Aksoy, Aydın, Çetin, Çalışoğlu, Abdullah Kılıç, Seyid Kılıç, Köseli, Taş, Usluer and Yıldız.

Source 2: Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)

On July 24, 2016, Emre Soncan, a former military affairs correspondent for the shuttered daily newspaper Zaman, wrote on Twitter that that he had learned that police were at his house, and that he was going to turn himself in, amid a sweeping purge of journalists and others suspected of following exiled preacher Fethullah Gülen. The government accuses Gülen of maintaining a terrorist organization and "parallel state structure" (or FETÖ/PDY, as the government calls it) within Turkey that it blames for orchestrating a failed military coup on July 15, 2016. Istanbul's Fifth Court of Penal Peace on June 30, 2016, arraigned Soncan and 16 other journalists, ordering them jailed pending trial on charges of "being members of an armed terrorist organization," according to the media
monitoring group P24. The daily newspaper Hürriyet reported that the 17 journalists were questioned by prosecutors on accusations of "being members of an armed terrorist organization," "founding or leading an armed terrorist organization," "knowingly and willingly helping [a terrorist] organization without being involved in the organization's hierarchical structure," and "committing crimes in the name of a [terrorist] organization without being a member." In March 2016, a court ordered Zaman's parent company, the Feza Media Group, put under government trustees, saying the company and the newspaper had ties to the Gülenist network. On July 27, 2016, the government used emergency powers to close the publication. CPJ research shows that authorities have targeted dozens of former journalists from media outlets owned by the Feza Media Group with arrest and prosecution on terrorism charges since the failed coup attempt. All but one of the journalists with whom Soncan is on trial were charged with "being a member of an armed [terrorist] organization," which carries up to 10 years in prison, according to the indictment. CPJ found the indictment to be similar to those presented at trials of other journalists in Turkey. Prosecutors cited as evidence in these cases journalistic activity or acts of free speech and communication, or cited circumstantial evidence such as being employed by a certain media outlet or having an account at a bank allegedly linked to Gülenists. The indictment accused the defendants of manipulating the public perception of FETÖ to turn citizens against the government, which prosecutors argued made them members of the group that Turkey alleges is behind the attempted coup. Prosecutors presented as evidence against Soncan a book that the journalist wrote on former President Abdullah Gül and interviews that he gave about the book; his social media activity; and his account at Bank Asya, which the government alleged to be a Gülenist institution. When the trial began in March 2017, an Istanbul court ordered Soncan and four of his co-accused to be detained for the duration of the trial, according to news reports. An Istanbul court on April 10, 2018, found Soncan guilty of "being a member of a [terrorist] organization," and sentenced him to seven years and six months in prison," reports said.According to documents that Soncan's lawyers shared with CPJ, a local appeals court in Istanbul rejected his appeal on July 3, 2018. The lawyers later appealed to the national Supreme Court of Appeals. As of late 2018, Soncan was held in Istanbul's Silivri Prison.

Source 3: Expression Interrupted

The court ruled at the end of Thursday's hearing that imprisoned defendant Emre Soncan's file is separated from this case to be merged with a newly initiated case against him.

Source 4: Expression Interrupted

Former Zaman reporter Emre Soncan handed down prison sentence

An Istanbul court on April 10 sentenced imprisoned journalist Emre Soncan, a former defense reporter for the shuttered Zaman daily, to 7.5 years in prison for "membership in a terrorist organization." Soncan appeared at the final hearing of the case, overseen by the 25th High Criminal Court of Istanbul, via the courtroom video-conferencing system SEGBİS. The trial was an offshoot of the case publicly known as the “FETÖ media trial,” in which Soncan and 28 others faced “membership in a terrorist group” charges. Soncan's case file was separated from that case during its hearing on February 22-23 to be merged with another case file against the journalist. The accusations in the indictment were based on Soncan's social media posts and the journalist depositing cash into his Bank Asya account during the period when FETÖ leader Fethullah Gülen instructed that members of his network deposit funds to Bank Asya.
Soncan denied all accusations and requested his acquittal. Announcing its verdict, the court initially convicted Soncan to nine years in prison for “membership in an armed terrorist organization.” The court reduced the sentence to 7 years and six months taking into account his “good conduct during the proceedings” and ruled for the continuation of his imprisonment.

**PRISON SENTENCE:** 7 years and 5 months

**LEGISLATION USED:** Turkish Criminal Law 314/2

**CURRENT LEGAL STATUS:** Arrested

**CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION:** Silivri Prison, İstanbul

**CONDITIONS of DETENTION:** N/A

**HEALTH CONCERNS:** N/A

**SOURCES:**

For more information in English:


For more information in Turkish:


[http://platform24.org/guncel/2095/olaganustu-h-l-de-gazeteciler----ozel](http://platform24.org/guncel/2095/olaganustu-h-l-de-gazeteciler----ozel)


ERCAN GÜN

DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: News editor for Fox TV

DATE of ARREST: He was detained on July 29, 2016 and ordered jailed pending trial on Aug. 25, 2016.

DETAILS of ARREST:

Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

Ercan Gün, news editor for Fox TV, was ordered jailed pending trial on Aug. 25, 2016 on accusations of being a member of a terrorist organisation and broadcasting a story in 2007 that tarnished the image of the Turkish military. Gün was originally detained on July 29, 2016 as part of a purge of journalists allegedly linked to U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gülen, who Turkey's government accuses of having established a “parallel state structure” and who it blames for the failed July 15, 2016 coup attempt. Although an Istanbul court ordered him released on probation on Aug. 2, 2016, he was immediately detained again on suspicion that he had broadcast a news report on behalf of the Gülenist movement that implied a link between the military and the 2007 murder of Armenian-Turkish journalist Hrant Dink.

DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)

Police in Istanbul detained Ercan Gün, a news editor for Turkish Fox TV, on July 29, 2016, as part of a sweeping crackdown on journalists and others suspected of being followers of exiled preacher Fethullah Gülen, according to his lawyer and court documents reviewed by the Committee to Protect Journalists. The government accuses Gülen of maintaining a terrorist organization and "parallel state structure" (or FETÖ/PDY, as the government calls it) within Turkey that it blames for orchestrating a failed military coup on July 15, 2016. Istanbul's Third Court of Penal Peace on August 2, 2016, ordered the journalist released on probation, but police detained him before he left the courthouse, on suspicion that he had broadcast a news report to tarnish the image of the military on the order of FETÖ/PDY, his lawyer, Çağrı Çetin, told CPJ. The new allegations stemmed from his having broadcast footage on February 1, 2007, showing Oğün Samast, whom a juvenile court in 2011 convicted of the January 19, 2007 murder of Armenian-Turkish journalist Hrant Dink, receiving a Turkish flag and congratulations on the murder from police officers less than a day after Dink's murder. The footage aired on TGRT-TV, which Fox bought and renamed in 2007. The police officers in the footage were terrorism police, but were incorrectly identified as military police in the broadcast. Istanbul's Second Court of Penal Peace on August 25, 2016, ordered Gün jailed pending trial on the accusation that he was a member of a terrorist organization, and that he aired the story on Samast at FETÖ/PDY's behest "to create the perception that the military is related to the murder," according to court records of the hearing, which CPJ reviewed. Çetin told CPJ that police repeatedly asked Gün who gave him the footage, and that he said an officer promised that Gün would be released if he implicated Ekrem Dumanlı, then the editor-in-chief of the daily newspaper Zaman, which the government ordered closed using emergency powers it assumed after the failed July 2016 coup attempt. Gün previously worked at Zaman. Police produced call logs showing that he had spoken with Dumanlı and other senior Zaman
staff by telephone shortly before the video aired, Çetin told CPJ. Gün said the calls to Dumanlı and others at Zaman were in pursuit of his severance package, his lawyer told CPJ. Çetin told CPJ in 2016 that his client has suffered from sleeping disorders and vision problems since being jailed in July. An Istanbul court accepted a fourth indictment on May 29, 2017, which named Gün as one of several defendants, according to Bianet. The indictment centers on state officials who allegedly neglected to do their duty or conspired to allow Dink to be murdered. In the indictment, Gün is charged with “attempting through violence or force to disrupt the order as foreseen by the Constitution of the Republic” and “aiding and abetting a [terrorist] organization,” Bianet reported. If convicted of the first charge, he could face life in prison without parole. The indictment alleged that Gün tried to defame the military and “manipulate public perception” by publishing the photo of Dink’s murderer, according to Bianet. The court had rejected three earlier indictments from the prosecution for the retrial of the Dink murder case, according to press reports. At a court hearing on October 3, 2017, Gün said that the photograph was a still from a video sent to the newsroom by mail, according to reports. Gün said that when the newspaper realized it had made a mistake in the photo’s caption, it corrected the caption and did not repeat the mistake. Gün asked the court how he could have manipulated public perception with one editorial mistake. On October 6, 2017, the court

ordered some of the defendants released for the duration of the trial, but Gün was remanded in custody, according to reports citing the Doğan News Agency. As of late 2018, Gün is still on trial, according to press reports. A hearing was held on September 28, 2018, and the next scheduled court hearing was December 18, 2018, reports said. The journalist’s lawyer did not respond to CPJ’s calls seeking more information in late 2018. Gün was in Silivri Prison in Istanbul.

PRISON SENTENCE: N/A

LEGISLATION USED: N/A

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: Silivri Prison, Istanbul

CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A

HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

SOURCES:

For more information in Turkish:

https://medyagozlemveritabani.org/hrant-dink-cinayeti-davasi/

https://expressioninterrupted.com/tr/olaganustu-halde-gazeteciler-6/

https://expressioninterrupted.com/tr/olaganustu-halde-gazeteciler-16/

http://www.platform24.org/medya-izleme/1656/olaganustu-hal-de-gazeteciler---4
ERDAL SÜSEM

DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Editor and founder of leftist art and literature magazine Eylül

DATE of ARREST: 2010

DETAILS of ARREST:

Source 1: International Press Institution (IPI)

Erdal Süsem, editor and founder of leftist art and literature magazine Eylül, was arrested in 2010 on charges of being a leader of and propagandising for the outlawed Marxist-Leninist Communist Party (MLKP). In 2011, he was also convicted of gun theft and murder on earlier accusations that he had stolen a policeman’s gun that was later used in a murder. Although a court twice rejected the case in 2005 and 2007 for insufficient evidence, the ruling was reversed after Süsem was imprisoned in 2010. He is currently serving a life sentence.

DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 2: Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)

Süsem, editor of the leftist culture magazine Eylül Sanat Edebiyat Dergisi (September Arts Literature Magazine), was being held at Edirne F Type Prison on charges of helping lead the outlawed Maoist Communist Party, or MKP. Authorities alleged that Süsem's magazine produced propaganda for the party. In a letter published in February 2012 by the independent news website Bianet, Süsem said he had been detained on the MKP accusations and charged in February 2010. He said the evidence against him consisted of journalistic material such as books, postcards, and letters, along with accounts of his newsgathering activities such as phone interviews. Süsem made similar statements in a letter to the Justice Ministry that was cited in news accounts. Süsem started the magazine, which featured poetry, literature, and opinion pieces from imprisoned socialist intellectuals, during an earlier imprisonment at Tekirdağ F Type Prison. After producing the initial four editions on a photocopier from prison, Süsem transformed the journal into a print publication after his 2007 release and circulated 16 more issues. In September 2017, the journalist's lawyer, Fazıl Ahmet Tamer, told CPJ that a court in May 2010 found Süsem guilty of being a leader of the banned group, and sentenced him to life in prison. According to Tamer, prosecutors said that the magazine being produced by prisoners was evidence of Süsem's ties to an illegal organization. Turkey's Supreme Court of Appeals upheld the verdict on September 24, 2011. Süsem's earlier imprisonment stemmed from allegations in March 2000 that he stole a police officer's handgun that was later used in a murder. Süsem pleaded not guilty to the gun theft and murder charges. The gun possession and related serious charges against Süsem were twice rejected by Turkey's Supreme Court, which ruled in 2005 and 2007 that there was insufficient evidence to link Süsem to the crimes. However, without new evidence, after Süsem was imprisoned in 2010 on the propaganda charges, the Supreme Court reversed its stance and convicted him in 2011 on gun theft, murder, and other charges. The court also reinstated a life sentence. The court proceedings that led to his conviction were marked by a number of inconsistencies. For example, in his Bianet letter, Süsem wrote that the police officer, whose stolen gun was later used in a number of crimes, testified that Süsem was not the person who had stolen it. Witness descriptions of the suspect did not match the journalist, Süsem's wife, Eylem,
told CPJ. As of late 2018, Süzem continued to serve his life sentence at Edirne Prison. No new attempts to request a retrial or appeal have been made, a friend of the journalist, who is not named to avoid potential repercussions, told CPJ. The friend said that the journalist had no health problems.

PRISON SENTENCE: N/A
LEGISLATION USED: N/A
CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Convicted

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: Edirne F Type Prison
CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A
HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

SOURCES:
For more information in Turkish:
ERDAL ŞEN

DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Former managing editor of now-closed Meydan newspaper

DATE of ARREST: He was arrested on August 9, 2016

DETAILS of ARREST:

Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

Erdal Şen, former managing editor of now-closed Meydan newspaper, was arrested on August 9, 2016 as part of a purge of journalists allegedly linked to U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gülen, who Turkey’s government accuses of having established a “parallel state structure” and who it blames for the failed July 15, 2016 coup attempt. Şen has been held in Silivri Prison, İstanbul since August 2016.

DETAILS of TRIAL: N/A

PRISON SENTENCE: 6 years and 3 months

LEGISLATION USED: N/A

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: Silivri Prison, İstanbul

CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A

HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

SOURCES:

For more information in Turkish:


EROL YÜKSEL

DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Vice president of the news department of state-owned Turkish Radio and Television Network (TRT)

DATE of ARREST: 19 August 2016

DETAILS of ARREST:

Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

Erol Yüksel, a vice president of the news department of state-owned Turkish Radio and Television Network (TRT), was ordered arrested on Aug. 19, 2016 as part of the government’s investigation following the July 15, 2016 coup attempt.

DETAILS of TRIAL: N/A

PRISON SENTENCE: N/A

LEGISLATION USED: N/A

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: N/A

CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A

HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A
EROL ZAVAR

DATE of BIRTH: 1 January 1969

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Poet and former editor in chief of Odak and Direniş magazines

DATE of ARREST: January 2000.

DETAILS of ARREST:

Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

Erol Zavar, editor of Odak magazine, was arrested in 2007. He is serving a life sentence in prison for a conviction on attempting to overthrow the constitutional order by force in connection with his alleged links to illegal resistance organisation Direniş Hareketi.

DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: PEN International Case List

Convicted of “attempting to overthrow the constitutional order” in January 2001. Imprisoned ever since despite numerous campaigns for his release and several battles with cancer. Zavar was editor in chief at Odak and Direniş in 1997 and 1998 and has had two books of poetry published during his time in prison.

PRISON SENTENCE: Life sentence

LEGISLATION USED: N/A

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Convicted

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: Sincan Number 1 F Type Prison, Ankara

CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A

HEALTH CONCERNS:

Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

Zavar reportedly suffers from bladder cancer, leading his family to raise concerns about his health behind bars.
FAHRİ ÖZTOPRAK

DATE of BIRTH: N/A
GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Former Samsun correspondent for CİHAN news agency

DATE of ARREST: 12 December 2016

DETAILS of ARREST:
Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

Fahri Öztoprak, former Samsun correspondent for CİHAN news agency and now-closed Zaman newspaper, was arrested on December 12, 2016 as part of a purge of journalists allegedly linked to U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gülen, who Turkey’s government accuses of having established a “parallel state structure” and who it blames for the failed July 15, 2016 coup attempt. Öztoprak was convicted to 6 years and 3 months in prison, yet the charges remain unclear. He is currently imprisoned in Erzurum H-type prison.

DETAILS of TRIAL: N/A
PRISON SENTENCE: 6 years and 3 months

LEGISLATION USED: N/A
CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested
CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: Erzurum H-type prison.

CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A
HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A
DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Reporter for the Cihan News Agency

DATE of ARREST: 5 August, 2016

DETAILS of ARREST:

Source 1: International Press Institution (IPI)

Faruk Akkan, a reporter with the Cihan News Agency, was ordered arrested on Aug. 5, 2016 as part of the government purge of individuals accused of spreading propaganda for the outlawed movement headed by U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gülen, who Turkey’s government accuses of having established a “parallel state structure” and who it blames for the failed July 15, 2016 coup attempt.

DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: International Press Institution (IPI)

Faruk Akkan, a reporter with the Cihan News Agency, was ordered arrested on Aug. 5, 2016 as part of the government purge of individuals accused of spreading propaganda for the outlawed movement headed by U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gülen, who Turkey’s government accuses of having established a “parallel state structure” and who it blames for the failed July 15, 2016 coup attempt. On April 27, 2017, an Istanbul court accepted an indictment against Akkan and 29 other former Zaman Media Group employees that accuses them of attempting to overthrow the government, the Constitution and Parliament, and which seeks three consecutive life sentences for each suspect. The indictment also seeks another 15 years for each suspect on charges of being members of a terrorist organisation. The indictment alleges that Zaman, which was founded in 1986, was fully taken over by the Gülen movement the following year and was able to continue operating only due to the group’s financial support. It also accuses the group of “using the media as a weapon” to manipulate society, and alleges that Zaman employed “columnists with ideas that could have supported the organization”.

Source 2: Committee to Protect Journalists

Police detained Akkan, the general director of the Cihan News Agency, at his home in Istanbul on July 27, 2016, according to a message posted to his Twitter account on his behalf, referring to him in the third person. Istanbul's Third Court of Penal Peace ordered the then 46-year-old journalist jailed pending trial "based on the strong suspicion" that he was a member of a terrorist organization. He was accused of being a follower of exiled preacher Fethullah Gülen, whom the Turkish government accuses of maintaining a terrorist organization and "parallel state structure" (FETÖ/PDY, by its Turkish acronym) and of masterminding a July 15 failed military coup. According to legal documents, the court based its conclusion on Akkan's employment at the Cihan News Agency, which it called "within the structure of FETÖ/PDY's media arm." A court in March 2016 ordered the news agency's parent company, the Feza Media Group, placed under government-appointed trustee, on the grounds that it was a Gülenist mouthpiece. Akkan told the court that he started working at the news agency's foreign desk in 2004 and then went to Russia in 2006 as a reporter, where he stayed until 2015, when he returned to Istanbul and became general director. Akkan is on trial alongside 30 journalists and media workers and an academic. All are charged with “attempting, through violence and force, to disrupt and replace the order as
recognized by Turkey’s Constitution,” “attempting through violence and force to eliminate or prevent Parliament from carrying out its duties,” and “being a member of an armed terrorist organization.” Not all of the defendants are in custody. The trial’s first hearing began in Istanbul on September 18, 2017, according to local reports. In the indictment, reviewed by CPJ, the prosecution said that the defendants’ journalism, including opinion pieces or their employment by pro-Gülen outlets such as the daily Zaman and Cihan News Agency, is evidence that the journalists were part of the so-called Fethullah Gülen Terrorist Organization/Parallel State Structure (FETÖ/PDY). The indictment accused the journalists—which it referred to as “the media force of the terrorist organization”—of producing false news to weaken the government, insult or humiliate the authorities, attempt to disrupt the peace, and to create an environment suitable for a coup. Akkan denied the charges, according to the indictment. A court in Istanbul on April 30, 2018, found Akkan guilty of “being a member of a [terrorist] organization” and sentenced him to nine years in prison, according to news reports. The time he has already served will count toward his sentence, according to the reports.

**PRISON SENTENCE:** 9 years

**LEGISLATION USED:** Turkish Criminal Law 314/2

**CURRENT LEGAL STATUS:** Arrested

**CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION:** N/A

**CONDITIONS of DETENTION:** N/A

**HEALTH CONCERNS:** N/A

**SOURCES:**

For more information in English:


http://bianet.org/english/print/189942-1st-hearing-in-zaman-daily-trial-held-defendants-continue-statements-today

For information in Turkish:

http://platform24.org/guncel/3013/zaman-gazetesi-davasindan-ayrilan-10-saniga-hapis-cezasi


FERHAT ÇİFTÇİ

DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Azadiya Welat Gaziantep bureau chief

DATE of ARREST: 16 February 2011

DETAILS of ARREST:

Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

Ferhat Çiftçi, Azadiya Welat Gaziantep bureau chief, was arrested in 2011. He was convicted over alleged links to outlawed Kurdish militant groups and is currently serving a sentence of 21 years and eight months in prison.

DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: Committee to Protect Journalists – Turkey’s Press Freedom Crisis (Report)

Çiftçi, Gaziantep correspondent for the Kurdish language daily Azadiya Welat, was serving a term of 21 years and eight months at Gaziantep H Type Prison on charges of being a member of the banned Union of Communities in Kurdistan, or KCK, and producing propaganda for the organization. Legal representation for Çiftçi and other detained Azadiya Welat journalists recently changed. The new defense lawyer, Cemil Sözen, who is representing Çiftçi on appeal, said he could not comment because he was not yet familiar with the case. Azadiya Welat News Editor Menderes Öner also declined comment, citing the legal complexities.

PRISON SENTENCE: 21 years and 8 months

LEGISLATION USED: N/A

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: Gaziantep H Type Prison

CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A

HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

SOURCES:

For more information in Turkish:

http://bianet.org/bianet/print/139065-gazeteciligin-romanini-yaziyoruz
FEVZİ YAZICI

DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Layout editor for the Zaman newspaper

DATE of ARREST: Ordered jailed pending trial on the 5th of August, 2016.

DETAILS of ARREST:

Source 1: International Press Institution (IPI)

Fevzi Yazıcı, layout editor for the now-closed Zaman newspaper, was ordered jailed pending trial on Aug. 5, 2016 as part of a purge of journalists allegedly linked to U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gülen, who Turkey's government accuses of having established a "parallel state structure" and who it blames for the failed July 15, 2016 coup attempt. Although Yazıcı, as Zaman’s chief page designer, was not directly responsible for news content, the court reportedly based its decision on the “strong suspicion” that he was a member of the Gülenist movement and working for a media outlet that was “within the structure of [the movement’s] media arm”.

DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)

Turkish authorities issued a warrant for the detention of Fevzi Yazıcı, the then-44-year-old layout editor of the shuttered newspaper Zaman, on July 27, 2016. CPJ was unable to determine the precise date he was taken into custody. Istanbul's Third Court of Penal Peace on August 4, 2016, ordered Yazıcı jailed, pending trial on charges of being a follower of exiled preacher Fethullah Gülen, whom the Turkish government accuses of maintaining a terrorist organization and "parallel state structure" (FETÖ/PDY, by its Turkish acronym) and of masterminding a July 15, 2016, failed military coup. According to court records seen by CPJ, Yazıcı told the court that he started his career at the weekly Aksiyon, and later joined the daily Zaman as its chief page designer. The government ordered both publications closed by decree using emergency powers it assumed after the failed military coup, asserting they had links to FETÖ/PDY. The court concluded that there was a strong suspicion that Yazıcı was a member of FETÖ/PDY because he worked in media outlets that were "within the structure of FETÖ/PDY's media arm." Yazıcı, under questioning, told the court that he did not know who owned Aksiyon. He said that he did not know whether Zaman had ever criticized Gülen—whom he admitted having met at one of the preacher's sermons in the U.S., where Gülen is exiled—and that he was responsible only for laying out the newspaper's pages. The trial began in Istanbul on July 19, 2017. The co-defendants are the brothers Ahmet Altan, Mehmet Altan, Nazlı İlıcak, a former columnist for Özgür Düşünce and a former TV host for the shuttered broadcaster Can Erzincan TV; Yakup Şimşek, the newspaper's former advertising director; and Şükrü Tuğrul Özşengül, a former police academy instructor and TV commentator, according to reports. The defendants were charged with: “attempting to eliminate the Constitutional order,” “attempting to eliminate the government of Turkey or to prevent it from its duties partially or totally through violence and force,” “attempting to eliminate the parliament of Turkey or to prevent it from its duties partially or totally through violence and force,” and “aiding an armed terrorist organization without being a member,” according to the indictment. All the defendants denied the charges. According to press reports from June 2017, Yazıcı told the
court that he worked at Zaman because “they offered very good pay and conditions.” Yazıcı said, “Do not evaluate the Zaman I worked for with today's extraordinary conditions. There was no 'terrorism' accusation against the newspaper. Those who wanted to advertise [in the newspaper] did. There were official ads featured. Government leaders were giving interviews.” On February 16, 2018, a court sentenced Yazıcı, alongside Mehmet Altan, Ahmet Altan, İlıcak, and Şimşek, to life in prison without parole for “attemping, through violence and force, to disrupt and replace the order as recognized by Turkey's Constitution,” according to news reports. On October 2, 2018, a local appeals court in Istanbul upheld the life sentences, according to reports. The journalists’ lawyers said they will appeal.

Source 2: Expression Interrupted

More information about the legal process can be found below:


PRISON SENTENCE: Life sentence

LEGISLATION USED: Turkish Criminal Law 309/1

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: Silivri Prison, İstanbul

CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A

HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

SOURCES:

For more information in Turkish:

Website: http://www.freefevzi.com/

Information about legal proceedings:

1- https://expressioninterrupted.com/tr/o laganustu-halde-gazeteciler-7/
2- https://expressioninterrupted.com/tr/o laganustu-halde-gazeteciler-44/
3- https://expressioninterrupted.com/tr/n azli-ilicak/
DATE of BIRTH: 8 March 1974

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: a columnist/op-ed contributor with the Türksolu newspaper

DATE of ARREST: He was ordered arrested on 3 September 2016

DETAILS of ARREST:

Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

Gökçe Fırat Çulhaoğlu, a columnist/op-ed contributor with the Türksolu newspaper, was ordered arrested on Sept. 3, 2016 as part of a purge of journalists allegedly linked to U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gülen, who Turkey’s government accuses of having established a “parallel state structure” and who it blames for the failed July 15, 2016 coup attempt. Çulhaoğlu is one of 29 journalists charged in a case accusing them of having been part of the Gülen movement’s “media wing”.

DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

They face up to 10 years in prison if convicted. As of May 2, 2017, other journalists imprisoned in connection with the case include Abdullah Kılıç, Ahmet Memiş, Atilla Taş, Bayram Kaya, Bünyamin Köseli, Cemal Azmi Kalyoncu, Cihan Acar, Cuma Ulus, Emre Soncan, Habib Güler, Halil İbrahim Balta, Hanım Büşra Erdal, Hüseyin Aydın, Murat Aksoy, Mustafa Erkan Acar, Mutlu Çölgeçen, Oğuz Usluer, Seyid Kılıç, Ufuk Şanlı, Ünal Tank, Yakup Çetin and Yetkin Yıldız. Six other journalists face charges in the case, including Ali Akkuş, Bülent Ceyhan, Davut Aydın, Muhammed Sait Kuloğlu, Muhterem Tank and Said Sefa, the latter of whom reportedly had fled the country. On March 31, 2017 a court in Turkey ordered 21 of the imprisoned defendants released conditionally, but prosecutors successfully objected to the release of eight of them and the release order for the other 13 was blocked hours later. The defendants – with the exception of Akkuş, who was freed after having been imprisoned since July 30, 2016 – remained behind bars and the judges who made the order were suspended. Prosecutors later brought new charges against 13 of the journalists on charges of trying to overthrow the government and the constitutional order. Those facing the new charges include Cihan Acar, Mustafa Erkan Acar, Akkuş, Aksoy, Aydın, Çetin, Çulhaoğlu, Abdullah Kılıç, Seyid Kılıç, Köseli, Taş, Usluer and Yıldız.

Source 2: Expression Interrupted

Gökçe Fırat Çulhaoğlu, the chairman of Ulusal Parti (National Party) and chief columnist for the Türk Solu (Turkish Left) magazine, was taken into custody on August 31, 2016, as part of an investigation against the “media branch of the Fethullahist Terrorist Organization/Parallel State Structure (FETÖ/PDY).” Arrest warrants against 35 people including Çulhaoğlu were issued as part of the investigation, where the majority of the suspects are either journalists or academics. Upon finding out about the investigation, Çulhaoğlu reported to the Çağlayan Courthouse in Istanbul, where he was taken into custody by the police upon the prosecutor’s request. Çulhaoğlu and 11 others who were detained as part of the investigation testified before a prosecutor on September 2, 2016. Eight of the suspects, including Çulhaoğlu, were referred to a night court for arrest. In the early hours of September 3, the court issued an order for the arrest of Çulhaoğlu alongside journalists Murat Aksoy, Atilla Taş and Mutlu Çölgeçen on grounds that they “aided a terrorist organization without being its member.” The indictment against
Çulhaoğlu and 28 other suspects, a large number of whom are journalists, seeks prison sentences of up to 15 years for each suspect on charges of “membership in a terrorist organization.” Citing his social media posts and excerpts from several of his books and columns, the indictment states that it is “conceived that Çulhaoğlu manipulated the public opinion on behalf of the organization and thus is a member of the organization.” The prosecutor pointed out that although the grounds for Çulhaoğlu’s initial arrest was “aiding a terrorist organization,” the charge against him was now confirmed as “membership in a terrorist organization,” based on the social media posts and excerpts in the indictment. Çulhaoğlu gave his defense statement during the first hearing of the case, held on March 27-31, 2017, at the Istanbul 25th High Criminal Court. On the last day of the hearing, the prosecutor requested the release of 13 defendants including Çulhaoğlu, and the panel of judges ordered the release of 21 of the 26 suspects under arrest, including the 13 suspects for whom the prosecution sought release. However, the same day in the evening hours, news arrived that yet another investigation on charges of “attempting to overthrow the government and the constitutional order” had been opened against the 13 defendants who had just been released and thus Çulhaoğlu and his 12 co-defendants were taken into custody once again as they were leaving the prison premises. Following a two-week period of detention at the Istanbul anti-terror police headquarters, Çulhaoğlu and 11 others were jailed pending trial, this time on the new coup related charges, on April 14, 2017. The second hearing of the “FETÖ media leg” trial, where Çulhaoğlu is charged with “membership in a terrorist organization,” was held on April 27, 2017. No observers were allowed into the courtroom, except for a limited number of journalists. The next hearing was held on July 6. At the end of the court session, the panel of judges, which was the third new panel since the beginning of the proceedings, ruled for continued detention for all detained suspects in line with the prosecutor’s request. The first hearing in the case where Çulhaoğlu and 12 others were facing two aggravated life sentences on coup charges, was held on August 16-17, 2017. At the end of the session, Bünyamin Köseli and Cihan Acar, two former correspondents for the shuttered news outlets Aksiyon magazine and Bugün daily, respectively, were released under judicial control, while Çulhaoğlu and other defendants remained behind bars. The judges also ruled that the said case be merged with the “FETÖ media leg” trial, where the suspects faced “membership in a terrorist organization” charges. The first hearing post the merging of the two cases was held on October 24, 2017, at the Istanbul 25th High Criminal Court. At the end of the court session, the judges ruled for the release of journalist Murat Aksoy and Atilla Taş. No new release orders were issued in the trial’s hearing on December 3 and 4. The third hearing in the trial after two separate case files were merged in August took place on February 6, 2018. During the hearing, the prosecutor submitted his final opinion on the case, requesting the court to acquit 13 defendants of the “coup” charge. He requested that all but three defendants, Murat Aksoy, Gökçe Fırat Çulhaoğlu and Muhterem Tanık, are convicted of “membership in FETÖ/PDY terrorist organization” while the rest of the defendants are convicted of “aiding FETÖ/PDY terrorist organization without being part of its hierarchical structure.” The prosecutor also requested the release of Çulhaoğlu on account of the changed accusation. The 25th High Criminal Court of Istanbul on February 22 and 23 heard the final defense statements of 26 defendants in the case. Thirteen defendants addressed the court on those two days, at the end of which the court adjourned the trial until March 7 and 8 to hear the remaining defense statements. The
court announced its verdict at the end of the March 7-8 hearing, convicting 25 defendants, including Çulhaoğlu, of terrorism-related charges. The court sentenced Çulhaoğlu and 10 of his co-defendants to 6 years and 3 months in prison for “membership in an armed terrorist organization” and ruled for the continuation of detention of the imprisoned defendants in the case. In October, the appeals against prison sentences given to 25 defendants in the case were rejected by an appellate court. The 2nd Criminal Chamber of the Istanbul Regional Court of Justice rendered its decision on 22 October. The court made the ruling without a public hearing despite the defense lawyers’ requests for a hearing. The appellate court also ruled for the continuation of detention of all jailed defendants in the case. Convictions against the journalists are now expected to be taken to the Supreme Court of Appeals.

**PRISON SENTENCE:** 6 years and 3 months

**LEGISLATION USED:** Turkish Criminal Law 314/2

**CURRENT LEGAL STATUS:** Arrested

**CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION:** Silivri Prison, İstanbul

**CONDITIONS of DETENTION:**

Information on his conditions of detention and health concerns can be found in a questionnaire by Platform 24 (P24).

The Turkish version of the questionnaire is available [here](https://expressioninterrupted.com/tr/gokce-firat-culhaoglu/).

**HEALTH CONCERNS:** N/A

**SOURCES:**

For more information in Turkish:

[https://expressioninterrupted.com/tr/gokce-firat-culhaoglu/](https://expressioninterrupted.com/tr/gokce-firat-culhaoglu/)

GURBET ÇAKAR

DATE of BIRTH: N/A
GENDER: Female
PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Editor of Hevi Women’s magazine
DATE of ARREST: 2011
DETAILS of ARREST:
Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)
She was convicted over alleged links to outlawed Kurdish militant groups and is currently serving a sentence of seven years and six months in prison.

Source 2: Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)
Çakar, editor-in-chief of the Kurdish women’s magazine Rengê Heviya Jinê (The Color of Women’s Hope), was charged under the country’s Anti-Terror Law with spreading the propaganda of the banned Kurdistan Workers Party, or PKK. Prosecutors sought a 20-year prison term on the charges, which were pending in late year.

DETAILS of TRIAL:
Source 1: Bianet

Journalist Çakar Faces 20 Years in Jail, 11 October 2010

The prosecution demanded imprisonment of 20 years for Gurbet Çakar, editorial manager of the Renge Heviya Jine women magazine. Çakar is tried on the grounds of news, articles and photographs published in the only women magazine in Turkey publishing in Kurdish and Turkish. In the hearing on 7 October, the Public Prosecutor presented his final speech. He demanded Çakar’s punishment under charges of "membership of the PKK", the militant Kurdistan Workers Party, and "spreading propaganda for the PKK via the media".

Prosecutor: Crime committed on behalf of an illegal organization

Çakar was detained in March after she had given her statement to the Diyarbakır Public Prosecutor. She is detained at the Diyarbakır prison ever since. Çakar attended the hearing together with her lawyer Servet Özen. The prosecutor claimed that Çakar "disseminated organizational propaganda" in ten articles and photographs published in the 5th edition of the magazine. According to the prosecutor's final submission, an investigation into the magazine's contents of the 2nd and 4th edition was launched. Nevertheless, Çakar, as the editorial manger, did not alter the publication policies of the magazine and continued to spread organizational propaganda as if the magazine was a publication organ of the PKK, the prosecutor stated.

Decision expected for 30 December

Çakar pleaded for her acquittal, her lawyer Özen demanded her client’s release pending trial and requested additional time to prepare the final defence speech. The court dismissed the lawyer’s request for Çakar’s release. Özen was allowed additional time until 30 December. The court may reach a decision in the coming hearing. (EÖ/VK)
PRISON SENTENCE: N/A

LEGISLATION USED: N/A

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Convicted

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: Van E Type Prison

CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A

HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

SOURCES:

For more information in Turkish:


HABİP GÜLER

DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Former Zaman parliamentary reporter

DATE of ARREST: He was ordered arrested on 30th of July, 2016

DETAILS of ARREST:

Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

Habib Güler, a former Zaman reporter, was ordered arrested on July 30, 2016 as part of a purge of journalists allegedly linked to U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gülen, who Turkey’s government accuses of having established a “parallel state structure” and who it blames for the failed July 15, 2016 coup attempt. Güler is one of 29 journalists charged in a case accusing them of having been part of the Gülen movement’s “media wing”. They face up to 10 years in prison if convicted. As of May 2, 2017, other journalists imprisoned in connection with the case include Abdullah Kılıç, Ahmet Memiş, Atilla Taş, Bayram Kaya, Bünnyamin Köseli, Cemal Azmi Kalyoncu, Cihan Acar, Cuma Ulus, Emre Soncan, Gökçe Fırat Çuluhaoğlu, Halil İbrahim Balta, Hanım Büşra Erdal, Hüseyin Aydin, Murat Aksoy, Mustafa Erkan Acar, Mutlu Çölgeçen, Oğuz Usluer, Seyid Kılıç, Ufuk Şanlı, Ünal Tanık, Yakup Çetin and Yetkin Yıldız. Six other journalists face charges in the case, including Ali Akkuş, Bülent Ceyhan, Davut Aydin, Muhammed Sait Kuloğlu, Muhterem Tanık and Said Sefa, the latter of whom reportedly had fled the country. On March 31, 2017 a court in Turkey ordered 21 of the imprisoned defendants released conditionally, but prosecutors successfully objected to the release of eight of them and the release order for the other 13 was blocked hours later. The defendants – with the exception of Akkuş, who was freed after having been imprisoned since July 30, 2016 – remained behind bars and the judges who made the order were suspended. Prosecutors later brought new charges against 13 of the journalists on charges of trying to overthrow the government and the constitutional order. Those facing the new charges include Cihan Acar, Mustafa Erkan Acar, Akkuş, Aksoy, Aydin, Çetin, Çuluhaoğlu, Abdullah Kılıç, Seyid Kılıç, Köseli, Taş, Usluer and Yıldız.

DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)

Police in Istanbul detained Habib Güler, the shuttered daily Zaman's former parliamentary reporter, on July 25, 2016, his lawyer told CPJ. Istanbul’s First Court of Penal Peace on July 29, 2016, arraigned Güler and ordered him jailed, pending trial, on charges of being a member of a terrorist organization. The charge was based on the suspicion that he is a follower of exiled preacher Fethullah Gülen, whom the Turkish government accuses of maintaining a terrorist organization and "parallel state structure" in Turkey (FETÖ/PDY, by its Turkish acronym) and of masterminding a July 15, 2016, failed military coup. An Istanbul court in March 2016 ordered the Feza Media Group, which owned Zaman and several other media outlets, placed under trustees appointed by the government, saying the newspaper was a FETÖ/PDY mouthpiece. The government used emergency powers arrogated after the failed July 15, 2016, military coup to order the newspaper closed by decree on July 27, 2016. According to court records seen by CPJ, the state alleged that the then 38-year-old Güler's work at Zaman was evidence of his membership in the group. The state also alleged that police caught Güler as he was destroying evidence, one of the conditions under which a
suspect can be ordered jailed pending trial according to Turkish law. Güler told the court that prosecutors asked him about his activity on Twitter. The court specifically asked him about one post he published on the social media website on October 13, 2014. The court document did not include the content of the tweet, and the tweet has apparently been deleted since, but Güler told the court, "I tweeted that, but I did not fully understand the [Gülenist network] back then. I behaved emotionally." When asked if he wanted to help authorities crack down on FETÖ/PDY in exchange for leniency, Güler said he was only a parliamentary reporter and that the "[people] really responsible escaped abroad," according to the court's order to jail him pending trial. Güler is one of 17 co-accused on trial together. In the original indictment, all but one of them were charged with “being a member of an armed [terrorist] organization,” which carries up to 10 years in prison, according to news reports. The indictment accused the defendants of manipulating public perception of FETÖ to turn people against the government, which, prosecutors argued, made them members of the group. CPJ found the indictment to be similar to those presented at trials of other journalists in Turkey. Prosecutors cited as evidence journalistic activity or acts of free speech and communication, or cited circumstantial evidence such as being employed by a certain media outlet or having an account at a bank allegedly linked to Gülenists. In Güler’s case, prosecutors cited as evidence his employment by Zaman, his social media activism and his account with Bank Asya, which the government accused of being a Gülenist institution. When the trial started in March 2017, an Istanbul court ordered Güler and several of the other journalists to be released while the case was heard, according to news reports. Prosecutors successfully appealed the decision, and authorities ordered an investigation into the judges who ordered the release and they were relieved of duty, according to the reports. An Istanbul court on March 8, 2018, found Güler and at least 21 of the other journalists on trial guilty of "being a member of a [terrorist] organization,” and sentenced Güler to six years and three months in prison, according to reports. The court acquitted all the defendants of the more serious coup-related charges in the second indictment. At least 18 of the journalists were sent to prison for varying prison terms. Two of them— Atilla Taş and Murat Aksoy—were sentenced and released for time served, and the journalists Bünymın Köseli and Cihan Acar remain free pending the appeal, according to reports. Lawyers for the journalists told CPJ they are appealing the verdict. As of late 2018, the local appeal process was ongoing.

Source 2: Expression Interrupted

The 25th High Criminal Court of Istanbul on February 23, 2018, continued hearing final defense statements in what was the second session of the latest hearing in the case publicly known as the “FETÖ media trial,” in which 26 defendants, including former T24 columnist Murat Aksoy and former singer and newspaper columnist Atilla Taş, are standing trial on “membership in a terrorist organization” charges. Five of the defendants, Cemal Azmi Kalyoncu, Cihan Acar, Gökçe Fırat Çilhaoğlu, Habib Güler and Halil İbrahim Balta, gave their final defense statements on the second day of the hearing, monitored by P24 at the courtroom. A detailed report on the hearing can be found here: https://expressioninterrupted.com/no-verdict-in-media-trial-court-to-hear-more-statements-in-march/

PRISON SENTENCE: 6 years 3 months

LEGISLATION USED: Turkish Criminal Law 314/2

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested
CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: Silivri Prison, İstanbul

CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A

HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

SOURCES:

For more information in Turkish:

https://medyagozlemveritabani.org/gazeteci-habip-gulere-orgut-uyeliginden-6-yil-3-ay-hapis-cezasi-verildi/

http://platform24.org/guncel/2095/olaganustu-h-l-de-gazeteciler---ozel
HAKAN TAŞDELEN

DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Reporter

DATE of ARREST: He was ordered arrested on the 5th of August, 2016

DETAILS of ARREST:
Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

Reporter Hakan Taşdelen was ordered arrested on Aug. 5, 2016 as part of the government purge of individuals accused of spreading propaganda for the outlawed movement headed by U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gülen, who Turkey’s government accuses of having established a “parallel state structure” and who it blames for the failed July 15, 2016 coup attempt. On April 27, 2017, an Istanbul court accepted an indictment against Taşdelen and 29 other former Zaman Media Group employees that accuses them of attempting to overthrow the government, the Constitution and Parliament, and which seeks three consecutive life sentences for each suspect. The indictment also seeks another 15 years for each suspect on charges of being members of a terrorist organisation. The indictment alleges that Zaman, which was founded in 1986, was fully taken over by the Gülen movement the following year and was able to continue operating only due to the group’s financial support. It also accuses the group of “using the media as a weapon” to “manipulate society”, and alleges that Zaman employed “columnists with ideas that could have supported the organization”. As of April 28, 2017, other journalists imprisoned in the case include Ahmet Metin Sekizkardeş, Ahmet Turan Alkan, Alaattin Güner, Ali Bulaç, Cuma Kaya, Faruk Akkan, Hüseyin Turan, İbrahim Karayeğen, Mehmet Özdemir, Mümtazer Türköne, Murat Avcioğlu, Mustafa Ünal, Şahin Alpay, Şeref Yılmaz and Zafer Özsoy.

DETAILS of TRIAL: N/A

PRISON SENTENCE: 9 years

LEGISLATION USED: Turkish Criminal Law 314/2

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: N/A

CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A

HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

SOURCES:

For more information in English:

For more information in Turkish:

http://platform24.org/guncel/3013/zaman-gazetesinden-davasindan-ayrilan-10-saniga-hapis-cezasi
HALİL İBRAHİM MERT

DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Erzurum correspondent of state-owned Turkish Radio and Television Network (TRT)

DATE of ARREST: He was ordered arrested on the 23rd of July, 2016.

DETAILS of ARREST:
Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

Halil İbrahim Mert, Erzurum correspondent of state-owned Turkish Radio and Television Network (TRT), was ordered arrested on July 23, 2016 as part of a purge of journalists allegedly linked to U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gülen, who Turkey's government accuses of having established a “parallel state structure” and who it blames for the failed July 15, 2016 coup attempt.

DETAILS of TRIAL: N/A

PRISON SENTENCE: N/A

LEGISLATION USED: N/A

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: N/A

CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A

HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

SOURCES:
For more information in Turkish:
HAMİT DUMAN (alias DİLBAHAR)

DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: A columnist/op-ed contributor with Azadiya Welat

DATE of ARREST: 13 February 2010

DETAILS of ARREST:

Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

Hamit Dilbahar, a columnist/op-ed contributor with Azadiya Welat, was arrested in 2010. He was convicted over alleged links to outlawed Kurdish militant groups and is currently serving a sentence of 17 years in prison.

DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)

Dilbahar, a columnist for the Kurdish-language daily Azadiya Welat, was serving a 16-year term at Erzurum H Type Prison on charges of being a member of the banned Union of Communities in Kurdistan, or KCK. Apart from being featured on the imprisoned journalist lists of independent news portal Bianet and others, little is known about Dilbahar. Legal representation for Dilbahar and other detained Azadiya Welat journalists recently changed. The new defense lawyer, Cemil Sözen, who is representing Dilbahar on appeal, said he could not comment because he was not yet familiar with the case. Azadiya Welat News Editor Menderes Öner also declined comment, citing the legal complexities.

Source 2: PEN International Global Case List

Convicted of leadership of an armed organization under Article 314/1 of the Turkish Penal Code and leadership of a terrorist organization under Article 5 of the Anti-Terror Law in early 2013 and sentenced to 16 years in prison.

PRISON SENTENCE: 16 years

LEGISLATION USED: N/A

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Convicted

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: Erzurum E-type prison

CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A

HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

SOURCES:

For more information in English:

HAMZA GÜNERİGÖK

DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Anchor with state-owned Turkish Radio and Television Network (TRT)

DATE of ARREST: He was ordered arrested on 30th of January, 2017.

DETAILS of ARREST:
Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

Hamza Günerigök, an anchor with of state-owned Turkish Radio and Television Network (TRT), was ordered arrested on Jan. 30, 2017 as part of the government’s investigation following the July 15, 2016 coup attempt.

DETAILS of TRIAL: N/A

PRISON SENTENCE: 6 years 3 months

LEGISLATION USED: N/A

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: N/A

CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A

HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

SOURCES:

For more information in English:

For more information in Turkish:
HANIM BÜŞRA ERDAL

DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Female

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Columnist/op-ed contributor for Zaman and Yeni Hayat newspapers

DATE of ARREST: She was arrested on 29th of July, 2016.

DETAILS of ARREST:

Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

Hanım Büşra Erdal, a columnist/op-ed contributor for the now-closed Zaman newspaper, was ordered arrested on July 30, 2016 as part of a purge of journalists allegedly linked to U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gülen, who Turkey’s government accuses of having established a “parallel state structure” and who it blames for the failed July 15, 2016 coup attempt.

DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

Erdal is one of 29 journalists charged in a case accusing them of having been part of the Gülen movement’s “media wing”. They face up to 10 years in prison if convicted. As of May 2, 2017, other journalists imprisoned in connection with the case include Abdullah Kılıç, Ahmet Memiş, Atilla Taş, Bayram Kaya, Bünnyamin Köseli, Cemal Azmi Kalyoncu, Cihan Acar, Cuma Ulus, Emre Soncan, Gökçe Firat Çulhaoğlu, Habib Güler, Halil İbrahim Balta, Hüseyin Aydın, Murat Aksoy, Mustafa Erkan Acar, Mutlu Çölteçen, Öğuz Usluer, Seyid Kılıç, Ufuk Şanlı, Ünal Tanık, Yakup Çetin and Yetkin Yıldız. Six other journalists face charges in the case, including Ali Akkuş, Bülent Ceyhan, Davut Aydın, Muhammed Sait Kuloğlu, Muhterem Tanık and Said Sefa, the latter of whom reportedly had fled the country. On March 31, 2017 a court in Turkey ordered 21 of the imprisoned defendants released conditionally, but prosecutors successfully objected to the release of eight of them and the release order for the other 13 was blocked hours later. The defendants – with the exception of Akkuş, who was freed after having been imprisoned since July 30, 2016 – remained behind bars and the judges who made the order were suspended. Prosecutors later brought new charges against 13 of the journalists on charges of trying to overthrow the government and the constitutional order. Those facing the new charges include Cihan Acar, Mustafa Erkan Acar, Akkuş, Aksoy, Aydın, Çetin, Çulhaoğlu, Abdullah Kılıç, Seyid Kılıç, Köseli, Taş, Usluer and Yıldız.

Source 2: Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)

Police on July 26, 2016, detained Hanım Büşra Erdal, the then-35-year-old columnist and court reporter for the shuttered daily newspaper Zaman, at her family’s home in the western Turkish province of Manisa, Turkey’s state-run Anadolu News Agency reported. She was subsequently transferred to Istanbul to be investigated as part of a broad purge of suspected followers of exiled preacher Fethullah Gülen, whom the Turkish government accuses of maintaining a terrorist organization and "parallel state structure" (FETÖ/PDY, by its Turkish acronym) and of masterminding a July 15, 2016, failed military coup. Istanbul’s First Court of Penal Peace on July 29, 2016, ordered the journalist jailed pending trial on charges of membership in a terrorist organization, in large part based on her long employment at Zaman, according to the arraignment, which CPJ has reviewed. An Istanbul court in March 2016 ordered the Feza Media Group, which owned Zaman and several other media outlets, placed
under trustees appointed by the government on the grounds that the court considered it a FETÖ/PDY mouthpiece. The government used emergency powers assumed after the failed July 15, 2016, military coup to order the newspaper closed by decree on July 27, 2016. According to the arraignment, the state alleged that Erdal was detained as she was destroying evidence against her, an allegation that her lawyer, Ümit Kardaş, disputed in his appeal of the order to jail Erdal pending trial, which CPJ has also reviewed. According to Turkish law, any suspicion of tampering with evidence or preventing evidence from being collected during an investigation can be used to justify pretrial detention. Kardaş said in the appeal that the allegation of destroying evidence was "imaginary." He said Erdal had wanted to turn herself in to police as soon as she learned from the press that she was wanted, but that police told her not to move, and that they would come for her at her family's home. Erdal's lawyer wrote in the appeal that police did not search the journalist's family's house, but instead searched her apartment in Istanbul, and found books by Gülen. Prosecutors asked Erdal about a July 12, 2016, opinion article she wrote, headlined "Are you aware of danger?" in the newspaper Yeni Hayat, which former Zaman journalists launched after a court placed Zaman's parent company under trusteeship. Prosecutors also asked her about the books by Gülen that police found in her apartment, and about her activity on Twitter. Prosecutors also asked her whether she knew Hidayet Karaca, the jailed head of Samanyolu Broadcasting Group. Erdal is on trial with several co-accused. In the original indictment, all but one of them were charged with "being a member of an armed [terrorist] organization," which carries up to 10 years in prison, according to news reports. The indictment accused the defendants of manipulating public perception of FETÖ to turn people against the government, which, prosecutors argued, made them members of the group. CPJ found the indictment to be similar to those presented at trials of other journalists in Turkey. Prosecutors cited as evidence journalistic activity or acts of free speech and communication, or cited circumstantial evidence such as being employed by a certain media outlet or having an account at a bank allegedly linked to Gülenists. In Erdal’s case, prosecutors cited as evidence her articles at Zaman and Yeni Hayat and her social media activity. When the trial started in March 2017, an Istanbul court ordered Erdal and several of the other journalists to be released while the case was heard, according to news reports. Prosecutors successfully appealed the decision, and authorities ordered an investigation into the judges who had ordered the release and they were relieved of duty, according to the reports. Erdal's lawyer, Ümit Kardaş, told CPJ in September 2017 that the court order that blocked his client's release was dated April 3, two days after Erdal was prevented from leaving the prison. Kardaş said he planned to appeal to the Constitutional Court about the procedural violation. He said that Erdal has low morale and that after she was detained again, she lost her hope in the law. An Istanbul court on March 8, 2018, found Erdal and at least 21 of the other journalists on trial guilty of "being a member of a [terrorist] organization," and sentenced Erdal to six years and three months in prison, according to reports. The court acquitted all the defendants of the more serious coup-related charges in the second indictment. At least 18 of the journalists were sent to prison for varying prison terms. Two of them—Atilla Taş and Murat Aksoy—were sentenced and released for time served, and the journalists Bünyamin Köseli and Cihan Acar remain free pending the appeal, according to reports. Lawyers for the journalists told CPJ they are appealing the verdict. As of late 2018, the local appeal process was ongoing. In response to a June 2018 poll of jailed journalists carried out by the P24 Independent Journalism
Association, Erdal said that she has trouble with access to the infirmary and that the state does not pay for some medication that she needs. Erdal did not specify what problems she has with the infirmary. The journalist said that police strip searched her when she was first detained.

**Source 3: Expression Interrupted**

Hanım Büşra Erdal, a court reporter and a columnist for the shuttered Zaman and Yeni Hayat dailies, was arrested on July 26 at her family’s home in the western province of Manisa as part of a crackdown on journalists suspected of links with the banned movement led by Fethullah Gülen. Erdal was charged with “terrorist group membership” based on some of her Twitter posts and newspaper columns, along with 28 others in a case dubbed “media arm of FETÖ.” On March 31, at the end of the first hearing of her trial, the Istanbul 25th High Criminal Court ruled to release her and 20 other suspects pending trial. However, Erdal and seven others were rearrested upon leaving the prison compound after the prosecutor objected to their release. All three judges and prosecutor of the case were suspended temporarily for the decision to release the 21 defendants. Erdal and other defendants appeared before a new panel of judges for the second hearing of their trial on April 27. The judges ruled to continue detention of all imprisoned suspects, 20 in total, and adjourned the trial until July 6, 2017. In that hearing, the trial was once again adjourned until October 24. In their interim decision at the end of the hearing on October 24, judges of the court ruled for the release of defendants Atilla Taş, Murat Aksoy and Davut Aydın, while the rest of the defendants in the case, including Erdal, were ordered to remain in pre-trial detention and the trial was adjourned until December 4, 2017. At the end of that hearing, the court ruled for the continued detention of all 20 imprisoned defendants, while the trial was adjourned until February 6, 2018. During the February 6, 2018, hearing, the prosecutor submitted his final opinion on the case, laying out the charges and the punishment he requests for the defendants. The prosecutor requested the court to acquit 13 defendants of “coup” charges. He requested that all but three defendants, Murat Aksoy, Gökçe Fırat Çulhaoğlu and Muhterem Tanık, be charged with “membership in FETÖ/PDY terrorist organization” while the rest be charged with “aiding the FETÖ/PDY terrorist organization without being a part of its hierarchical structure.” During the next hearing of the case, held over two days, on February 22-23, 2018, the 25th High Criminal Court of Istanbul heard the final defense statements of 13 defendants. The court then adjourned the trial until March 7-8, 2018, for the remaining final defense statements. On the second day of the final hearing on March 8, 2018, the court announced its verdict, convicting 25 journalists in the case of terrorism-related charges. Erdal and 10 other journalists were sentenced to 6 years and 3 months in prison for “membership in an armed terrorist organization.” The court also ruled for the continuation of detention of the imprisoned defendants in the case. In October, the appeals against prison sentences given to 25 defendants in the case were rejected by an appellate court. The 2nd Criminal Chamber of the Istanbul Regional Court of Justice rendered its decision on 22 October. The court made the ruling without a public hearing despite defense lawyers’ requests for a hearing. The appellate court also ruled for the continuation of detention of all jailed defendants in the case. Convictions against the journalists are now expected to be taken to the Supreme Court of Appeals. Erdal is currently jailed at Istanbul’s Bakırköy Women’s Prison.

**PRISON SENTENCE:** 6 years 3 months

**LEGISLATION USED:** Turkish Criminal Law 314/2

**CURRENT LEGAL STATUS:** Arrested
CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: Bakırköy Prison for Women, Istanbul

CONDITIONS of DETENTION:

Information on her conditions of detention and health concerns can be found in a questionnaire by Platform 24 (P24).

The Turkish version of the questionnaire is available here.

HEALTH CONCERNS: See questionnaire above.

SOURCES:

For more information in English:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkey%27s_media_purge_after_the_failed_July_2016_coup_d%2727%C3%A9tat

For more information in Turkish:
https://expressioninterrupted.com/tr/hanim-busra-erdal-2/
https://medyagozlemveritabani.org/gazeteci-hanim-busra-erdala-orgut-uyeliginden-6-yil-3-ay-hapis-cezası-verildi/
HASAN BOZKURT

DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Reporter for Bugün newspaper

DATE of ARREST: 19th of May, 2017

DETAILS of ARREST: N/A

DETAILS of TRIAL: N/A

PRISON SENTENCE: N/A

LEGISLATION USED: N/A

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: N/A

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: N/A

CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A

HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A
Jailed defendants Hasan Hüseyin Örs, İbrahim Halil Öztürkeri and Hasan Taşar each sentenced to 8 years and 9 months, Özden Kınık given 8 years 1 month and 15 days in prison. Ten former employees of the Turkish state broadcaster TRT were given jail terms between 6 years and 3 months and 8 years and 9 months for “membership in an armed terrorist organization” in the final hearing of the case. A total of 21 former TRT employees who had been dismissed from their posts in the aftermath of the failed coup attempt of 15 July 2016 on allegations of “FETÖ membership” were standing trial in the case, overseen by the Ankara 23rd High Criminal Court. Jailed defendants Hasan Hüseyin Örs, İbrahim Halil Öztürkeri and Hasan Taşar were each sentenced to 8 years and 9 months in prison while another jailed defendant, Özden Kınık, was given 8 years 1 month and 15 days in prison. The court also ruled for the continuation of all four’s detention. The court gave Kemal Erdem, Hasan Basri Erden, Mehmet Ali Öğet and Mustafa Ünal 7.5 year-prison terms each, while İdris Selçuk was given 6 years and 3 months. Another defendant referred to in court documents by the initials A.F. and who had requested to benefit from effective remorse was given a suspended jail term of 1.5 years and 22 days. One of the defendants, Hanife Sayılır, was acquitted of all charges, while the rest of the defendants’ files were separated. Cavit Atasever, Mustafa Altıntaş, Servet Dağ, Mustafa Yazkan, Cihangir Çetin, Hüsamettin Kiroğlu, Osman Zeybek, Murat Kirti and Mustafa Beyhan will continue standing trial. Öget and Kirti were released pending the conclusion of the trial at the end of a previous hearing of the case in October 2017.

**PRISON SENTENCE:** 8 years 9 months

**LEGISLATION USED:** N/A

**CURRENT LEGAL STATUS:** Arrested

**CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION:** N/A

**CONDITIONS of DETENTION:** N/A

**HEALTH CONCERNS:** N/A

**SOURCES:**

For more information in Turkish:

HASAN TAŞAR

DATE of BIRTH: N/A
GENDER: Males
PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: TRT
DATE of ARREST: N/A
DETAILS of ARREST: N/A
DETAILS of TRIAL: N/A
PRISON SENTENCE: N/A
LEGISLATION USED: N/A

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested
CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: N/A
CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A
HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A
SOURCES:

For more information in English:
For more information in Turkish:
For more information in Kurdish:
Hatice Duman, former owner and editor of the daily newspaper Atılım, was detained in 2003 and charged with being a member of the outlawed Marxist-Leninist Communist Party (MLKP), producing propaganda and “attempting to change the constitutional order by force.” Further charges included possession of weapons and forgery. Although Duman denied all charges, her husband testified against her, later saying police threatened his family with sexual violence if he did not comply. Duman was convicted in 2011 and sentenced to life imprisonment, a sentence Turkey’s Court of Cassation upheld in 2012.

**PRISON SENTENCE:** Life imprisonment  
**LEGISLATION USED:** N/A  
**CURRENT LEGAL STATUS:** Convicted  
**CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION:** Bakırköy Women’s Closed Prison, Istanbul  
**CONDITIONS of DETENTION:** N/A  
**HEALTH CONCERNS:** N/A
HİDAYET KARACA

DATE of BIRTH: 18 August 1963

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: General Director of Samanyolu Broadcast Group, anchorman

DATE of ARREST: 19 December 2014

DETAILS of ARREST:

Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

Hidayet Karaca, the chairman of Samanyolu Media group, was arrested on Dec. 19, 2014 due to allegations of alleged links to U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gulen, who Turkey’s government accuses of having established a “parallel state structure” and who it blames for the failed July 15, 2016 coup attempt. Nine others are implicated in the case. Karaca is being held in the Silivri 9 Nolu F-type prison on charges of “membership in a terrorist organisation”.

DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: Expression Interrupted

Karaca and Kaya were among the 75 defendants of the case, including former editor-in-chief of the shuttered Zaman newspaper, Ekrem Dumanli. The case files of Dumanli and other defendants who could not be brought before the court before they had fled Turkey, were separated.

PRISON SENTENCE: Aggravated life sentence

LEGISLATION USED: Turkish Criminal Law 220/7 and Turkish Criminal Law 309

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: Silivri 9 Nolu F-type prison

CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A

HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

SOURCES:

For more information in Turkish:

https://expressioninterrupted.com/tr/olaganustu-halde-gazeteciler-115/


http://platform24.org/guncel/3102/olaganustu-h-l-de-gazeteciler----161
HÜSEYİN AYDIN

DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Military affairs reporter for now closed Cihan News Agency

DATE of ARREST: He was ordered arrested on July 30, 2016.

DETAILS of ARREST: N/A

DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

Hüseyin Aydın, military affairs reporter for now closed Cihan News Agency, was ordered arrested on July 30, 2016 as part of a purge of journalists allegedly linked to U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gülen, who Turkey's government accuses of having established a "parallel state structure" and who it blames for the failed July 15, 2016 coup attempt. Aydın is one of 29 journalists charged in a case accusing them of having been part of the Gülen movement's "media wing". They face up to 10 years in prison if convicted. As of May 2, 2017, other journalists imprisoned in connection with the case include Abdullah Kılıç, Ahmet Memiş, Atilla Taş, Bayram Kaya, Bünýamin Köseli, Cemal Azmi Kalyoncu, Cihan Acar, Cuma Ulus, Emre Soncan, Gökçe Fırat Çulhaoğlu, Habib Güler, Halil İbrahim Balta, Hanım Büşra Erdal, Murat Aksoy, Mustafa Erkan Acar, Mutlu Çölgeçen, Oğuz Usluer, Seyid Kılıç, Ufuk Şanlı, Ünal Tanik, Yakup Çetin and Yetkin Yıldız. Six other journalists face charges in the case, including Ali Akkuş, Bülent Ceyhan, Davut Aydın, Muhammed Sait Kuloğlu, Muhterem Tanik and Said Sefa, the latter of whom reportedly had fled the country. On March 31, 2017 a court in Turkey ordered 21 of the imprisoned defendants released conditionally, but prosecutors successfully objected to the release of eight of them and the release order for the other 13 was blocked hours later. The defendants – with the exception of Akkuş, who was freed after having been imprisoned since July 30, 2016 – remained behind bars and the judges who made the order were suspended. Prosecutors later brought new charges against 13 of the journalists on charges of trying to overthrow the government and the constitutional order. Those facing the new charges include Cihan Acar, Mustafa Erkan Acar, Akkuş, Aksoy, Aydın, Çetin, Çulhaoğlu, Abdullah Kılıç, Seyid Kılıç, Köseli, Taş, Usluer and Yıldız.

Source 2: Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)

Police in Istanbul detained Hüseyin Aydın, a former military affairs reporter for the shuttered Cihan News Agency, on July 26, 2016, as part of a sweeping purge of journalists and others suspected of following exiled preacher Fethullah Gülen, according to press reports. The government accuses Gülen of maintaining a terrorist organization and "parallel state structure" (or FETÖ/PDY, as the government calls it) within Turkey that it blames for orchestrating a failed military coup on July 15, 2016. Istanbul's Fifth Court of Penal Peace on June 30, 2016, arraigned Aydın and 16 other journalists, ordering them jailed pending trial on charges of "being members of an armed terrorist organization," according to the media monitoring group P24. The daily newspaper Hürriyet reported that the 17 journalists were questioned by prosecutors on accusations of "being members of an armed terrorist organization," "founding or leading an armed terrorist organization," "knowingly and willingly helping [a terrorist] organization without being involved in the organization's hierarchical structure," and "committing crimes in the name of a [terrorist] organization without being a
A court in March 2016 ordered the Cihan News Agency’s parent company, the Feza Media Group, put under government trustees, saying it had ties to the Gülenist network. CPJ research shows that authorities have targeted dozens of journalists formerly employed by the Feza Media Group with arrest and prosecution on terrorism charges since the failed July 2016 coup. The government used emergency powers it assumed after the coup attempt to close Feza’s news outlets by decree. All but one of the journalists with whom Aydın is on trial were charged with “being a member of an armed [terrorist] organization,” which carries up to 10 years in prison, according to the indictment. CPJ found the indictment to be similar to those presented at trials of other journalists in Turkey. Prosecutors cited as evidence in these cases journalistic activity or acts of free speech and communication, or cited circumstantial evidence such as being employed by a certain media outlet or having an account at a bank allegedly linked to Gulenists. The indictment accused the defendants of manipulating the public perception of FETÖ to turn citizens against the government, which prosecutors argued made them members of the group that Turkey alleges is behind the failed attempted coup. Prosecutors presented as evidence against Aydın his employment by Cihan News Agency, his social media activity, and his reporting that the press is censored in Turkey. When the trial started in March 2017, an Istanbul court ordered Aydın and four of his co-accused to be detained for the duration of the trial, according to news reports. An Istanbul court on March 8, 2018, found Aydın and at least 21 of the other journalists on trial guilty of “being a member of a [terrorist] organization,” and sentenced Aydın to six years and three months in prison, according to reports. The court acquitted all the defendants of the more serious coup-related charges in the second indictment. At least 18 of the journalists were sent to prison for varying prison terms. Two of them—Atilla Taş and Murat Aksoy—were sentenced and released for time served, and the journalists Bünyamin Köseli and Cihan Acar remain free pending the appeal, according to reports. Lawyers for the journalists told CPJ they are appealing the verdict. As of late 2018, the local appeal process was ongoing. In response to a June 2018 poll of jailed journalists carried out by the P24 Independent Journalism Association, Aydın said that he had been denied access for months to a dentist. Aydın was being detained in Silivri prison in Istanbul.

**PRISON SENTENCE:** 6 years and 3 months

**LEGISLATION USED:** Turkish Criminal Law 314/2

**CURRENT LEGAL STATUS:** Arrested

**CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION:** Silivri Prison, İstanbul

**CONDITIONS of DETENTION:**

Information on his conditions of detention and health concerns can be found in a questionnaire by Platform 24 (P24).

The Turkish version of the questionnaire is available here.

**HEALTH CONCERNS:** See questionnaire above.

**SOURCES:**

For more information in Turkish:

https://medyagozlemveritabani.org/gazeteci-huseyin-aydina-orgut-uyeliginden-6-yil-3-ay-hapis-cezasi-verildi/
İBRAHİM HALİL ÖZTÜRKERİ

DATE of BIRTH: N/A
GENDER: Male
PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: TRT
DATE of ARREST: N/A
DETAILS of ARREST: N/A
DETAILS of TRIAL:
Source 1: Expression Interrupted

Jailed defendants Hasan Hüseyin Örs, İbrahim Halil Öztürkeri and Hasan Taşar each sentenced to 8 years and 9 months, Özden Kınık given 8 years 1 month and 15 days in prison. Ten former employees of the Turkish state broadcaster TRT were given jail terms between 6 years and 3 months and 8 years and 9 months for “membership in an armed terrorist organization” in the final hearing of the case. A total of 21 former TRT employees who had been dismissed from their posts in the aftermath of the failed coup attempt of 15 July 2016 on allegations of “FETÖ membership” were standing trial in the case, overseen by the Ankara 23rd High Criminal Court. Jailed defendants Hasan Hüseyin Örs, İbrahim Halil Öztürkeri and Hasan Taşar were each sentenced to 8 years and 9 months in prison while another jailed defendant, Özden Kınık, was given 8 years 1 month and 15 days in prison. The court also ruled for the continuation of all four’s detention. The court gave Kemal Erdem, Hasan Basri Erden, Mehmet Ali Öget and Mustafa Ünal 7.5 year-prison terms each, while İdris Selçuk was given 6 years and 3 months. Another defendant referred to in court documents by the initials A.F. and who had requested to benefit from effective remorse was given a suspended jail term of 1.5 years and 22 days. One of the defendants, Hanife Saylı, was acquitted of all charges, while the rest of the defendants’ files were separated. Cavit Atasever, Mustafa Altintaş, Servet Dağ, Mustafa Yazkan, Cihangir Çetin, Hüsamettin Kiroğlu, Osman Zeybek, Murat Kirti and Mustafa Beyhan will continue standing trial. Öget and Kirti were released pending the conclusion of the trial at the end of a previous hearing of the case in October 2017.

PRISON SENTENCE: 8 years and 9 months

LEGISLATION USED: N/A
CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested
CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: N/A
CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A
HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

SOURCES:
For more information in Turkish:

http://platform24.org/medya-izleme/3230/turkiye-de-basin-ve-ifade-ozgurlugu---169
İBRAHİM VARLIK

DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Males

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Correspondent for Cihan News Agency

DATE of ARREST: N/A

DETAILS of ARREST: N/A

DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: Expression Interrupted

Journalist İbrahim Varlık jailed pending trial

İbrahim Varlık, a former correspondent for the shuttered Cihan news agency, has been jailed pending trial. Journalist Ahmet Dönmez announced the news of Varlık’s arrest on 28 May via his Twitter account. No information was available as to the grounds for Varlık’s arrest or the prison he has been placed.

PRISON SENTENCE: N/A

LEGISLATION USED: N/A

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: N/A

CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A

HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

SOURCES:

For more information in Turkish:


http://www.platform24.org/medya-izleme/3768/turkiye-de-basin-ve-ifade-ozgurlugu---210
İDRİS OKUR

DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Reporter for Cihan News Agency

DATE of ARREST: N/A

DETAILS of ARREST: N/A

DETAILS of TRIAL: N/A

PRISON SENTENCE: N/A

LEGISLATION USED: N/A

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: N/A

CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A

HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

SOURCES:

For more information in English:

https://expressioninterrupted.com/lokman-erdogan/

For more information in Turkish:

İSMAİL ÇOBAN

DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Former managing editor for now-shuttered Kurdish newspaper Azadiya Welat

DATE of ARREST: 3rd of May, 2018

DETAILS of ARREST:

Source 1: International Press Institute

İsmail Çoban, former managing editor for now-shuttered Kurdish newspaper Azadiya Welat, was arrested on May 3, 2018, in Diyarbakır province. On April 23, he was detained in Mersin due to an arrest warrant in relation to an investigation of which he is a part, and brought before a Diyarbakır court. The court ruled to put him in pretrial detention on charges of “membership of a terrorist organization” and sent Çoban to Diyarbakır D-type prison. The accusations against him remained unclear initially as the prosecution requested a confidential sealing order on the case.

DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)

Police on April 21, 2018, detained İsmail Çoban, former responsible news editor for the shuttered Kurdish-language daily Azadiya Welat, in the southeastern province of Mersin, according to court documents provided by his lawyer, Resul Tamur. A court on May 3 ordered Çoban to be held on accusations of "being a member of a [terrorist] organization," according to reports. Tamur told CPJ in an email in November 15, 2018, that a trial date had not yet been scheduled for Çoban and that his indictment was not immediately available. As responsible news editor, Çoban can be held accountable for all of Azadiya Welat's content during his time in the role. In Turkey, all news outlets are required to have a responsible news editor, but the position is often temporary for opposition news outlets, due to the heavy load of trials. Çoban was previously convicted in a separate case of "making propaganda for a [terrorist] organization." According to the indictment and verdict in that case, Çoban was accused of supporting the outlawed Kurdistan Worker's Party (PKK) and its leader Abdullah Öcalan through Azadiya Welat. The prosecution cited as evidence reports of clashes between the PKK and Turkey's armed forces that referred to PKK members as "guerrillas" and those PKK members killed in action as "martyrs," which the prosecution argued showed support for the militia. The prosecutor also cited as evidence articles that referred to the PKK as the "fundamental defender of Kurdistan" and Öcalan as "the leader of the Kurdish people." A court on April 4, 2017, sentenced him to one year, six months and three days in prison, as well as a fine of 42,000 Turkish lira (approx. US$7,855), Tamur said. Under Turkish law, each 20 lira of an unpaid fine adds one day to a defendant's prison sentence. Tamur said that Çoban has not paid the fine, which had added an additional 2,100 days to his prison sentence.

Source 2: Expression Interrupted

İsmail Çoban given 5-year prison sentence on “propaganda” charge

İsmail Çoban, the jailed former managing editor of the shuttered Kurdish language daily Azadiya Welat, was given a 5-year prison sentence on 21 November at the final hearing of his trial on the “propaganda” charge. Çoban was accused of “successively disseminating propaganda for a terrorist organization” on account of a number
of news articles and columns the newspaper published in 2013. Submitting its final opinion of the case during the hearing at the 7th High Criminal Court of Diyarbakır, the prosecution requested that Çoban be given a prison term of up to 7 years. Çoban’s lawyer Resul Tamur, addressing the court for Çoban’s defense statement, requested that the case be dismissed due to the statute of limitations in Article 26 of Turkey’s Press Law, since the indictment against Çoban was drafted after the expiration of the four-month period prescribed by law. Announcing its verdict at the end of the hearing, the court convicted Çoban and imposed on the jailed journalist a 5-year prison term.

**PRISON SENTENCE:** 5 years

**LEGISLATION USED:** Turkish Criminal Law 314/2

**CURRENT LEGAL STATUS:** Arrested

**CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION:** Diyarbakır D Type Prison

**CONDITIONS of DETENTION:** N/A

**HEALTH CONCERNS:** N/A

**SOURCES:**

For more information in Turkish:


https://expressioninterrupted.com/tr/turkiyede-basin-ve-ifade-ozgurlugu-183/
ISMAİL ERSAN

DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Yalova correspondent for the state-run Anadolu News Agency (AA)

DATE of ARREST: He was ordered arrested on Oct. 20, 2017

DETAILS of ARREST:
Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

İsmail Ersan, the Yalova correspondent for the state-run Anadolu News Agency (AA), was ordered arrested on Oct. 20, 2017 for having downloaded “Bylock”, a secretive, encrypted-communications application for mobiles said to have been used by followers of U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gülen, who Turkey’s government blames for the July 15, 2016 coup attempt. Ersan was accused of “membership in a terrorist organisation” and placed in pre-trial detention the same day.

DETAILS of TRIAL:
Source 1: Expression Interrupted

Anatolia reporter arrested over ByLock use

İsmail Ersan, the Yalova Bureau Chief for the Anatolia news agency, was arrested by a peace court in Yalova on October 20 for using the ByLock chat application. The Sözcü newspaper reported on Ersan’s situation on October 25, five days after his arrest. Sözcü said an official statement from the Yalova Chief Prosecutor’s Office had announced Ersan’s arrest. The journalist is facing charges of “membership in a terrorist organization,” according to Sözcü.

PRISON SENTENCE: N/A

LEGISLATION USED: N/A

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: N/A

CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A

HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

SOURCES:

For more information in Turkish:
https://expressioninterrupted.com/tr/olaganustu-halde-gazeteciler-114/
İSMAİL EVREN

DATE of BIRTH: N/A
GENDER: Male
PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND:
DATE of ARREST: 4th of January 2019
DETAILS of ARREST: N/A
DETAILS of TRIAL: N/A
PRISON SENTENCE: N/A
LEGISLATION USED: N/A
CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested
CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: Silivri No. 3 L-Type Prison

CONDITIONS of DETENTION:
Information on his conditions of detention and health concerns can be found in a questionnaire by Platform 24 (P24).
The Turkish version of the questionnaire is available here.

HEALTH CONCERNS: See the questionnaire above.

SOURCES:
For more information in English:
For information in Turkish:
For information in Kurdish:
KAMURAN SUNBAT

DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Former Cukurova correspondent of the pro-Kurdish Dicle News Ajansı (DİHA)

DATE of ARREST: 11 September 2011

DETAILS of ARREST:

Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

Kamuran Sunbat, the former Cukurova correspondent of the pro-Kurdish Dicle News Ajansı (DİHA), was arrested in 2011. He was convicted over alleged links to outlawed Kurdish militant groups and is currently serving a sentence of 11 years, 11 months in prison.

DETAILS of TRIAL: N/A

PRISON SENTENCE: 11 years and 11 months

LEGISLATION USED: N/A

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Convicted

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: Şırnak T Type Prison

CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A

HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

SOURCES:

For more information in English:
An Ankara court on May 10 convicted Kazim Canlan, former news director for the Ankara bureau of the shuttered Cihan news agency, of “membership in a terrorist organization” for having ties with the Fethullah Gülen network, which the government accuses of being behind the 2016 coup attempt. Canlan gave his final defense statement before the 26th High Criminal Court of Ankara from the Tarsus Prison, where he was in pretrial detention, via the courtroom video-conferencing system SEGBiS during the May 10 hearing. Rejecting the accusations, Canlan requested that he be acquitted and released. Canlan’s lawyer also requested his client’s acquittal and release. Following defense statements, the court announced its verdict, sentencing Canlan to 7.5 years in prison on grounds that he deposited cash in Bank Asya upon Gülen’s instruction and used the encrypted messaging applications ByLock and Eagle, purported to be used exclusively by the members of Gülen network.

**PRISON SENTENCE:** 7 years and 6 months

**LEGISLATION USED:** N/A

**CURRENT LEGAL STATUS:** Convicted

**CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION:** Tarsus Prison

**CONDITIONS of DETENTION:** N/A

**HEALTH CONCERNS:** N/A

**SOURCES:**

For more information in Turkish:

https://expressioninterrupted.com/tr/olaganustu-halde-gazeteciler-158/
KENAN KARAVİL

DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Radio World

DATE of ARREST: 2009

DETAILS of ARREST:

Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

Kenan Karavil, editor-in-chief of Radyo Dünya, was arrested in 2009. He was convicted over alleged links to outlawed Kurdish militant groups and is currently serving a sentence of 19 years, nine months in prison.

DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)

Karavil, editor-in-chief of the pro-Kurdish radio station Radyo Dünya in the southern province of Adana, served more than three years in prison before being convicted on charges of being a member of the banned Union of Communities in Kurdistan, or KCK, and the Kurdistan Workers Party, or PKK. As evidence, authorities cited news programs that Karavil produced, his meetings with members of the pro-Kurdish Democratic Society Party, and his wiretapped telephone conversations with colleagues, listeners, and news sources, his lawyer, Vedat Özkan, told CPJ. In one phone conversation, Karavil discussed naming a program "Those Who Imagine the Island," the lawyer said. He said the indictment considered this illegal propaganda because it referred to the imprisonment of PKK leader Abdullah Öcalan, who was being held in a prison on İmralı Island. In a January 2012 letter to media outlets, Karavil said authorities questioned him about the station’s ownership and the content of its programming. Court officials refused to allow Karavil to give statements in his native Kurdish language, Özkan said. In January 2013, the Eighth Court of Serious Crimes in Adana Province sentenced Karavil to 25 years in prison, Özkan told CPJ. In October 2014, Özkan said the Supreme Court of Appeals had upheld the sentence. Özkan told CPJ that Karavil filed an appeal with Turkey’s Constitutional Court in 2014. In September 2018, Özkan told CPJ that Karavil was at Kırıkçüler Prison in Adana. The lawyer said that the Constitutional Court and European Court of Human Rights both rejected the journalist’s appeals. The journalist has no other avenue to appeal and will have to serve his sentence, according to the lawyer.

PRISON SENTENCE: 19 years and 9 months

LEGISLATION USED: N/A

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Convicted

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: Kırıkçüler Prison in Adana (CPJ)

CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A

HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A
DATE of BIRTH: N/A
GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND:

DATE of ARREST: 16 August, 2017
DETAILS of ARREST:

Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

Mehmet Ali Ay, a reporter, was arrested on Aug. 16, 2017 on accusations of links to U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gülen, who Turkey’s government accuses of having established a “parallel state structure” and who it blames for the failed July 15, 2016 coup attempt. Ay was detained for allegedly having used mobile phone encryption application Bylock, which Turkish prosecutors consider to be evidence of membership in the Gülen movement.

DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: Bianet (17 August, 2017)

9 Journalists Arrested in ByLock Investigation

9 of the 11 journalists taken into custody on claims that they had been using ByLock, an encrypted communication software allegedly used among members of Gülen community, have been arrested. 11 journalists were taken into custody on August 10 as a part of an investigation launched by the İstanbul Chief Prosecutor’s Office. The journalists were referred to the İstanbul 13th Criminal Judgeship of Peace yesterday (August 17) for arrest. 9 of the journalists have been arrested and imprisoned. They are: Yasir Kaya (former Fenerbahçe TV News Director), Ömer Faruk Aydemir (former Chief of Information of İhlas News Agency News), Mutlu Özay, Cüneyt Seza Özkan (editorial directors of now-closed Samanyolu News), Burak Ekici (BirGün internet editor), Mehmet Ali Ay, Muhsin Pilgir (correspondents of now-closed Zaman newspaper and Cihan News Agency), Sait Gürkan Tuzlu (correspondent of now-closed Cihan News Agency) and Ahmet Feyzullah Özyurt. According to the court decision, "the suspects were identified to have used the secret and encrypted communication software ByLock used among members of the armed Fethullahist Terrorist Organization". Vatan Newspaper page designer Yusuf Duran and former columnist in Türkiye Newspaper Ahmet Sağırılı, who were also among the detained journalists, have been released on probation. Duran and Sağırılı will be under house arrest during the trial.

PRISON SENTENCE: N/A

LEGISLATION USED: Turkish Criminal Law 314/2

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: N/A

CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A

HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

SOURCES:

For more information in Turkish:


For more information in Kurdish:

https://bianet.org/kurdi/medya/189187-di-carcoveya-lepirsina-bylocke-de-9-rojnameger-hatin-girtin
Mehmet Ali Genç

DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Varyos Publication

DATE of ARREST: N/A

DETAILS of ARREST: N/A

DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: Expression Interrupted

Jailed publisher Mehmet Ali Genç acquitted in “propaganda” case

Mehmet Ali Genç, the publisher and former managing editor of Varyos Publications, appeared in an Istanbul court on 9 April for the fourth hearing of his trial on the charges of “disseminating propaganda for a terrorist group” and “praising crime or a criminal.” The charges stemmed from an article Genç had penned for the magazine Sosyalist Kadın. Genç was brought to the Istanbul Courthouse for the 9 April hearing, overseen by the 23rd High Criminal Court of Istanbul. He was accompanied by his lawyer Kader Tonç. Genç is currently imprisoned in Adana, serving three separate convictions from previous trials where the accusations stemmed from his time as the responsible managing editor of the leftist Atılım newspaper, his lawyer told P24. Rendering its verdict at the end of the hearing, the court ruled to drop the “propaganda” charge against Genç based on the statute of limitations in Turkey’s press law, and acquitted Genç of the “praising crime or a criminal” charge.

PRISON SENTENCE: N/A

LEGISLATION USED: N/A

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: Adana

CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A

HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

SOURCES:

For more information in English:


For more information in Turkish:

https://expressioninterrupted.com/tr/turkiyede-basin-ve-ifade-ozgurlugu-203/

https://expressioninterrupted.com/tr/olaganustu-halde-gazeteciler-60/
MEHMET BARANSU

DATE of BIRTH: N/A
GENDER: Male
DATE of ARREST: March 2015
DETAILS of ARREST:
Source 1: Expression Interrupted

Mehmet Baransu, a former correspondent for the now-defunct Taraf newspaper, was arrested in March 2015 for “obtaining and publishing” classified state documents in connection with the disclosure of a war plan called the Egemen (Sovereign) Operation Plan.

DETAILS of TRIAL:
Source 1: Expression Interrupted

Baransu is charged with “Possession of documents classified as state secret,” “Exposing classified information crucial to state security and interests,” and “Damaging, procuring or stealing documents concerning the security of the state or using said documents outside their intended purpose” in the indictment for this case, overseen by the Istanbul 13th High Criminal Court. It is one of dozens of ongoing cases against Baransu, who has perhaps been in prison longer than any of the currently imprisoned journalists in Turkey. On 4 December 2017, the sixth hearing in the trial of former Taraf executives for “disclosing state secrets through publishing confidential documents” was heard by the Istanbul 13th High Criminal Court. The only jailed defendant in the case is Baransu, whose lawyer had resigned. A new lawyer was appointed for him by the state. Former Taraf Editor-in-Chief Ahmet Altan, former Executive Editor of the same newspaper Yasemin Çongar and Managing Editor Yıldırım Oğur are also defendants in the case, facing up to 52 years and six months in prison for “destroying, using outside the intended purpose of, and illegally acquiring documents related to the security of the state.” Another defendant, Tuncay Opçin, remains at large. The eighth hearing of that case was held on 2-4 May 2018 at the 13th High Criminal Court of Istanbul. Baransu continued his defense statement at the hearing. The court announced its interim ruling at the end of the three-day hearing, ordering the continuation of Baransu’s pre-trial detention and accepting requests from five ex-military officials to join the case as co-plaintiffs. The court set 7-9 August 2018 as the date for the next hearing. The 10th hearing in this case was held on 1-2 November 2018 at the 13th High Criminal Court of Istanbul. P24 monitored the hearing, where Baransu, the only imprisoned defendant in the case, and defense lawyers, as well as plaintiffs Dursun Çiçek and retired army Colonel Suat Aytın were in attendance. Baransu made his defense statement during the two-day hearing. He explained to the court that his defense statement was taking too long to complete because some digital files he requested had only been delivered last week, and that he has also been busy preparing defense statements for numerous other ongoing cases against him. Recounting to the court how he had received the four CDs that included the “Balyoz” (Sledgehammer) coup plan documents, Baransu said following the publication of the relevant news stories in Taraf, an investigation was launched and that he handed the said CDs to the prosecution. As for the alleged war plans that constitute the basis of the allegations in this case, Baransu said he has never seen any such document. Continuing his defense statement on the second day of the hearing, Baransu said he had not been allowed to bring in the courtroom newspaper clippings and books to use in his
defense. Adding that the said book constituted evidence, Baransu said his right to a fair trial was being violated. After Baransu completed his defense, his lawyer Yahya Engin addressed the court. Noting that his client had been in detention on remand for almost four years, Engin called the court’s attention to Article 5 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which is about the right to liberty and security. Adding that the relevant law stipulated a maximum five years of pretrial detention, Engin requested that his client be released pending trial. Engin also asked the court to reject the plaintiffs’ requests for becoming intervening parties in the trial. Announcing its interim ruling at the end of the two-day hearing, the court ruled to keep Baransu in pretrial detention and adjourned the trial until 3-4 January 2019 to allow additional time for the defense. The court later rescheduled the trial, setting 4 February 2019 as the date for the next hearing. Baransu was expected to continue with his defense statement during the hearing on 4 February but he was unable to attend due to health issues. Issuing an interim ruling at the end of the hearing, the court ruled to keep Baransu behind bars and set 22 and 25 March 2019 as the dates for the next hearing in the case. Baransu continued presenting his defense statement at the next hearing, held over two days on 22 and 25 March 2019. Before beginning his defense statement, Baransu remarked on the numerous times the panel overseeing the case had changed throughout the trial. In its interim ruling at the end of the two-day hearing, the court ruled to keep Baransu in pre-trial detention and set 10 and 11 July 2019 as the dates for the next hearing. The court later announced that the next hearing would take place on 11 and 12 July 2019 instead of the originally planned date. The 13th High Criminal Court of Istanbul continued hearing Baransu’s defense statement at the 18th hearing of this trial held over two days on 11 and 12 July 2019. After the completion of defense lawyers’ statements, the prosecutor requested the continuation of Baransu’s detention on remand. He also requested for a criminal complaint to be filed against Baransu on the charge of “insulting a public official” for calling a prosecutor “mentally deficient” during his defense statement. Baransu’s lawyer Yahya Engin reminded the court that his client was in pre-trial detention as part of another ongoing case and therefore there were no legal grounds necessitating the continuation of his detention. He asked the court to release Baransu pending trial. The court ruled for the continuation of Baransu’s detention while also ruling to separate the file against Baransu concerning the charge of “membership in a terrorist group” to be sent to the 2nd High Criminal Court of Mersin, where another case against the journalist is still under way. The court also ruled to hear Esra Konur, Baransu’s ex-wife, as a witness, and to wait for the execution of the arrest warrant against Tuncay Opçin, the fifth defendant in the case. The court set 27-28-29 August 2019 as the dates for the next hearing. The trial resumed on 27 August 2019. Baransu, who was brought to the courtroom from the Silivri Prison accompanied by gendarmerie, continued presenting his defense statement on the first day of the hearing. The hearing scheduled for 28 August did not take place because the court failed to send a summons to the Silivri Prison for Baransu to be brought to the courthouse. Baransu continued making his defense statement on the third day of the hearing on 29 August. In its interim ruling at the end of that hearing, the court ordered the continuation of Baransu’s detention on remand on the grounds of “the nature and type of the alleged crime” and because he “has still not completed his defense statement.” The court set 10-11-12 December 2019 as the dates for the next hearing.

“2014 MGK headline” trial
Baransu is also on trial along with former responsible managing editor of Taraf, Murat Şevki Çoban, over a news report that was published in Taraf on 28 November 2013, titled “Gülen’i Bitirme Kararı 2004’te MGK’da Alındı” (Decision to finish off Gülen was taken by MGK in 2004). In the news piece, Baransu wrote about the Fethullah Gülen network being listed as a threat in a National Security Council (MGK) meeting that took place in 2004. Both journalists face up to 52 years in prison for a variety of charges as part of the case, including “divulging state secrets” and “exposing documents of the National Intelligence Agency (MİT).” The 15th hearing of this trial took place on 27 June 2018 at Anadolu 10th High Criminal Court of Istanbul. Addressing the court during the hearing, Baransu requested that the court send a writ to the General Staff asking for some documents to refer to in his defense statement. The court rejected the request. Since Baransu’s previous lawyer had just resigned, his recently appointed lawyer requested additional time to review the case. The court accepted the lawyer’s request and adjourned the trial until 17 October 2018. At the 17th hearing held on 12 December 2018, neither Çoban, who had already given his statement, nor Baransu, who submitted a letter to be excused due to health concerns, were in attendance. Accepting Baransu’s excuse, the court adjourned the trial until 6 March 2019. At the 18th hearing held on 6 March 2019, Baransu and his lawyer both submitted letters of excuse. Granting additional time for Baransu and his lawyer to prepare his defense statement, the court adjourned the case until 19 June 2019. The 19th hearing took place on 19 June 2019. Baransu was brought to the courtroom in handcuffs by the gendarmerie from Silivri Prison. In attendance were Baransu’s lawyer Yahya Engin, Çoban’s lawyer Figen Albuga Çalışkuşu and the lawyer representing MİT and the National Security Council, Serhat Karğın. The hearing took off with the prosecutor informing that he has recently been appointed to the case and he requested the case file to be sent to the Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office for changes to be made in the final opinion. Karğın requested the trial to be finalized in accordance with the final opinion submitted back in 2016. Baransu told the court that he was tried and acquitted on the same charge before and he requested the case to be rejected. Addressing the court after Baransu, Çoban’s lawyer Çalışkuşu said that her client cannot be held responsible for the article because the byline was clearly stated in the report and the indictment was submitted after the expiry of the four-month statute of limitations for pressing charges. Çalışkuşu informed the panel that Çoban’s final defense statement would be presented at a later time. The court decided to send the case file to the prosecution for the preparation of the final opinion and adjourned the trial until 24 September 2019. The 20th hearing of this trial took place on 24 September 2019. Baransu did not attend the hearing and was represented by his lawyer, Yahya Engin. The prosecutor, who was expected to submit his final opinion of the case during this hearing, instead requested the court to issue a decision of non-jurisdiction and send the case file to the Anadolu 2nd High Criminal Court on the grounds that the alleged offense was committed through the press. Baransu’s lawyer requested a continuance because his client was not in attendance. Accepting the request, the court adjourned the trial until 24 October 2019.

“Football match fixing” trial

Mehmet Baransu also faces charges in a “match fixing” trial, heard by the 23rd High Criminal Court of Istanbul. In addition to Baransu, who reported on match fixing claims and findings, the former chairman of the now-closed Samanyolu Broadcasting Group Hidayet Karaca and the former editor-in-chief of the now-closed Zaman newspaper, Ekrem Dumanlı, are being tried over
allegedly “conspiring with FETÖ to influence the outcome of matches.” The defendants in the case are facing terms of imprisonment ranging from eight to 85 years in jail for alleged “deprivation of liberty,” “violation of communicational secrecy,” “violating secrecy of private life,” “counterfeiting official documents,” “violation of privacy,” “using other’s identity card or ID information,” “perjury” and “establishing and leading an armed terrorist organization.” Baransu is also jailed pending trial as part of a separate case concerning his reporting in 2013 on an alleged customs fraud involving genetically modified rice. The indictment accuses Baransu of “attempting to overthrow the government” and “membership in a terrorist organization.” This case is overseen by the Mersin 2nd High Criminal Court. Baransu is still in detention on remand in the Silivri Prison in Istanbul, facing nearly a thousand years behind bars as part of dozens of different cases.

**Source 2:** International Press Institute (IPI)

Mehmet Baransu, a reporter for the daily Taraf, was ordered imprisoned pending trial on March 2, 2015 on charges of obtaining secret documents. Evidence used to support the charges centered on a packet of documents he received from an anonymous source and which he shared with prosecutors in 2010 after Taraf broke the news of an alleged coup plot in a series of articles. In June 2015, Baransu was given a 10-month prison sentence on separate charges of insulting President Erdoğan in a series of tweets. Further charges were added to the growing list of pending cases against Baransu in late 2016, including “founding and leading an armed terrorist organisation”, “making propaganda for [a terrorist] organisation”, “exposing information that is to be kept secret for the safety and political benefit of the state”, “obtaining secret documents concerning the safety of the state” and “damaging, using outside of its purpose, [and] obtaining [or] stealing … documents concerning the safety of the state.”

**PRISON SENTENCE:** N/A  
**LEGISLATION USED:** N/A  
**CURRENT LEGAL STATUS:** Arrested  
**CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION:** Silivri Prison, İstanbul  
**CONDITIONS of DETENTION:** N/A  
**HEALTH CONCERNS:** N/A  

**SOURCES:**

For more information in English:

https://cpj.org/data/people/mehmet-baransu/

For more information in Turkish:

https://expressioninterrupted.com/tr/mehmet-baransu-2/
MEHMET GÜLEŞ

DATE of BIRTH: N/A
GENDER: Male
PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Reporter for Dicle News Agency
DATE of ARREST: 7 December, 2016
DETAILS of ARREST:
Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)
Mehmet Güleş, a reporter of now-closed Dicle News Agency, was arrested on Dec. 7, 2016 while reporting from a courthouse in Elazığ province, due to alleged “membership in a terrorist organisation” and “making propaganda for a terrorist organisation”. Prosecutors cited his phone calls and posts on social media as evidence. A court on May 3, 2017 convicted him and sentenced him to nine years, four months and 15 days in prison. He is currently imprisoned in the Elazığ E-type prison.

DETAILS of TRIAL:
Source 1: Expression Interrupted
Supreme Court of Appeals upholds sentence for Mehmet Güleş; Appellate court rejects appeals in Altans case; Saudi journalist goes missing in Turkey. The 16th Criminal Chamber of the Supreme Court of Appeals upheld a prison sentence rendered in May for jailed journalist Mehmet Güleş, a former reporter for Dicle news agency (DİHA), which had been closed down through an emergency decree. The 2nd High Criminal Court of Elazığ had convicted Güleş of terrorism related charges, handing down the journalist a total of 9 years, 4 months and 15 days in prison. Güleş was given 6 years and 3 months for “membership in a terrorist group” and 3 years, 1 month and 15 days for “conducting propaganda for a terrorist organization.” Güleş’s lawyer appealed that verdict at the 4th Criminal Chamber of the Gaziantep Regional Court of Justice, an appellate court, which rejected the appeal.

Source 2: Bianet (4 October, 2018)
Prison Sentence of Journalist Güleş Upheld
The 16th Penal Chamber of the Supreme Court of Appeals has upheld the prison sentence of 9 years, 4 months and 15 days given to journalist Mehmet Güleş, who was a reporter at Dicle News Agency, which was closed as per a Statutory Decree. The 16th Penal Chamber of the Supreme Court of Appeals has upheld the prison sentence of 9 years, 4 months and 15 days that was given to journalist Mehmet Güleş, who was working as a reporter at the Dicle News Agency (DİHA), which was closed as per a Statutory Decree. In his hearing held on May 3, 2018, the court ruled that Güleş shall be sentenced to 6 years and 3 months in prison on charge of “being member of a terrorist organization” and be sentenced to 3 years, 1 month and 15 days in prison in total. Upon the verdict of the local court, Güleş’s attorney Resul Tamur submitted a request of appeal to the 4th Penal Chamber of the Antep Regional Court of Justice. However, the court rejected the request and upheld the verdict. After his request was rejected, attorney Tamur applied to the Supreme Court of Appeals, requesting that the verdicts of the local and regional courts be appealed. Evaluating the application of Tamur, the 16th Penal Chamber of the Supreme Court of Appeals has upheld the prison sentence of 9 years, 4 months and 15 days previously given to
Mehmet Güleș, Attorney Tamur stated that they would appeal to the Constitutional Court.

**PRISON SENTENCE:** 9 years and 4 months and 15 days

**LEGISLATION USED:** Anti-terror law 7/2

**CURRENT LEGAL STATUS:** Convicted

**CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION:** Elazığ E-type prison.

**CONDITIONS of DETENTION:**

Source 1: Expression Interrupted

Mehmet Güleș: Prison management confiscates books, letters in Kurdish

Imprisoned journalist Mehmet Güleș wrote about rights violations he and other inmates have been facing in a recent letter he sent from the Elazığ Maximum Security Prison. A former reporter for the now closed-down Dicle news agency (Dihaber), Güleș has been imprisoned since December 2016. Güleș wrote in the letter that the prison management has been refusing to give books and letters in Kurdish language to the inmates, the Mezopotamya news agency reported. Güleș wrote that the inmates were only allowed to get Kurdish dictionaries and Kurdish grammar books, but letters written in Kurdish were not allowed to be sent or received. Güleș also said that they were not being given cleaning products. Mirrors or tweezers for personal hygiene are also banned, Güleș wrote, adding that packages sent to inmates were only delivered after three weeks. He added that underwear and socks that are sent to prison by inmates’ relatives were not handed to inmates, forcing them to purchase such items at the commissary. Güleș also wrote that 30 inmates in the prison were being kept in solitary confinement against their wishes, and one of those inmates was suffering from COPD.

**HEALTH CONCERNS:** N/A

**SOURCES:**

For more information in English:


For more information in Turkish:

- https://expressioninterrupted.com/tr/olaganustu-halde-gazeteciler-72/

For more information in Kurdish:

MEHMET KURU

DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Reporter for Zaman newspaper

DATE of ARREST: 16 August, 2016

DETAILS of ARREST:

Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

Mehmet Kuru, a reporter for the now-closed Zaman newspaper, was ordered imprisoned pending trial on Aug. 16, 2016 as part of a purge of journalists allegedly linked to U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gülen, who Turkey’s government accuses of having established a “parallel state structure” and who it blames for the failed July 15, 2016 coup attempt. He and others at the newspaper were accused of “propagandising for a terrorist organisation”.

DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)

Police in the central Turkish province of Eskişehir detained Mehmet Kuru, a former reporter for the shuttered daily newspaper Zaman, on August 6, 2016, as part of a sweeping purge of suspected followers of exiled preacher Fethullah Gülen. The government accuses Gülen of maintaining a terrorist organization and "parallel state structure" (or FETÖ/PDY, as the government calls it) within Turkey that it blames for orchestrating a failed military coup on July 15, 2016, according to press reports. The reports did not specify what charges Kuru faces, but a court in March 2016 ordered Zaman’s parent company put under trustees selected by the government, saying the company and the newspaper had ties to the Gülenist network. CPJ research shows that authorities have targeted dozens of former Zaman journalists with arrest and prosecution on terrorism charges since the failed July 2016 coup based on their past affiliation with the newspaper. The government used emergency powers it assumed after that coup attempt to order the newspaper closed by decree on July 27, 2016, CPJ reported at the time.

Source 2: Expression Interrupted

Former Zaman journalist convicted

Mehmet Kuru was given six years and three months in prison by an Eskişehir court in a session heard on October 17. Kuru was being tried on terror charges for having worked at the shuttered Zaman daily, but he was not imprisoned. In his defense statement, he said: “Zaman was where I won my bread. I am not the member of a terrorist organization.”

PRISON SENTENCE: 6 years and 3 months

LEGISLATION USED: Turkish Criminal Law 314/2

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: N/A

CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A

HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

SOURCES:

For more information in English:

https://medyagozlemveritabani.org/zaman-gazetesi-muhabiri-mehmet-kuru-orgut-uyeliginden-6-yil-3-ay-hapse-mahkum-edildi/


For more information in Turkish:
Journalists Ruken Demir and Melike Aydın were arrested for "acting on behalf of a terrorist organization," were questioned about the phone calls they had with their news sources and the content of their news stories. Demir and Aydın were brought to the İzmir Courthouse on 15 November. After giving their statements to a prosecutor, they were referred to the 1st Criminal Judgeship of Peace, which ruled to jail both journalists pending trial in the early hours of 16 November. Both Demir and Aydın were sent to the İzmir Aliağa Şakran Women’s Prison. In addition to Demir and Aydın, the court jailed nine other people arrested as part of the investigation while it ruled to release one of the suspects under an international travel ban.
METİN ARSLAN

DATE of BIRTH: N/A
GENDER: Male
PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: N/A
DATE of ARREST: N/A
DETAILS of ARREST: N/A
DETAILS of TRIAL: N/A
PRISON SENTENCE: N/A
LEGISLATION USED: N/A

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: N/A
CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: N/A
CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A
HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A
SOURCES:

For more information in English:
For information in Turkish:
For information in Kurdish:
MİKAİL BARUT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE of BIRTH:</th>
<th>N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GENDER:</td>
<td>Males</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DATE of ARREST:</td>
<td>2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DETAILS of ARREST:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DETAILS of TRIAL:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRISON SENTENCE:</td>
<td>7 years and 5 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEGISLATION USED:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CURRENT LEGAL STATUS:</td>
<td>Arrested</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONDITIONS of DETENTION:</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEALTH CONCERNS:</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For more information in Turkish: <a href="https://www.mlsaturkey.com/tr/kck-basin-davasi-subata-ertelendi/">https://www.mlsaturkey.com/tr/kck-basin-davasi-subata-ertelendi/</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MİKTAT ALGÜL

DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Print/broadcast coordinator for Mezitli FM

DATE of ARREST: 17 May, 2010

DETAILS of ARREST: N/A

DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

Miktat Algül, print/broadcast coordinator for Mezitli FM, was arrested in 2010. He was convicted in a case targeting right-wing groups and sentenced to 65 years in prison.

Source 2: Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)

Algül, editor of the Mersin radio station Mezitli FM and a writer for the local newspaper Ulus, was being held at Adana Kürkçüler F Type Prison on charges of extortion, threatening, and establishing a criminal organization, according to a report from the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. Algül faced more than 15 years in prison upon conviction. In a special supplement titled “Arrested Newspaper,” written by jailed journalists and distributed by several dailies in July 2011, Algül said he had been targeted because of his recent reporting on the Fethullah Gülen religious community. Algül said the government’s indictment had misrepresented as extortion his efforts to collect advertising fees from local companies and his reporting on an automobile company.

PRISON SENTENCE: N/A

LEGISLATION USED: N/A

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Convicted

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: Sincan F Type Closed Prison, Ankara

CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A

HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A
MUHAMMED SAİT KULOĞLU

DATE of BIRTH: N/A
GENDER: Male
PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Concession-holder of Subuhaber.com news site
DATE of ARREST: 23 July, 2016
DETAILS of ARREST: N/A
DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

Muhammed Sait Kuloğlu, concession-holder of Subuhaber.com news site, was arrested on July 23, 2016 over charges of “membership of a terrorist organisation” as part of the government purge of individuals accused of spreading propaganda for the outlawed movement headed by U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gülen, who Turkey’s government accuses of having established a “parallel state structure” and who it blames for the failed July 15, 2016 coup attempt. Kuloğlu is being prosecuted in a “media branch” case involving the Gülen movement with many others. He is also being prosecuted in relation to a twitter account called “Fuat Avni” which had been anonymously posting political speculations about the government. He has been in pretrial detention for over 18 months, facing charges of 7.5 years imprisonment.

Source 2: Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)

A court on July 24, 2016, ordered Kuloğlu, the founder and publisher of news website Subuhaber, to be held in pretrial detention, according to news reports. His arrest was part of a sweeping purge of suspected followers of exiled preacher Fethullah Gülen. The Turkish government accuses Gülen of maintaining a terrorist organization and "parallel state structure" (FETÖ/PDY, as the government calls it) within Turkey that it alleges masterminded a failed July 15, 2016, military coup. CPJ was unable to find details of the lawyer representing Kuloğlu or to determine the precise date that he was first detained. Kuloğlu is on trial with several co-accused. In the original indictment, all but one of them were charged with “being a member of an armed [terrorist] organization,” which carries up to 10 years in prison, according to news reports. The indictment accused the defendants of manipulating public perception of FETÖ to turn people against the government, which, prosecutors argued, made them members of the group. CPJ found the indictment to be similar to those presented at trials of other journalists in Turkey. Prosecutors cited as evidence journalistic activity or acts of free speech and communication, or cited circumstantial evidence such as being employed by a certain media outlet or having an account at a bank allegedly linked to Gülenists. In Kuloğlu’s case, prosecutors cited as evidence the journalist’s interview that he published in Subuhaber with an anonymous pro-Gülen whistleblower known as Fuat Avni (@fuatavni), who used Twitter to share his leaks, as well as reports about the whistleblower’s tweets. When the trial started in March 2017, an Istanbul court ordered Kuloğlu and several of the other journalists to be released while the case was heard, according to news reports. Prosecutors successfully appealed the decision, and authorities ordered an investigation into the judges who had ordered the release and they were relieved of duty, according to the reports. An Istanbul court on March 8, 2018, found Kuloğlu and at least 21 of the other journalists on trial guilty of "being a member of a [terrorist] organization," and sentenced Kuloğlu to seven years and six months in prison, according to reports. The court acquitted all the defendants.
of the more serious coup-related charges in the second indictment. At least 18 of the journalists were sent to prison for varying prison terms. Two of them—Atilla Taş and Murat Aksoy—were sentenced and released for time served, and the journalists Bünayım Köseli and Cihan Acar remain free pending the appeal, according to reports. Lawyers for the journalists told CPJ they are appealing the verdict. As of late 2018, the local appeal process was ongoing. As of late 2018, Kuloğlu was detained in Silivri Prison, Istanbul. Kuloğlu did not appear on the 2016 prison census because CPJ identified Kuloğlu as a journalist only after the indictment against him and his co-accused became public in 2017.

Source 3: Expression Interrupted

Indictment against 28 journalists submitted to court

The Istanbul Prosecutor’s Office on Jan. 18 completed an indictment against 29 journalists, most of whom arrested as part of the post-coup investigation. The prosecutor seeks between 10 – 15 years in prison for the 28 suspects on charges of attempting to overthrow the state or terrorism. The prosecutor has asked for life without the possibility of parole for Said Sefa, the former editor in-chief of the news website Haberdar. The prosecutor asked for up to 10 years for Atilla Taş, a singer-turned-Twitter phenomenon who’d started writing in the shuttered Meydan daily prior to the coup. The prosecutor wants between five to ten years for the other journalists, who are Abdullah Kılıç, Ahmet Memiş, Ali Akkuş, Atilla Taş, Bayram Kaya, Bülent Ceyhan, Bünayım Köseli, Cemal Azmi Kalyoncu, Cihan Acar, Cuma Ulus, Davut Aydın, Emre Soncan, Gökçe Fırat Çulhaoğlu, Habib Güler, Halil İbrahim Balta, Hanım Büşra Erdal, Hüseyin Aydın, Muhammed Sait Kuloğlu, Muhterem Tankı, Murat Aksoy, Mustafa Erkan Acar, Mutlu Çölgeçen, Oğuz Usluer, Seyid Kılıç, Ufuk Şanlı, Ünal Tankı, Yakup Çetin and Yetkin Yıldız on charges of “membership in an armed terrorist organization.

Source 4: Expression Interrupted

Court accepts indictment into journalists arrested in coup probe

On Feb. 13, an indictment against 28 journalists who were arrested in the probe into the July 15 coup attempt was accepted. The prosecutor has demanded between 7.5 to 15 years for 28 journalists on charges of membership in a terrorist organization. The accused journalists are Abdullah Kılıç, Ahmet Memiş, Ali Akkuş, Atilla Taş, Bayram Kaya, Bülent Ceyhan, Bünayım Köseli, Cemal Azmi Kalyoncu, Cihan Acar, Cuma Ulus, Davut Aydın, Emre Soncan, Gökçe Fırat Çulhaoğlu, Habib Güler, Halil İbrahim Balta, Hanım Büşra Erdal, Hüseyin Aydın, Muhammed Sait Kuloğlu, Muhterem Tankı, Murat Aksoy, Mustafa Erkan Acar, Mutlu Çölgeçen, Oğuz Usluer, Seyid Kılıç, Ufuk Şanlı, Ünal Tankı, Yakup Çetin and Yetkin Yıldız. The journalists are scheduled to appear in court on various dates between March 27 – 31.

Source 5: Expression Interrupted

No release in “FETÖ media” trial

On December 3-4, the Istanbul 25th High Criminal Court continued hearing the trial of 29 journalists, including Murat Aksoy and former Meydan newspaper columnist Atilla Taş in a case where the defendants stand accused of having acted as the media arm of the “Fethullahist Terror Organization,” or “FETÖ”, the name given by Turkish authorities to the Islamist network led by Fethullah Gülen which Turkey says was behind the coup d’état attempt of July 15, 2016. Not a single one of the 20 journalists who are imprisoned in the case was released in the trial. P24 monitored the trial inside the courtroom.

The trial was adjourned until February 6.
The latest hearing lasted two days. Six witnesses for the prosecution testified, responding to questions about Bünyamin Köseli, a journalist who was released in the previous trial, Sait Sefa — who has at large status — and the imprisoned journalists Bayram Kaya, Ahmet Memiş and Muhammed Sait Kuloğlu. A witness said Bünyamin Köseli, who formerly worked for the shuttered Aksiyon newsweekly, had collected money for the Gülen network. However, the same witness said he only had heard such rumors and had no first-hand information on that claim. Another witness said Zaman reporter Bayram Kaya attended chat meetings organized by supporters of Fethullah Gülen in 2006. However, Kaya said he was in London in 2005 and 2006. Another witness, who connected via videoconferencing to the courtroom, said he didn’t have enough information, in response to a question on whether defendant Muhammed Sait Kuloğlu was related to the Gülen network. Former employees of the Haberdar news website — founded by Sait Sefa, who is believed to be abroad — also testified about Sait Sefa and Haberdar employee Ahmet Memiş. The witnesses said they had no information about any “FETÖ” links the website might have had. Defendants Seyit Kılıç and Ufuk Şanlı objected to reports showing their call history, pointing out to many discrepancies in the records. The two journalists are accused of having used an encrypted messaging application that authorities say was used exclusively by members of the Gülen network. İbrahim Balta, a finance reporter for the shuttered Zaman daily, asked for his release citing health reasons.

Source 6: Expression Interrupted

Final defense statements begin in “FETÖ media” trial

The 25th High Criminal Court of Istanbul on February 22, 2018, started hearing the final defense statements at the latest hearing of the case publicly known as the “FETÖ media trial.” Twenty-nine journalists, including former T24 columnist Murat Aksoy and former singer and newspaper columnist Atilla Taş, are standing trial on “membership in a terrorist organization” in the case. Nineteen of the defendants are in pretrial detention. Final defense statements of eight defendants, Abdullah Kılıç, Ali Akkuş, Atilla Taş, Bünyamin Köseli, Bayram Kaya, Ahmet Memiş, Muhammed Sait Kuloğlu and Davut Aydın, who gave his statement via his lawyer, were heard on February 22, during the first session of the hearing, monitored in the courtroom by P24. The court ruled at the end of Thursday’s hearing that imprisoned defendant Emre Soncan’s file is separated from this case to be merged with a newly initiated case against him. The hearing will continue with the second session on February 23.

Source 7: Expression Interrupted

12 other defendants were given a prison sentence of 7 years and 6 months on charges of “membership in an armed organization”. The court said in its verdict that their actions and intent required a higher sentence than the lower limit set by law for the crime. Those 12 defendants are: Ahmet Memiş (former news coordinator for the online news website Haberdar.com), Ali Akkuş (former news director for daily Zaman), Muhammed Sait Kuloğlu (founder of the online news website Şubuhaber), Mustafa Erkan Acar (news director for daily Bugün), Mutlu Çölgeçen (former Ankara bureau news director for daily Sabah), Oğuz Usluer (former coordinator of Habertürk TV), Seyid Kılıç (former reporter for public broadcaster TRT haber), Ufuk Şanlı (former economy director and al-Monitor writer Ufuk Şanlı), Ünal Tanik (founder of the shuttered online news website Rotahaber), Yetkin Yıldız (editor for the online news website Aktif Haber), Cuma Ulus (former news director for Habertürk TV) and Davut Aydın, educator and one of the two defendants in this case who are not journalists.
An appellate court in Istanbul overseeing the appeal requests in the case publicly known as the “FETÖ media trial” rejected the appeals against prison terms given to 25 defendants on “terrorism” charges. The 2nd Criminal Chamber of the Istanbul Regional Court of Justice rendered its decision on 22 October. The court made the ruling without a public hearing despite the defense lawyers’ requests for a hearing. The appellate court also ruled for the continuation of detention of all jailed defendants in the case. At the end of the trial’s final hearing in March, the 25th High Criminal Court of Istanbul had convicted 25 of the 26 defendants in the case. Twenty-three of the defendants (journalists Abdullah Kılıç, Ahmet Memiş, Ali Akkuş, Bayram Kaya, Bünnyamin Köseli, Cemal Azmi Kalyoncu, Cihan Acar, Cuma Ulus, Gökçe Fırat Çulhaoğlu, Habip Güler, Halil İbrahim Balta, Hanım Büşra Erdal, Hüseyin Aydın, Muhammed Sait Kuloğlu, Mustafa Erkan Acar, Mutlu Çölgeçen, Oğuz Usluer, Seyid Kılıç, Ufuk Şanlı, Ünal Tanık, Yakup Çetin, Yetkin Yıldız and school teacher Davut Aydın) were convicted of “membership in an armed terrorist organization” and sentenced to prison terms of various lengths.

**PRISON SENTENCE:** 7 years and 6 months  
**LEGISLATION USED:** Turkish Criminal Law 314/2  
**CURRENT LEGAL STATUS:** Arrested  
**CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION:** N/A  
**CONDITIONS of DETENTION:** N/A  
**HEALTH CONCERNS:** N/A  
**SOURCES:**

For more information in Turkish:

[https://medyagozlemveritabani.org/gazeteci-muhammet-sait-kulogluna-orgut-uyeliginden-7-yil-6-ay-hapis-cezasi-verildi/](https://medyagozlemveritabani.org/gazeteci-muhammet-sait-kulogluna-orgut-uyeliginden-7-yil-6-ay-hapis-cezasi-verildi/)
Muhsin Pilgir, a former reporter for the shuttered outlets Zaman and the Cihan News Agency, was ordered arrested on Aug. 16, 2017 on accusations of links to U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gülen, who Turkey’s government accuses of having established a “parallel state structure” and who it blames for the failed July 15, 2016 coup attempt. Pilgir was detained for allegedly having used the mobile phone encryption application Bylock, which Turkish prosecutors consider to be evidence of membership in the Gülen movement.

Nine of the 35 journalists were taken into police custody in the morning of August 10. Those who were detained are BirGün newspaper’s internet editor Burak Ekici, shuttered Zaman daily’s and Cihan News Agency reporter Muhsin Pilgir, İhlas news agency investigations chief editor Ömer Faruk Aydemir, Cüneyt Seza Özkan who worked as a news editor at the shuttered Samanyolu Haber news station, former Türkiye newspaper columnist Ahmet Sağırı, Yusuf Duran, Ahmet Feyzullah Özyurt, Sait Gürkan Tuzlu and Mutlu Özay.


PRISON SENTENCE: N/A

LEGISLATION USED: Turkish Criminal Law 314/2

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: N/A

CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A
HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

SOURCES:

For more information in Turkish:

https://medyagozlemveritabani.org/kapatilan-zaman-gazetesi-ve-cihan-haber-ajansi-muhabiri-
muhsin-pilgir-bylock-kullandigi-iddiasıyla-feto-uyeliginden-yargilaniyor/

https://expressioninterrupted.com/tr/olaganustu-halde-gazeteciler-99/
MURAT ÇAPAN

DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Males

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Managing editor of Nokta Magazine

DATE of ARREST: 24 May 2017

DETAILS of ARREST: N/A

DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

Murat Çapan, managing editor of Nokta Magazine, has been held behind bars since May 24, 2017 when he was detained while "illegally" trying to leave Turkey for Greece. The detention came two days after a court sentenced him to 22-and-a-half years in prison for allegedly inciting the armed overthrow of the government over a Nokta article that warned of civil war following the November 2016 parliamentary election. Çapan reportedly was detained while trying to leave Turkey for Greece.

Source 2: Expression Interrupted

On May 22, former editor-in-chief of the shuttered Nokta magazine, Cevheri Güven, and its responsible managing editor Murat Çapan were each sentenced to 22 years and six months in prison for “inciting an armed rebellion against the Government of the Republic of Turkey” in connection with two covers of the magazine published in the autumn of 2015. The Istanbul 14th High Criminal Court acquitted Güven and Çapan of another charge — “terror propaganda.” The court also ruled to issue an arrest warrant for the two journalists, who were earlier released pending trial in this case but are wanted in connection with other ones. The charges against Güven and Çapan stem from two controversial covers of Nokta published in September and November 2015; one featuring a doctored photo of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan taking a selfie at a soldier’s funeral, and another predicting a possible civil war in Turkey.

Source 3: Expression Interrupted

Murat Çapan, the former responsible managing editor of the shuttered Nokta magazine who was arrested near the border with Greece, was imprisoned on May 26. Anadolu news agency reported that Çapan was arrested and taken into custody on May 24 along with four others while trying to “illegally” cross into Greece by land in the Uzunköprü district of Edirne province. On May 22, Çapan and the editor-in-chief of Nokta, Cevheri Güven, had been each given a 22-and-a-half-year sentence by Istanbul 14th High Criminal Court on charges of “inciting an armed rebellion against the government.”

PRISON SENTENCE: 22-and-a-half years

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: Kandıra 1 nolu T type prison

CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A

HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

SOURCES:

For more information in Turkish:

https://expressioninterrupted.com/tr/olaganustu-halde-gazeteciler-77/;
https://expressioninterrupted.com/tr/olaganustu-halde-gazeteciler-78/
A court in the western Turkish province of Kocaeli convicted Murat Dağdeviren, the publisher, chief editor, and columnist for shuttered local newspaper Demokrat Gebze, of “being a member of a [terrorist] organization,” according to local press reports. The court on October 10, 2017, sentenced Dağdeviren to seven years and six months in prison, the reports said. The journalist’s lawyer, Yüksel Genç, told CPJ in October 2017 that Turkey’s National Intelligence Agency (MIT) handed the court a report that alleged that his client had the Bylock app on his phone. Bylock is an encrypted messaging application that Turkish authorities claim is evidence of membership in the Fethullah Gülen Terrorist Organization—a charge that carries a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison, the lawyer said. The Turkish government claims Gülen’s group, which it calls FETÖ/PDY, was behind a failed coup attempt in July 2016. Genç said that he told the court that Dağdeviren did not use the app, but the court rejected his denial. Prosecutors presented as evidence against Dağdeviren his published work, the lawyer said. The court found Dağdeviren not guilty of a second charge of financing terrorism, according to the reports. Police first detained Dağdeviren on June 1, 2016, on suspicion of FETÖ/PDY membership, according to news reports. He was released but police detained him again on July 24, 2016, after the failed coup attempt, local reports said. A Kocaeli Court on July 29, 2016, ordered that he be detained pending trial on suspicion of being a member of FETÖ. Dağdeviren did not appear on the 2016 prison census because CPJ was unable to contact his lawyer at the time to determine if the arrest was linked to journalism. Dağdeviren’s newspaper was raided by the police on July 28, 2016, for allegedly being connected to FETÖ, according to local reports. The Turkish government closed 178 broadcasters, websites, and newspapers, including Demokrat Gebze, between July 20 and December 31, 2016, according to Bianet. The government sold the newspaper’s assets for an opening bid of 75,425 Turkish lira (US$22,131), the online newspaper Gazete Duvar reported in September 2017. Dağdeviren was being held in Kandıra prison in Kocaeli. As of late 2018, the Supreme Court had not heard his appeal, Dağdeviren’s lawyer told CPJ. The lawyer said that they took the case to the European Court of Human Rights in 2018, but it had not yet been heard. Dağdeviren has no physical health problems but he has depression due to the injustice of his case, the lawyer said.

**PRISON SENTENCE:** 7 years and 6 months

**LEGISLATION USED:** Turkish Criminal Law 314/2

**CURRENT LEGAL STATUS:** Arrested

**CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION:** N/A

**CONDITIONS of DETENTION:** N/A

**SOURCES:**

For more information in Turkish:

MUSTAFA ERKAN ACAR

DATE of BIRTH: N/A
GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: News manager for Bugün newspaper

DATE of ARREST: 30 July 2016
DETAILS of ARREST: N/A
DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

Mustafa Erkan Acar, a news manager for Bugün, was ordered arrested on July 30, 2016 as part of a purge of journalists allegedly linked to U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gülen, who Turkey's government accuses of having established a “parallel state structure” and who it blames for the failed July 15, 2016 coup attempt. Acar is one of 29 journalists charged in a case accusing them of having been part of the Gülen movement’s “media wing”. They face up to 10 years in prison if convicted. As of May 2, 2017, other journalists imprisoned in connection with the case include Abdullah Kılıç, Ahmet Memiş, Atilla Taş, Bayram Kaya, Bünnyamin Köseli, Cemal Azmi Kalyoncu, Cihan Acar, Cuma Ulus, Emre Soncan, Gökçe Fırat Çulhaoğlu, Habib Güler, Halil İbrahim Balta, Hanım Büşra Erdal, Hüseyin Aydin, Murat Aksoy, Mutlu Çölgeçen, Oğuz Usluer, Seyid Kılıç, Ufuk Şanlı, Ünal Tanik, Yakup Çetin and Yetkin Yıldız. Six other journalists face charges in the case, including Ali Akkuş, Bülent Ceyhan, Davut Aydın, Muhammed Sait Kuloğlu, Muhterem Tanık and Said Sefa, the latter of whom reportedly had fled the country. On March 31, 2017 a court in Turkey ordered 21 of the imprisoned defendants released conditionally, but prosecutors successfully objected to the release of eight of them and the release order for the other 13 was blocked hours later. The defendants – with the exception of Akkuş, who was freed after having been imprisoned since July 30, 2016 – remained behind bars and the judges who made the order were suspended. Prosecutors later brought new charges against 13 of the journalists on charges of trying to overthrow the government and the constitutional order. Those facing the new charges include Cihan Acar, Mustafa Erkan Acar, Akkuş, Aksoy, Aydın, Çetin, Çulhaoğlu, Abdullah Kılıç, Seyid Kılıç, Köseli, Taş, Usluer and Yıldız.

Source 2: Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)

Police in Istanbul detained Mustafa Erkan Acar, a former editor for the shuttered newspaper Zaman, as part of a sweeping purge of journalists and others suspected of following exiled preacher Fethullah Gülen, according to press reports. The government accuses Gülen of maintaining a terrorist organization and "parallel state structure" (or FETÖ/PDY, as the government calls it) within Turkey that it blames for orchestrating a failed July 15, 2016, military coup. CPJ could not determine exactly when police detained Acar. The state-run Anadolu News Agency on July 25, 2016, reported that authorities had issued a warrant for his arrest. Istanbul's Fifth Court of Penal Peace late on July 29, 2016, arraigned Acar and 16 other journalists, ordering them jailed pending trial on charges of "being members of an armed terrorist organization," according to the media monitoring group P24. The daily newspaper Hürriyet reported that the 17 journalists were questioned by prosecutors on accusations of "being members of an armed terrorist organization," "founding or leading an armed terrorist organization," "knowingly and willingly helping [a terrorist] organization without being involved in the organization's hierarchical structure," and "committing crimes in the name of a [terrorist] organization without being a
In March 2016, a court ordered Zaman's parent company, the Feza Media Group, put under government trustees, saying the company and the newspaper had ties to the Gülenist network. On July 27, 2016, the government used emergency powers to close the publication. CPJ research shows that authorities have targeted dozens of former journalists from media outlets owned by the Feza Media Group with arrest and prosecution on terrorism charges since the failed coup attempt. When the trial started in March 2017, an Istanbul court ordered Acar and several of the other journalists with whom he was being tried to be released while the case was heard. However, authorities brought fresh charges and the journalists were ordered to remain in custody, according to reports. Authorities ordered an investigation into the judges who had ordered the release and they were relieved of duty, according to reports. In the original indictment, all but one of the co-accused were charged with “being a member of an armed [terrorist] organization,” which carries up to 10 years in prison. The second indictment listed the charges as “attempting, through violence and force, to disrupt and replace the order as recognized by Turkey’s Constitution” and “attempting through violence and force to eliminate or prevent Parliament from carrying out its duties.” Both charges carry a maximum life sentence without parole. CPJ found both indictments to be similar to those presented at trials of other journalists in Turkey. Prosecutors cited as evidence in these cases journalistic activity or acts of free speech and communication, or cited circumstantial evidence such as being employed by a certain media outlet or having an account at a bank allegedly linked to Gülenists. The first indictment accused the defendants of manipulating the public perception of FETÖ to turn citizens against the government, which prosecutors argued, made the journalists members of the group that Turkey alleges is behind the failed attempted coup. The second indictment, which was presented as an addition to the original case, argued that the journalists should be held responsible for more than alleged membership to the group. Prosecutors presented as evidence against Acar his employment at the dailies Zaman, Bugün, and Özgür Düşünce, as well as his membership in a non-governmental organization called the Media Ethics Board. The second indictment listed as evidence that he and his family had accounts at Bank Asya, which the government alleged to be a Gülenist institution; his membership in an allegedly pro-Gülenist union; and communication records with people who were wanted or were on trial for alleged Gülenist activity. Some of these people had the Bylock app on their phones, according to the authorities who recognize the application as evidence of being a FETÖ member. Acar did not have the app on his phone, according to the indictment. An Istanbul court on March 8, 2018, found Acar and at least 21 of the other journalists on trial guilty of “being a member of a [terrorist] organization,” and sentenced Acar to seven years and six months in prison, according to reports. The court acquitted all the defendants of the more serious coup-related charges in the second indictment. At least 18 of the journalists were sent to prison for varying prison terms. Two of them—Atilla Taş and Murat Aksoy—were sentenced and released for time served, and the journalists Bünyamin Köseli and Cihan Acar remain free pending the appeal, according to reports. Lawyers for the journalists told CPJ they are appealing the verdict. As of late 2018, the local appeal process was ongoing.

**PRISON SENTENCE:** N/A

**LEGISLATION USED:** Turkish Criminal Law 314/2

**CURRENT LEGAL STATUS:** Arrested

**CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION:** Silivri Prison, İstanbul
CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A
HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

SOURCES:
For more information in Turkish:
https://medyagozlemveritabani.org/zaman-gazetesi-eski-haber-muduru-mustafa-erkan-
cara-orgut-uyeliginden-7-yil-6-ay-hapis-cezası-verildi/
https://expressioninterrupted.com/tr/turkiyede-basin-ve-ifade-ozgurlugu-179/
MUSTAFA GÖK

DATE of BIRTH: N/A
GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Ankara bureau chief for Ekmek ve Adalet magazine

DATE of ARREST: N/A

DETAILS of ARREST: N/A

DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

Mustafa Gök, Ankara bureau chief for Ekmek ve Adalet magazine, was convicted in 2004 over alleged links to the outlawed leftist Revolutionary People’s Liberation Party/Front (DHKP-C) and sentenced to life in prison. He had been imprisoned before in 1993, but was released due to poor health. He worked in Emek ve Adalet magazine from 2002 to 2004. News reporting that he produced during that time was reportedly used against him in his case. He is currently imprisoned in the Sincan F-type prison in Ankara.

Source 2: Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)

A local court sentenced Gök, Ankara correspondent for the leftist magazine Ekmek ve Adalet (Bread and Justice), to six years and three months in prison on charges of being a member of the outlawed Revolutionary People’s Salvation Party/Front (DHKP/C), according to his defense lawyer, Evrim Deniz Karatana. Gök’s lawyers appealed the sentence. Karatana told CPJ that the evidence against the journalist consisted of his news coverage and attendance at political demonstrations. She said that Gök had been targeted for his reporting on politics and human rights, along with his beliefs as a socialist. Karatana said her client suffers from Wernicke-Korsakoff syndrome, a brain disorder, which has led to a loss of sight and balance. She said he was jailed despite having a medical document that says he has a severe disability and should not be incarcerated. Gök was also serving a life term on charges of membership in a terrorist organization, forgery, bombing, and murder, all dating to the early 1990s, according to an updated list of charges provided by the Justice Ministry. The life sentence was withdrawn in 2002 when Gök was released on parole for health reasons, Karatana told CPJ. When Gök was rearrested in 2004 on the DHKP/C membership charges, the life term was reinstated, she said. She said their appeal against the reinstated life term was rejected. The People’s Law Office, a free law clinic in Istanbul that was representing Gök in late 2017, told CPJ that the journalist was being held in Tekirdağ Prison, in the northwestern province of the same name. Authorities have ignored his medical needs, a lawyer assigned to his case told CPJ. In late 2018, the People’s Law Office told CPJ that the lawyer who had been representing Gök is now in custody. A new lawyer representing the journalist did not reply to CPJ’s request for updates on the case.

PRISON SENTENCE: N/A

LEGISLATION USED: N/A

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Convicted

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: Sincan F-type prison in Ankara

CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A

HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A
MUSTAFĂ GÖKKİLİÇ

DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Reporter for Radikal and Habertürk newspapers

DATE of ARREST: N/A

DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)

An Istanbul court on July 19 arraigned Mustafa Gökkılıç, a former reporter for the now-closed liberal daily Radikal, on charges of having ties to the Gülen movement, which the government considers a terrorist organization, according to the state news agency Anatolia. According to the agency, Gökkılıç was arraigned with several former police directors and officers suspected of plotting against the National Intelligence Agency (MİT) in 2012.

Source 2: Expression Interrupted

Mustafa Gökkılıç, a former reporter for Habertürk TV and the now defunct Radikal daily, was taken into custody on July 12 on grounds of an arrest warrant issued by the Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office. Gökkılıç was among 24 people sought as part of a criminal investigation concerning 2012’s “MiT crisis,” in which the head of Turkey’s National Intelligence Organization (MiT) and several intelligence officials were summoned to testify in court. Gökkılıç was arrested alongside five other individuals as part of the investigation. An Istanbul Criminal Judgeship of Peace jailed all six pending trial.

PRISON SENTENCE: N/A

LEGISLATION USED: N/A

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: N/A

CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A

HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

SOURCES:

For more information in Turkish:


https://expressioninterrupted.com/tr/olaganustu-halde-gazeteciler-166/


http://platform24.org/guncel/3206/turkiye-de-basin-ve-ifade-ozgurlugu-167
MUSTAFA GÖKTAŞ

DATE of BIRTH: N/A
GENDER: Male
PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Şanlıurfa correspondent of now-shuttered Özgür Gündem

DATE of ARREST: March 16, 2018
DETAILS of ARREST:
Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)
Mustafa Göktaş, Şanlıurfa correspondent of now-shuttered Özgür Gündem, was arrested on March 16, 2018 over accusations of “terrorist propaganda” and “membership of a terrorist organisation”. Göktaş was initially detained on March 2 in Istanbul during a security control check after he learned that an investigation had been opened concerning him. Later he was sent to Şanlıurfa Courthouse under detention to be brought on a trial. His phone calls and press releases were used as evidence in the court case. He is currently imprisoned at Urfa Prison.

DETAILS of TRIAL:
Source 1: Expression Interrupted
Özgür Gündem reporter Göktaş arrested
Mustafa Göktaş, a local reporter for the shuttered Özgür Gündem daily, was imprisoned pending trial in the southeastern province of Şanlıurfa on March 16 on charges of “membership in a terrorist organization” and “spreading propaganda” after spending 14 days in police custody. Göktaş was arrested during a regular police security control in Istanbul on the grounds that an arrest warrant had been issued against him. He was brought to the anti-terrorism police department in the city of Şanlıurfa. He remained in custody for 13 days before his statement was taken by the prosecutor. Göktaş was sent to a prison facility in Şanlıurfa following the court decision.

Source 2: Expression Interrupted
Mustafa Göktaş ordered to remain behind bars
The fifth hearing of the trial of Mustafa Göktaş, a former employee of the shuttered pro-Kurdish newspaper Özgürlükçü Demokrasi, took place on 23 May at the Urfa 2nd High Criminal Court. Göktaş and his lawyer were in attendance at the hearing. The prosecution reiterated their final opinion of the case, submitted during the previous hearing, in which they asked the court to convict Göktaş of “membership in a terrorist group” and “disseminating terrorist propaganda.” Göktaş’s lawyer Mustafa Vefa told the court they rejected the prosecutor’s final opinion and requested his client’s release pending trial. Göktaş requested a continuance, saying he was physically unfit to make his defense statement because he has been on a hunger strike since 1 March. Granting Göktaş additional time for his defense statement, the court adjourned the trial until 12 September.

PRISON SENTENCE: N/A
LEGISLATION USED: N/A
CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested
CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: Urfa Prison
CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A
HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A
MUSTAFA ÜNAL

DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Columnist/op-ed contributor for Zaman newspaper

DATE of ARREST: He was detained on the 27th of July 2016 and arrested on the 30th July 2016

DETAILS of ARREST: N/A

DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

Mustafa Ünal, a columnist/op-ed contributor for Zaman newspaper, was ordered arrested on July 30, 2016 as part of the government purge of individuals accused of spreading propaganda for the outlawed movement headed by U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gülen, who Turkey’s government accuses of having established a “parallel state structure” and who it blames for the failed July 15, 2016 coup attempt. On April 27, 2017, an Istanbul court accepted an indictment against Ünal and 29 other former Zaman Media Group employees that accuses them of attempting to overthrow the government, the Constitution and Parliament, and which seeks three consecutive life sentences for each suspect. The indictment also seeks another 15 years for each suspect on charges of being members of a terrorist organisation. The indictment alleges that Zaman, which was founded in 1986, was fully taken over by the Gülen movement the following year and was able to continue operating only due to the group’s financial support. It also accuses the group of “using the media as a weapon” to “manipulate society”, and alleges that Zaman employed “columnists with ideas that could have supported the organization”. The newspaper was shuttered in May 2016 after it was seized by the state. As of April 28, 2017, other journalists imprisoned in the case include Ahmet Metin Sekizkardes, Ahmet Turan Alkan, Alaattin Guner, Ali Bulaç, Cuma Kaya, Faruk Akkan, Hakan Tasdelen, Huseyn Turan, Ibrahim Karayegen, Mehmet Ozdemir, Muntazer Turko, Murat Avcioglu, Mustafa Unal, Sahin Alpay, Serif Yilmaz and Zafer Ozsoy. Trial in the case is scheduled to begin on Sept. 18, 2017.

Source 2: Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)

Police detained Mustafa Ünal, former Ankara correspondent for the shuttered newspaper Zaman, at his home in Ankara the morning of July 27, 2016, CPJ reported at the time. The court arraigned him and co-defendants and fellow former Zaman journalists Ali Bulaç, Ahmet Turan Alkan, and Sahin Alpay on charges of being members of a terrorist organization on July 30 of the same year. They were accused of following exiled preacher Fethullah Gülen, whom the Turkish government accuses of maintaining a terrorist organization and "parallel state structure" (FETÖ/PDY, by its Turkish acronym) and masterminding a failed military coup on July 15, 2016. According to records of the arraignment hearing, which CPJ has reviewed, the state alleged that Bulaç, Alpay, Alkan, and Ünal wrote articles in Zaman praising FETÖ/PDY and that the newspaper was the group’s media organ. The state further alleged that because Bulaç and the other Zaman columnists continued writing for the newspaper after its editor-in-chief, Ekrem Dumanlı, was charged in absentia of being "a member of an armed terrorist organization," they remained involved even though they knew the group included armed elements, according to court records. According to the court records, the state also alleged that Bulaç, Alpay, Alkan, and Ünal praised Gülenists on social media, despite what the state described as "strong discourse and public
information" that an armed uprising would take place. The court judged the journalists to be flight risks and ordered them jailed pending trial. Many people have fled in the wake of the government crackdown on suspected Gülenists. The court did not specify the accusations against the individual journalists but judged their cases collectively, court documents show. An Istanbul court in March 2016 ordered the Feza Media Group, which owned Zaman and several other media outlets, placed under trustees appointed by the government. The government used emergency powers arrogated after the failed July 15 military coup to order the newspaper closed by decree on July 27, 2016. According to records of the arraignment hearing, Ünal, then 49, told the court that he retired from Zaman after it was placed under trusteeship, and that he waited for the police to come to his home, which he said showed he had no intention to try to escape should the court grant bail. Ünal told the court he suffers from thyroid problems. His lawyer, İbrahim İpar, told CPJ in 2016 that he was initially unable to obtain the records of Ünal's testimony to police or prosecutors because of restrictions established by the state of emergency. Ünal was on trial alongside 30 journalists and media workers and an academic. All were charged with “attempting, through violence and force, to disrupt and replace the order as recognized by Turkey’s Constitution,” “attempting through violence and force to eliminate or prevent Parliament from carrying out its duties,” and “being a member of an armed terrorist organization.” Not all of the defendants are in custody. The trial’s first hearing was in Istanbul on September 18, 2017, according to local reports. In the indictment, reviewed by CPJ, the prosecution said that the defendants’ journalism, including opinion pieces or their employment by pro-Gülen outlets such as the daily Zaman and Cihan News Agency, is evidence that the journalists were part of the alleged terror group. The indictment accused the journalists—which it referred to as “the media force of the terrorist organization”—of producing false news to weaken the government, insult or humiliate the authorities, attempt to disrupt the peace, and to create an environment suitable for a coup. Ünal denied the charges, according to the indictment. An Istanbul court on July 6, 2018, found Ünal guilty of "being a member of an armed [terrorist] organization and sentenced him to 10 years and six months in prison, according to news reports. The court acquitted the journalist of the other charges. He is jailed at Silivri Prison in Istanbul.

PRISON SENTENCE: 10 years 6 months
LEGISLATION USED: Turkish Criminal Law 314/2
CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested
CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: N/A
CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A
HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

SOURCES:
For more information in English:
For more information in Turkish:
https://medyagozlemveritabani.org/zaman-gazetesi-eski-yazari-mustafa-unalin-yargilanmasi/
MUSTAFA YAYLA

DATE of BIRTH: N/A
GENDER: Male
PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Local journalist
DATE of ARREST: N/A
DETAILS of ARREST: N/A
DETAILS of TRIAL:
Source 1: Expression Interrupted

Journalist Mustafa Yayla sent to prison in Izmir

Mustafa Yayla, a local journalist based in the Aegean province of Aydın, was sent to prison on 19 May after an appellate court upheld a previous conviction on the charge of “insulting the president.” Yayla had been given a prison sentence of 11 months and 20 days over his social media posts in a trial overseen by the Kuşadası 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance.

The court refused to defer his sentence or commute it to a judicial fine. Yayla, who had recently relocated in Izmir after getting married, was placed in the Torbalı Prison in Izmir.

PRISON SENTENCE: 11 months and 20 days
LEGISLATION USED: N/A
CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested
CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: Torbalı Prison in İzmir
CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A
HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

SOURCES:
For more information in Turkish:
MUTLU ÇÖLGEÇEN

DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Editor with Millet newspaper

DATE of ARREST: He was detained on the 31st of August 2016 and arrested on Sept. 9, 2016

DETAILS of ARREST: N/A

DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: International Press institute (IPI)

Mutlu Çölgeçen, an editor with Millet newspaper, was ordered arrested on Sept. 9, 2016 as part of a purge of journalists allegedly linked to U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gülen, who Turkey’s government accuses of having established a “parallel state structure” and who it blames for the failed July 15, 2016 coup attempt. Çölgeçen is one of 29 journalists charged in a case accusing them of having been part of the Gülen movement’s “media wing”. They face up to 10 years in prison if convicted. As of May 2, 2017, other journalists imprisoned in connection with the case include Abdullah Kılıç, Ahmet Memiş, Atilla Taş, Bayram Kaya, Bünnyamin Köseli, Cemal Azmi Kalyoncu, Cihan Acar, Cuma Ulus, Emre Soncan, Gökçe Fırat Çulhaoğlu, Habib Güler, Halil İbrahim Balta, Hanım Büşra Erdal, Hüseyin Aydın, Murat Aksoy, Mustafa Erkan Acar, Oğuz Usluer, Seyid Kılıç, Ufuk Şanlı, Ünal Tanık, Yakup Çetin and Yetkin Yıldız. Six other journalists face charges in the case, including Ali Akkuş, Bülent Ceyhan, Davut Aydin, Muhammed Sait Kuloğlu, Muhterem Tanık and Said Sefa, the latter of whom reportedly had fled the country. On March 31, 2017 a court in Turkey ordered 21 of the imprisoned defendants released conditionally, but prosecutors successfully objected to the release of eight of them and the release order for the other 13 was blocked hours later. The defendants – with the exception of Akkuş, who was freed after having been imprisoned since July 30, 2016 – remained behind bars and the judges who made the order were suspended. Prosecutors later brought new charges against 13 of the journalists on charges of trying to overthrow the government and the constitutional order. Those facing the new charges include Cihan Acar, Mustafa Erkan Acar, Akkuş, Aksoy, Aydın, Çetin, Çulhaoğlu, Abdullah Kılıç, Seyid Kılıç, Köseli, Taş, Usluer and Yıldız.

Source 2: Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)

Police detained Çölgeçen, former news coordinator for the shuttered daily newspaper Millet, in Istanbul on August 31, 2016. Istanbul First Court of Penal Peace ordered the journalist jailed pending trial on September 2, 2016. According to records of his arraignment hearing, which CPJ has reviewed, when asked about his work for Millet, the journalist told the court that he had worked as a journalist since 1994 at various newspapers and television channels before joining Millet in September 2014 as the news coordinator. He told the court he quit the newspaper on August 21, 2015, following an argument he had with a colleague, and that he had been unemployed since. The journalist denied that he was a follower of exiled preacher Fethullah Gülen, whom the Turkish government accuses of maintaining a terrorist organization and "parallel state structure" in Turkey (FETÖ/PDY, by its Turkish acronym) and of masterminding a July 15, 2016, failed military coup. Çölgeçen denied having any connection to the failed military coup. The court ordered him jailed based on its "strong suspicion" that Çölgeçen "willingly and knowingly helped the organization.” Millet was one of several media
outlets owned by the Koza İpek Group, which the government took over in October 2015, alleging it had links to FETÖ/PDY. Trustees appointed by the government hollowed out media outlets the company owned and shut them down in March 2016, saying they were not financially viable. Çölgeçen is on trial with several other journalists arrested after the attempted coup. All but one of them were charged with “being a member of an armed [terrorist] organization,” which carries up to 10 years in prison, according to the indictment. CPJ found the indictment to be similar to those presented at trials of other journalists in Turkey. Prosecutors cited as evidence in these cases journalistic activity or acts of free speech and communication, or cited circumstantial evidence such as being employed by a certain media outlet or having an account at a bank allegedly linked to Gülenists. The indictment accused the defendants of manipulating the public perception of FETÖ to turn citizens against the government, which prosecutors argued made them members of the group that Turkey alleges is behind the attempted coup. Prosecutors presented as evidence against Çölgeçen his employment at Millet, his appearance as a guest on a TV debate on alleged government corruption, and his social media activity. Prosecutors accused Çölgeçen of producing false news about prominent cases—including the alleged Ergenekon and Sledgehammer plots to destabilize the government—while he was working at pro-government media outlets, including the daily Sabah. At that time those cases were reported, the Gülenists and the government were allies. When the trial started in March 2017, an Istanbul court ordered Çölgeçen and four of his co-accused to be detained for the duration of the trial, according to news reports. An Istanbul court on March 8, 2018, found Çölgeçen and at least 21 of the other journalists on trial guilty of “being a member of a [terrorist] organization,” and sentenced Çölgeçen to seven years and six months in prison, according to reports. The court acquitted all the defendants of the more serious coup-related charges in the second indictment. At least 18 of the journalists were sent to prison for varying prison terms. Two of them—Atilla Taş and Murat Aksoy—were sentenced and released for time served, and the journalists Bünyamin Köseli and Cihan Acar remain free pending the appeal, according to reports. Lawyers for the journalists told CPJ they are appealing the verdict. As of late 2018, the local appeal process was ongoing. Çölgeçen was being held in Silivri prison in Istanbul.

**PRISON SENTENCE:** 6 years and 3 months

**LEGALIZATION USED:** Turkish Criminal Law 314/2

**CURRENT LEGAL STATUS:** Arrested

**CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION:** Silivri Prison, Istanbul

**CONDITIONS of DETENTION:** N/A

**HEALTH CONCERNS:** N/A

**SOURCES:**

For more information in English:


Second hearing:


Third hearing:


Final hearing:  

For more information in Turkish:  
https://medyagozlemveritabani.org/gazeteci-mutlu-colgecene-orgut-uyeliginden-6-yil-3-ay-hapis-cezasi-verildi/
Mutlu Özay, a former Cihan news agency reporter, was ordered arrested on Aug. 16, 2017 on accusations of links to U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gülen, who Turkey’s government accuses of having established a “parallel state structure” and who it blames for the failed July 15, 2016 coup attempt. Özay was detained for allegedly having used mobile phone encryption application Bylock, which Turkish prosecutors consider to be evidence of membership in the Gülen movement.

For more information in English:
https://expressioninterrupted.com/journalists-in-state-of-emergency-84/

For more information in Turkish:
MÜMTAZER TÜRKÖNE

DATE of BIRTH: 1956

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Columnist/op-ed contributor for Zaman newspaper

DATE of ARREST: 5 August, 2016

DETAILS of ARREST:
Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)
Mümtazer Türköne, a columnist/op-ed contributor for Zaman newspaper, was ordered arrested on Aug. 5, 2016 as part of the government purge of individuals accused of spreading propaganda for the outlawed movement headed by U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gülen, who Turkey’s government accuses of having established a “parallel state structure” and who it blames for the failed July 15, 2016 coup attempt.

DETAILS of TRIAL:
Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)
On April 27, 2017, an Istanbul court accepted an indictment against Türköne and 29 other former Zaman Media Group employees that accuses them of attempting to overthrow the government, the Constitution and Parliament, and which seeks three consecutive life sentences for each suspect. The indictment also seeks another 15 years for each suspect on charges of being members of a terrorist organisation. The indictment alleges that Zaman, which was founded in 1986, was fully taken over by the Gülen movement the following year and was able to continue operating only due to the group’s financial support. It also accuses the group of “using the media as a weapon” to “manipulate society”, and alleges that Zaman employed “columnists with ideas that could have supported the organization”. The newspaper was shuttered in May 2016 after it was seized by the state. As of April 28, 2017, other journalists imprisoned in the case include Ahmet Metin Sekizkardeş, Ahmet Turan Alkan, Alaattin Güner, Ali Bulaç, Cuma Kaya, Faruk Akkan, Hakan Taşdelen, Hüseyin Turan, İbrahim Karayeğen, Mehmet Özdemir, Murat Avçoğlu, Mustafa Ünal, Şahin Alpay, Şeref Yılmaz and Zafer Özoşy. Trial in the case is scheduled to begin on Sept. 18, 2017.

Source 2: Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)
Police in the western province of Yalova detained Mümtaz’er Türköne, a then-60-year-old political scientist and columnist for the shuttered daily newspaper Zaman, on July 27, 2016, as part of a broad purge of suspected followers of exiled preacher Fethullah Gülen. The Turkish government accuses Gülen of maintaining a terrorist organization and parallel state structure in Turkey (FETÖ/PDY, by its Turkish acronym) and masterminding a July 15, 2016, failed military coup. Authorities subsequently transferred Türköne to Istanbul for questioning, and Istanbul’s Third Court of Penal Peace on August 4, 2016, ordered him jailed, pending trial on charges of "serving to the aims of the terrorist organization FETÖ/PDY."
According to the court records of his arraignment, the state alleged that Türköne was "a columnist at a newspaper issued in the name of the organization, and that he served the aims of the organization with his articles." An Istanbul court in March 2016 ordered the Feza Media Group, which owned Zaman and several other media outlets, placed under trustees appointed by the government. The government used emergency powers it assumed after the failed July 15, 2016, military coup to order the newspaper closed by decree on July 27, 2016.
According to court documents, Türköne told the court that he had been a political scientist for 30 years and that he had written 16 books. He said the idea to "call on the people to take to the streets in case of a military coup, as President Erdoğan did," originated with him. On the night of the failed military coup, the Turkish president called on citizens to fill the streets to foil the plans. Türköne told the court that he spoke about this idea on many television shows and in many newspaper columns prior to July 2016 as a means of foiling future coup attempts. Türköne said police produced five of his articles as evidence of his support for the attempted coup. The columnist denied the allegations, and said all the articles were calling for alternative democratic solutions, and the removal of the government through elections. "I know Fethullah Gülen. I know that Zaman newspaper was under his control," Türköne told the court. "As an author, to reach a wider audience, I preferred to write in Zaman, which [had] the highest circulation in Turkey." "During the time I wrote for Zaman, there was no open intervention about what to write. Sometimes [staff] reminded me of current issues and advised me to write about different issues. No intervention happened over any article I wrote. I also do not feel I am dependent on the editorial policy of the newspaper," Türköne told the court. Türköne was on trial alongside 30 journalists and media workers and an academic. All were charged with “attempting, through violence and force, to disrupt and replace the order as recognized by Turkey’s Constitution,” “attempting through violence and force to eliminate or prevent Parliament from carrying out its duties,” and “being a member of an armed terrorist organization.” Not all of the defendants are in custody. The trial’s first hearing was in Istanbul on September 18, 2017, according to local reports. In the indictment, reviewed by CPJ, the prosecution said that the defendants’ journalism, including opinion pieces or their employment by pro-Gülen outlets such as the daily Zaman and Cihan News Agency, is evidence that the journalists were part of the alleged terror group. The indictment accused the journalists—which it referred to as “the media force of the terrorist organization”—of producing false news to weaken the government, insult or humiliate the authorities, attempt to disrupt the peace, and to create an environment suitable for a coup. Türköne denied the charges, according to the indictment. An Istanbul court on July 6, 2018, found Türköne guilty of "being a member of an armed [terrorist] organization" and sentenced him to 10 years and six months in prison, according to news reports. The court acquitted Türköne on the other charges. He remains imprisoned at Silivri Prison in Istanbul.

Source 3: Expression Interrupted

Mümtazer Türköne, an academic and columnist for the shuttered Zaman newspaper, was arrested in a series of raids targeting former Zaman journalists and columnists in late July. A court imprisoned him pending trial a few days later on the charge of “membership of an armed terrorist organization.” According to an indictment submitted to the İstanbul 13th High Criminal Court in April, Türköne, along with 29 other defendants, faces three aggravated life sentences on charges of “attempting to overthrow the government, the constitutional order and Parliament,” as well as a prison term of up to 15 years for “being a member of a terrorist organization.” Türköne and other defendants appeared before a judge for the first hearing of their trial on September 18-19, 2017. The court ruled to keep all imprisoned defendants behind bars and lifted the State of Emergency restrictions on access to lawyers. At the end of the second hearing of the Zaman trial on December 8, 2017, the court released three employees of the Zaman advertising department and ruled to keep all other imprisoned
defendants, including Türköne, behind bars. During the third hearing of the trial on April 5, 2018, the prosecutor submitted his final opinion, seeking aggravated life imprisonment and an additional 15 years in prison for “violating the Constitution” and “membership in an armed terrorist organization” for nine of the 11 columnists and journalists standing trial in the case, including Türköne. Issuing an interim ruling at the end of the hearing, the court ordered the continuation of detention of all imprisoned defendants in the case and adjourned the trial until May 10-11 for the final defense statements. The fourth hearing was held on May 10 and 11 at the 13th High Criminal Court of Istanbul. On the first day of the hearing, Türköne was one of only two defendants who gave their defense statements in response to the prosecutor’s final opinion. Türköne’s objections to the prosecutor’s final opinion on procedural grounds made its mark on the session. Türköne told the court that there were discrepancies between the prosecutor’s final opinion submitted during the previous hearing on April 5 and the latest version of the final opinion handed out to the defendants in CDs to base their final defense statements on. The points raised by Türköne were also highlighted by other defendants who addressed the court later in the hearing. In his final defense statement, Türköne provided detailed explanations regarding his newspaper columns that are held as evidence against him in the indictment. Noting at the end of his address to the court that he has not finished his defense, Türköne requested additional time to prepare a further statement concerning seven more of his articles on which the accusations are also based. In its interim decision at the end of the two-day hearing, the court ruled to release columnist Ali Bulaç and Zaman’s former Responsible Managing Editor Mehmet Özdemir from pretrial detention, while ordering the lifting of Şahin Alpay’s house arrest. The court ordered the continuation of the detention of the remaining imprisoned defendants in the case, including Mümtazer Türköne, and set June 7 and 8 as the dates for the next hearing. At the end of the fifth hearing held on June 7-8, the 13th High Criminal Court of Istanbul ordered the continuation of Türköne, Alkan, Karayeğen and Ünal’s detention. One of the judges on the panel gave a dissenting opinion on that ruling. Recalling Ali Bulaç’s release at the end of the previous hearing on grounds that the nature of the allegations against him could be subject to change, the judge asserted that all jailed defendants in the case should have been released based on the principle of legal equality. The court set July 5 and 6 as the dates for the next hearing in the case. Announcing its verdict at the end of the July 5-6 hearing the 13th High Criminal Court of Istanbul found six of the defendants — including Türköne — guilty of the “membership in a terrorist group” charge, handing down prison sentences of various lengths between 8 years and 9 months and 10.5 years, while acquitting five defendants of all charges. The court gave the lengthiest sentences in the trial to columnist Türköne and Ankara representative-columnist Mustafa Ünal, sentencing each to 10.5 years in prison. The panel also ruled for the continuation of Türköne and Ünal’s detentions pending the appeal process. Türköne was also on trial in a separate case in which he was charged in connection with an article published on February 4, 2016. On July 4, 2017, Bakırköy 2nd High Criminal Court, which oversaw the trial, sentenced Türköne to four years and two months in prison for “threatening President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan” in the said column. The court initially sentenced Türköne to five years in jail and then reduced it to four years and two months, taking into consideration Türköne’s “good behavior” during the trial process. Türköne attended the hearing from the Silivri Prison he is currently held via SEGBİS video conferencing system.

PRISON SENTENCE: 10 years 6 months
LEGISLATION USED: Turkish Criminal Law 314/2
CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested
CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: Silivri Prison, İstanbul
CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A
HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A
Source 1: Expression Interrupted

Mümtazer Türköne refuses to have heart surgery

Mümtazer Türköne, a former columnist of the shuttered Zaman newspaper, was sent back to prison without an open-heart surgery doctors said was necessary because he refused to undergo the operation due to his concerns over post-surgery care in prison. Türköne was hospitalized due to blockage in two of his arteries. Doctors recommended open-heart surgery to clear the blockage but Türköne’s family said he refused as he was not going to get the required care after the operation in prison. Instead, he had an angioplasty during which doctors placed a stent in one of the clogged arteries and was sent back to prison. His daughter, Sıla Türköne, said his 63-year-old father’s health is at risk every day he does not have the surgery and called for his release so that he could have the open-heart surgery and the necessary care.

SOURCES:
For more information in English:
Final hearing:
https://expressioninterrupted.com/mumtazer-turkones-trial-adjourned-until-october/

For more information in Turkish:
https://medyagozlemveritabani.org/zaman-gazetesi-eski-yazari-mumtazar-turkonenin-yargilanmasi/
NADİR YÜCEL

DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Editor in chief of the Çorum Yıldız newspaper

DATE of ARREST: He was ordered arrested on Dec. 4, 2016

DETAILS of ARREST:
Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)
Nadir Yücel, editor in chief of the Çorum Yıldız, was ordered arrested on Dec. 4, 2016 as part of a purge of journalists allegedly linked to U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gülen, who Turkey’s government accuses of having established a “parallel state structure” and who it blames for the failed July 15, 2016 coup attempt. The case also reportedly targets five other journalists: Burçin Dokgöz, Lokman Erdoğan, İdris Okur, Musa Ayan and Murat Öztürk.

DETAILS of TRIAL: N/A

PRISON SENTENCE: N/A

LEGISLATION USED: Turkish Criminal Law 314/2

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: N/A

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: N/A

CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A

HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

For more information in English:
https://expressioninterrupted.com/lokman-erdogan/

For more information in Turkish:
NEDİM TÜRFENT

DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Reporter for the now-shuttered pro-Kurdish Dicle News Agency (DİHA)

DATE of ARREST: He was ordered imprisoned pending trial on May 13, 2016

DETAILS of ARREST:
Source 1: Expression Interrupted
Nedim Türfent, a correspondent for the pro-Kurdish Dicle News Agency (DİHA) that was closed down with an emergency decree, was arrested on May 12, 2016, in the eastern province of Van as part of an investigation launched by the public prosecutor’s office in Yüksekova, a district in the southeastern province of Hakkari.

DETAILS of TRIAL:
Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)
Nedim Türfent, a reporter for the now-shuttered pro-Kurdish Dicle News Agency (DİHA), was ordered imprisoned pending trial on May 13, 2016. He was accused of being a member of the Kurdish Workers’ Party (PKK) and the Kurdish Civil Protection Units (YPS), both of which Turkey classifies as terrorist organisations, and of producing propaganda for the two groups. A Turkish court rejected Türfent’s request for release from pre-trial detention in an Aug. 10, 2017 hearing. According to local reports, the ruling came despite Türfent’s lawyer argument that 13 of 14 witnesses heard at the first hearing in the case said that police tortured them to obtain previous statements the witnesses gave implicating Türfent and that they did not actually know Türfent. Türfent is currently being held in the Van F-type prison, reportedly in a single cell.

Source 2: Expression Interrupted
On May 13, Türfent was imprisoned pending trial on the charge of “membership in a terrorist organization,” based on some of his reports for DİHA and secret witness testimonies. He was first sent to Hakkari Prison but was later transferred to Van and has changed prisons several times since then. In a letter in May from Van T-Type Prison, where he was sent to on April 26, Türfent said he was held in solitary confinement for three weeks since his transfer to the facility. Türfent said the prison administration has rejected his requests to move to three-inmate cells, saying they are all occupied. Türfent also complained that he has not been given any book yet from the prison library. According to media reports, a 23-page indictment prepared by Hakkari Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office lists some meetings and interviews of Türfent as criminal activities. The indictment also includes statements given to the police by some 20 people, who allegedly said that Türfent “aided the terrorist organization” with the reports he filed and the footages he filmed. The prosecutor accuses Türfent of being a member of the terrorist group — apparently in reference to the PKK — saying he acted under instructions from the terrorist organization, that he acted as the media agent of the group and that he had “organic” links that presented “continuity, intensity and diversity.” The prosecutor also lists some social media posts of Türfent as “terrorist propaganda,” saying they were aimed at legitimizing the group’s violent methods and its use of force. On June 14, 2017, the first hearing of Türfent’s trial was held at Hakkari 2nd High Criminal Court, more than a year after he was jailed. Twelve out of 13 witnesses who were heard by the court said they
Türfent, who presented his defense at the hearing, said he acted as a journalist and did what his profession required him to do. Despite witness testimonies disavowing earlier statements, the court ruled to keep Türfent in pre-trial detention. The court convicted Türfent of “membership in a terrorist organization” in the fifth and final hearing of the trial against him on December 15, 2017. The court initially handed down seven years to Türfent, but increased this term to eight years and nine months on the grounds that his “actions had been continuous.” The court also ruled not to release Türfent for the duration of the appeal process.

**Source 3:** Expression Interrupted

**Supreme Court of Appeals upholds journalist Nedim Türfent’s conviction**

The 16th Criminal Chamber of the Supreme Court of Appeals has upheld the conviction against journalist Nedim Türfent, who has been in prison for more than three years. Türfent, a former reporter for the shuttered Dicle news agency (DİHA), was jailed pending trial on 13 May 2016. At the end of the final hearing of his trial on 15 December 2017, the 2nd High Criminal Court of Hakkari convicted Türfent of “terrorist group membership” and sentenced the journalist to 8 years and 9 months in prison.

**PRISON SENTENCE:** 8 years and 9 months

**LEGISLATION USED:** Turkish Criminal Law 314/2

**CURRENT LEGAL STATUS:** Arrested

**CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION:** Van F-type prison

**CONDITIONS of DETENTION:**

Information on his conditions of detention and health concerns can be found in a questionnaire by Platform 24 (P24).

The Turkish version of the questionnaire is available [here](https://medyagozlemveritabani.org/diha-ajansi-van-muhabiri-nedim-turfente-orgut-uyeliginden-8-yil-9-ay-hapis-cezasini-verildi/).

**HEALTH CONCERNS:** See questionnaire above.

**SOURCES:**

For more information in English:

- [https://cpj.org/data/people/nedim-turfent/](https://cpj.org/data/people/nedim-turfent/)
- [First hearing](https://expressioninterrupted.com/scores-of-journalists-rights-defenders-to-go-on-trial/)
- [Third hearing](https://expressioninterrupted.com/journalists-in-state-of-emergency-100/)
- [Fifth hearing](https://expressioninterrupted.com/journalists-in-state-of-emergency-105/)

For more information in Turkish:


http://bianet.org/bianet/medya/174755-dihamuhabiri-nedim-turfent-tutuklandi

For more information in Kurdish:

NUH GÖNÜLTAŞ

DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Former writer for the now-closed Zaman newspaper

DATE of ARREST: He was ordered arrested on Nov. 9, 2017

DETAILS of ARREST:

Source 1: International Press institute (IPI)

Nuh Gönültaş, a former writer for the now-closed Zaman newspaper, was ordered arrested on Nov. 9, 2017 as a part of an operation against the Journalists’ and Writers’ Foundation (GYV), which was closed down under a decree law. GYV was an organization allegedly affiliated with U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gülen, whom Turkey’s government blames for the July 15, 2016 coup attempt. Gönültaş is charged with “membership in a terrorist organisation” together with two other journalists, Behram Kılıç and Mehmet Gündem.

DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: Expression Interrupted

45 detained in operation into writers’ group

Forty five individuals, including journalists Nuh Gönültaş, Mehmet Gündem, Şule Büyükçizmeci and Behram Kılıç, were taken into custody by police on November 1, as part of an operation into the Journalists’ and Writers’ Foundation (GYV), which was shut down under a post-coup decree. The Financial Crimes Unit of the Istanbul Police Department is conducting the investigation. A total of 111 detention warrants were issued across 17 provinces, authorities said. Warrants for editor-in-chief of the Zaman newspaper and GYV President Mustafa Yeşil were also issued. GYV was an organization affiliated with the Fethullah Gülen network, which Turkish authorities say was behind the 15 July coup attempt in Turkey.

PRISON SENTENCE: N/A

LEGISLATION USED: N/A

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: N/A

CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A

HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

SOURCES:

For more information in English:


For more information in Turkish:


https://www.cnnturk.com/turkiye/gazeteciler-ve-yazarlar-vakfi-uyelerine-17-ilde-feto-operasyonu
NURİ DURNA

DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Turkish Radio and Television Network (TRT)

DATE of ARREST: He was ordered arrested on Aug. 19, 2016

DETAILS of ARREST: N/A

DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

Nuri Durna, with state-owned Turkish Radio and Television Network (TRT), was ordered arrested on Aug. 19, 2016 as part of a purge of journalists allegedly linked to U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gülen, who Turkey’s government accuses of having established a “parallel state structure” and who it blames for the failed July 15, 2016 coup attempt.

PRISON SENTENCE: N/A

LEGISLATION USED: N/A

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: N/A

CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A

HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A
NURI YEŞİL

DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Dersim bureau chief for pro-Kurdish Azadiya Welat newspaper

DATE of ARREST: 2010

DETAILS of ARREST: N/A

DETAILS of TRIAL: 

Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

Nuri Yeşil, Dersim bureau chief for pro-Kurdish Azadiya Welat newspaper, was arrested in 2010. He was convicted over alleged links to outlawed Kurdish militant groups and is currently serving a sentence of one year, seven months in prison.

PRISON SENTENCE: N/A

LEGISLATION USED: N/A

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Convicted

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: Elbistan E Type Closed Prison

CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A

HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

SOURCES:

For more information in English:

For information in Turkish:

http://bianet.org/bianet/print/139279-ozgur-basin-olmasaydi-roboski-pozanti-duyulmaycakti
NURULLAH KAYA

DATE of BIRTH: N/A
GENDER: Male
PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: N/A
DATE of ARREST: N/A
DETAILS of ARREST: N/A
DETAILS of TRIAL: N/A
PRISON SENTENCE: N/A
LEGISLATION USED: N/A

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: N/A
CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: N/A
CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A
HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A
SOURCES:

For more information in English:
For information in Turkish:
For information in Kurdish:
OĞUZ USLUEL

DATE of BIRTH: N/A
GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Former print/broadcast coordinator for Habertürk

DATE of ARREST: 28 December 2016
DETAILS of ARREST: N/A
DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

Oğuz Usluer, a former print/broadcast coordinator for Habertürk, was ordered arrested on Dec. 28, 2016 as part of a purge of journalists allegedly linked to U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gülen, who Turkey’s government accuses of having established a “parallel state structure” and who it blames for the failed July 15, 2016 coup attempt. Usluer is one of 29 journalists charged in a case accusing them of being part of the Gülen movement’s “media wing”. They face up to 10 years in prison if convicted. As of May 2, 2017, other journalists imprisoned in connection with the case include Abdullah Kılıç, Ahmet Memiş, Atilla Taş, Bayram Kaya, Bünyamin Köseli, Cemal Azmi Kalyoncu, Cihan Acar, Cuma Ulus, Emre Soncan, Gökçe Fırat Çulhoağlı, Habib Güler, Halil İbrahim Balta, Hanım Büşra Erdal, Hüseyin Aydın, Murat Aksoy, Mustafa Erkan Acar, Mutlu Çölgeçen, Seyid Kılıç, Ufuk Şanlı, Ünal Tanık, Yakub Çetin and Yetkin Yıldız. Six other journalists face charges in the case, including Ali Akkuş, Bülent Ceyhan, Davut Aydın, Muhammed Sait Kuloğlu, Muhterem Tanık and Said Sefa, the latter of whom reportedly had fled the country. On March 31, 2017 a court in Turkey ordered 21 of the imprisoned defendants released conditionally, but prosecutors successfully objected to the release of eight of them and the release order for the other 13 was blocked hours later. The defendants – with the exception of Akkuş, who was freed after having been imprisoned since July 30, 2016 – remained behind bars and the judges who made the order were suspended. Prosecutors later brought new charges against 13 of the journalists on charges of trying to overthrow the government and the constitutional order. Those facing the new charges include Cihan Acar, Mustafa Erkan Acar, Akkuş, Aksoy, Aydın, Çetin, Çulhoağlı, Abdullah Kılıç, Seyid Kılıç, Köseli, Taş, Usluer and Yıldız.

Source 2: Expression Interrupted

Journalist Oğuz Usluer detained in coup probe

Oğuz Usluer, a former news coordinator for Habertürk TV, was detained on Dec. 10 on accusations of being affiliated with the Fethullah Gülen community; a religious movement accused by the Turkish administration of being behind the failed coup of July 15. Usluer’s family members, who contacted P24 via email, have expressed concern for his well being, stating that the journalist is currently barred from seeing his lawyer and members of his family.

About the hearing:

PRISON SENTENCE: 7 years and 6 months

LEGISLATION USED: N/A

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: Silivri Prison, İstanbul

CONDITIONS of DETENTION:
Information on his conditions of detention and health concerns can be found in a questionnaire by Platform 24 (P24).

The Turkish version of the questionnaire is available here.

HEALTH CONCERNS: See questionnaire above.

SOURCES:

For more information in English:

For more information in Turkish:


https://www.mlsaturkey.com/tr/aralarinda-oguz-usluerin-de-bulundugu-26-gazetecinin-hapis-cezasi-onandi/

For more information in Kurdish:
OSMAN YAKUT

DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Former Antalya reporter for the now-closed Zaman newspaper

DATE of ARREST: He was ordered jailed on July 21, 2016

DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

Osman Yakut, a former Antalya reporter for the now-closed Zaman newspaper, was ordered jailed on July 21, 2016 as part of the government purge of journalists allegedly linked to U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gülen, who Turkey’s government accuses of having established a “parallel state structure” and who it blames for the failed July 15, 2016 coup attempt. According to news reports, prosecutors accused Yakut and others of producing propaganda for the Gülenist movement.

Source 2: Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)

Counterterrorism police in the southern province of Antalya on July 23, 2016, detained Osman Yakut, a former reporter for the shuttered daily Zaman, as part of a sweeping purge of journalists and others suspected of following exiled preacher Fethullah Gülen, according to press reports. The government accuses Gülen of maintaining a terrorist organization and "parallel state structure" (or FETÖ/PDY, as the government calls it) within Turkey that it blames for orchestrating a failed July 15, 2016, military coup. Zaman was among the more than 100 news outlets the government closed by decree on July 27, 2016, using emergency powers it assumed after the attempted coup, saying the media outlets were FETÖ/PDY mouthpieces. Since then, CPJ research shows that Turkish authorities have jailed dozens of Zaman journalists pending trial on terrorism-related offenses. On July 26, 2016, a criminal court in Antalya ordered Yakut and eight other journalists detained in Antalya to be jailed pending trial on charges they are FETÖ/PDY propagandists, according to press reports. The reports gave no further details. As of September 2017, only three of the detained journalists, including Yakut, remained in prison, according to a local journalist who has followed the case and who spoke with CPJ on the condition of anonymity. According to the indictment, all the defendants are charged with “being a member of a [terrorist] organization.” Prosecutors cited as evidence against Yakut his social media posts, employment at Zaman, and that he stayed at a Gülenist dormitory while in college. Yakut denied the charge and said that he is only a journalist, according to a copy of his testimony that was included in the indictment.

PRISON SENTENCE: N/A

LEGISLATION USED: Turkish Criminal Law 314/2

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: Antalya Prison

HEALTH CONCERNS: N/a

SOURCES:

For more information in Turkish:


ÖMER ORUÇ

DATE of BIRTH: N/A
GENDER: Males

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Former reporter for Cihan News Agency

DATE of ARREST: 18 December 2016
DETAILS of ARREST: N/A

DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

Ömer Oruç, a former reporter of the Cihan News Agency, was arrested on Dec. 18, 2016 as a part of ongoing operations against alleged followers of U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gülen following the failed coup attempt on July 15, 2016, which Turkish authorities attribute to Gülen. Oruç is currently imprisoned in Isparta prison.

PRISON SENTENCE: N/A

LEGISLATION USED: N/A

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: N/A

CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A

HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

SOURCES:

For more information in English:

ÖZCAN KESER

DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Reporter for state-owned Turkish Radio and Television Network (TRT)

DATE of ARREST: 19 August, 2016

DETAILS of ARREST:

DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

Özcan Keser, a reporter for state-owned Turkish Radio and Television Network (TRT), was ordered arrested on Aug. 19, 2016 as part of the government’s investigation following the July 15, 2016 coup attempt.

PRISON SENTENCE: N/A

LEGISLATION USED: N/A

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: N/A

CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A

HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

SOURCES:

For more information in Turkish:

http://m.bianet.org/bianet/insan-haklari/177711-trt-den-2-gazeteciye-gozalti
Jailed defendants Hasan Hüseyin Örs, İbrahim Halil Öztürkeri and Hasan Taşar were each sentenced to 8 years and 9 months in prison while another jailed defendant, Özden Kınık, was given 8 years 1 month and 15 days in prison. The court also ruled for the continuation of all four’s detention.

**PRISON SENTENCE:** 8 years 1 month

**DATE of BIRTH:** N/A

**GENDER:** Male

**PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND:** TRT

**DATE of ARREST:** N/A

**DETAILS of ARREST:** N/A

**DETAILS of TRIAL:** Expression Interrupted

**LEGISLATION USED:** N/A

**CURRENT LEGAL STATUS:** Convicted

**CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION:** N/A

**CONDITIONS of DETENTION:** N/A

**HEALTH CONCERNS:** N/A

**SOURCES:**

For more information in Turkish:


http://platform24.org/medya-izleme/3230/turkiye-de-basin-ve-ifade-ozgurlugu---169
SAİT GÜRKAN TUZLU

DATE of BIRTH: N/A
GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: An academic at Marmara University's journalism school and former Cihan news agency reporter

DATE of ARREST: 16 August, 2017
DETAILS of ARREST: N/A

DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

Sait Gürkan Tuzlu, an academic at Marmara University's journalism school and former Cihan news agency reporter, was ordered arrested on Aug. 16, 2017 on accusations of links to U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gülen, who Turkey's government accuses of having established a "parallel state structure" and who it blames for the failed July 15, 2016 coup attempt. Tuzlu was detained for allegedly having used mobile phone encryption application Bylock, which Turkish prosecutors consider to be evidence of membership in the Gülen movement.

Source 2: Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)

Istanbul police on August 10, 2017, detained Sait Gürkan Tuzlu, a former reporter for the shuttered Cihan News Agency, according to news reports. Tuzlu was one of 35 journalists and media workers whose arrest a Turkish court mandated the week before as part of a sweeping purge of suspected followers of exiled preacher Fethullah Gülen, according to reports. The Turkish government accuses Gülen of maintaining a terrorist organization and "parallel state structure" (FETÖ/PDY, as the government calls it) within Turkey and alleges that it masterminded a failed July 2016 military coup. Tuzlu’s arrest is part of an investigation into journalists and others who allegedly used the Bylock app, according to press reports. Authorities allege that use of the encrypted messaging app is proof of FETÖ/PDY membership. Turkey issued arrest warrants for 35 journalists and media workers. Of those, nine were ordered to be jailed pending trial and as of 2017, two were released under house arrest, according to news reports. A December 5, 2017 report from the pro-government daily Sabah said an indictment for Tuzlu accused the journalist of using the Bylock app. In late 2018, CPJ was unable to find details of a lawyer who could provide further information on the case, or to review a copy of the indictment.

PRISON SENTENCE: N/A
LEGISLATION USED: Turkish Criminal Law 314/2
CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested
CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: N/A
CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A
HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

SOURCES:

For more information in English:

https://expressioninterrupted.com/journalists-in-state-of-emergency-84/
For more information in Turkish:


http://bianet.org/bianet/print/188997-35-gazeteciye-bylock-gozaltisi-karari

For more information in Kurdish:

https://bianet.org/kurdi/medya/189187-di-carcoveya-lepirsina-bylocke-de-9-rojnameger-hatin-girtin
DATE of BIRTH: N/A
GENDER: Male
PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Editor-in-chief of the Mücadele Birliği magazine
DATE of ARREST: 2013
DETAILS of ARREST:
Source 1: Bianet – 29 June 2011
Torture in Police Custody - Lawyer Threatened

Sami Tunca, taken into custody while distributing regarding the Sivas massacre, will file a criminal complaint on the grounds of torture. Locals who protested the police operation faced tear gas. Tunca's lawyer was threatened by the police. Torture victim Sami Tunca is going to file a criminal complaint about the police officers who tortured him while he was in police custody. Tunca announced his decision to take legal action in a press conference held at the Human Rights Association (İHD) Istanbul Branch together with his lawyer Sevinç Sarıkaya. On 26 June, Tunca was taken into police custody together with three young women from the United Struggle Platform in the Sarıgazi district of Istanbul. The platform members had distributed leaflets with the call to remember the Sivas massacre. Ezgi Keser, Özge Keser and Esra Göner, three women in their early 20s, were dragged by their hair. Local shopkeepers protested against the harsh measures of the police. Thereupon, the police reportedly threw a gas bomb and shot into the air. Tunca reported that he was tortured by police officers before he was brought to the Yenidoğan Police Station and also at the police station. His lawyer was threatened by the police when he came to the police station to talk to his client. Lawyer Sarıkaya also presented the police bullets allegedly collected from the scene of the incident on the same day. He said, "The police officers are aware of what they did (...). They think they can do whatever they want because they do not know the legal procedures very well". Tunca summarized his experiences as follows: "We installed an information booth in the centre of Sarıgazi on 26 June to announce a commemoration ceremony for the Sivas massacre. The police wanted to check our IDs. After I gave them my ID the police said that I am wanted. I told them that I had been acquitted of the charges on subject but they beat me and forced me to enter a car". "The people and shopkeepers in Sarıgazi protested and a conflict developed. The police threw tear gas at the shopkeepers and shot into the air". "After having been taken into custody, two police officers brought me to a secluded place and beat me. From there I was taken to the police station where they brought me to a room and beat me again. They crashed a chair on my back. They held my head and smashed it to the floor". Lawyer Sarıkaya said that he arrived at the Yenidoğan Police Station one hour after his client was taken into custody at about 7.30 pm. There he saw three young women who were holding their heads because they had been dragged roughly by their hair. When he was eventually allowed to see his client, Tunca was not able to stand on his feet. Sarıkaya recalled that Tunca was handcuffed and under surveillance until his arrival. "We were taken to the room Tunca was tortured in. I saw the broken chair and drops of blood on the floor. The prosecutor's office had not been informed yet when I called at 9.00 pm. The police informed the prosecutor's office at 10.55 pm". While lawyer Sarıkaya was taking care of the three women, Tunca was brought to hospital without informing his lawyer. Sarıkaya finally managed to find out where his client had
been taken to. "After I returned from hospital, the chief of the police station told me 'If you try a case, this is the treatment you will get'". After that, Sarıkaya was forced to leave the police station together with his client. Apparently, he was not allowed to see the hospital report. Sarıkaya claimed that he was also threatened by a plainclothes superintendent in front of the police station. He was reportedly told, "Lawyers like you are his way. You will see when your day has come". The lawyer announced to file a criminal complaint on the grounds of torture in the coming days.

**DETAILS of TRIAL:**

**Source 1:** International Press Institute (IPI)

He was convicted over alleged links to the outlawed Communist Labour Party of Turkey/Leninist (TKKP/Leninist), and sentenced to 50 years in prison.

**PRISON SENTENCE:** N/A

**LEGISLATION USED:** N/A

**CURRENT LEGAL STATUS:** Convicted

**CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION:** Tekirdağ F Type Prison

**CONDITIONS of DETENTION:** N/A

**HEALTH CONCERNS:** N/A

**SOURCES:**

For more information in Turkish:


SEDAT LAÇİNER

DATE of BIRTH: N/A
GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Columnist for Haberdar News Portal and academic

DATE of ARREST: N/A
DETAILS of ARREST: N/A

DETAILS of TRIAL:
Source 1: Bianet – 21 July 2016

167 Academics, 6 Administrative Staff Suspended at 7 Universities

After YÖK’s statement declaring “legal action to be taken against academic and administrative staff in parallel state formation”, the suspensions are continuing. According to the news, 167 academics and six administrative staff at seven universities have been suspended. 157 academics and six administrative staff have been suspended upon the investigation launched into the “parallel state formation”, and 10 academics have been suspended upon the investigation for signing the declaration entitled “We won’t be a party to this crime.” The Council of Higher Education (YÖK) announced that the rectors of Dicle, Yıldız Technical and Yalova Universities also have been suspended.

Sakarya University: 11 academics have been suspended.

Düzce University: Nine academics have been suspended.

Abant İzzet Baysal University: 30 academics and four administrative staff.

Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University: Six academics including the former rector of university Sedat Laçiner have been suspended.

Van Yüzüncü Yıl University: 17 academics have been suspended.

İstanbul University: 95 academics have been suspended.

Recep Tayyip Erdoğan University: Nine academics and two administrative staff have been suspended

PRISON SENTENCE: 9 years 4 months

LEGISLATION USED: N/A

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: Çanakkale

CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A

HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

SOURCES:

For information in Turkish:


At least nine journalists and 13 other suspects went on trial in the Mediterranean city of Antalya yesterday, the local news website Antalya Körfez reported. The journalists stand accused of preparing the ground for July's failed coup attempt on behalf of the Hizmet movement--or FETÖ, as the government calls it--through their reporting. A court had on April 1 ordered the release of journalists Tuncer Çetinkaya, Serhat Şeftali, and Olgun Matur pending the conclusion of their trial, but the three were swiftly arrested again after prosecutors appealed that judgment, CPJ reported at the time.
Serkan Aydemir, a reporter for Bitlis Aktüel, was arrested on Feb. 13, 2016 following a police operation in the Tatvan district of Bitlis, in south-eastern Turkey. He was transferred to the Bitlis E-type prison on allegations of supporting a terrorist organisation.
SERTAN ÖNAL

DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

WIKIPEDIA ENTRY:

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Dersim correspondent of Halkın Günlüğü newspaper

DATE of ARREST: 24 February 2018

DETAILS of ARREST: N/A

DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

Sertan Önal, Dersim correspondent of Halkın Günlüğü newspaper, was arrested on February 24, 2018 over his reporting in Dersim province during Newroz celebrations – the New Year’s Day celebration in Kurdish culture, as the first day of spring. Önal was detained in Istanbul by the police and taken to the Metris Prison, Istanbul.

Source 2: Expression Interrupted

Sertan Önal, a local reporter based in Tunceli for the magazine Halkın Günlüğü, was sent to prison by an Istanbul court, the magazine reported on February 25. Önal, who was taken into custody by police on February 23 in the Gazi neighborhood in Istanbul’s Sultangazi district, was initially sent to Metris Prison to be later transferred to Silivri. The grounds for his arrest included the Newroz celebrations he attended to cover as a reporter.

PRISON SENTENCE: N/A

LEGISLATION USED: N/A

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: Metris Prison, Istanbul

CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A

HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

SOURCES:

For more information in Turkish:

https://expressioninterrupted.com/tr/olaganustu-halde-gazeteciler-140/
Seyid Kılıç, from TRT Haber, was ordered arrested on July 30, 2016 as part of a purge of journalists allegedly linked to U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gülen, who Turkey’s government accuses of having established a “parallel state structure” and who it blames for the failed July 15, 2016 coup attempt. Kılıç is one of 29 journalists charged in a case accusing them of having been part of the Gülen movement’s “media wing”. They face up to 10 years in prison if convicted. As of May 2, 2017, other journalists imprisoned in connection with the case include Abdullah Kılıç, Ahmet Memiş, Atilla Taş, Bayram Kaya, Bünyamin Köseli, Cemal Azmi Kalyoncu, Cihan Acar, Cuma Ulus, Emre Soncan, Gökçe Fırat Çulhaoğlu, Habib Güler, Halil İbrahim Balta, Hanım Büşra Erdal, Hüseyin Aydın, Murat Aksoy, Mustafa Erkan Acar, Muhterem Tanık, Yakup Çetin and Yetkin Yıldız. Six other journalists face charges in the case, including Ali Akkuş, Bülent Ceyhan, Davut Aydın, Muhammed Sait Kuloğlu, Muhterem Tanık and Said Sefa, the latter of whom reportedly had fled the country. On March 31, 2017 a court in Turkey ordered 21 of the imprisoned defendants released conditionally, but prosecutors successfully objected to the release of eight of them and the release order for the other 13 was blocked hours later. The defendants – with the exception of Akkuş, who was freed after having been imprisoned since July 30, 2016 – remained behind bars and the judges who made the order were suspended. Prosecutors later brought new charges against 13 of the journalists on charges of trying to overthrow the government and the constitutional order. Those facing the new charges include Cihan Acar, Mustafa Erkan Acar, Akkuş, Aksoy, Aydın, Çetin, Çulhaoğlu, Abdullah Kılıç, Seyid Kılıç, Köseli, Taş, Usluer and Yıldız.

Source 2: Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)

An Istanbul court ordered Seyid Kılıç, a production technician for news and radio channels of the state broadcaster TRT, to be detained pending trial on July 29, 2016, according to the indictment on his case and that of several other journalists rounded up as part of a sweeping purge of suspected followers of exiled preacher Fethullah Gülen. The Turkish government accuses Gülen of maintaining a terrorist organization and “parallel state structure” (FETÖ/PDY, as the government calls it) within Turkey and alleges that it masterminded a failed July 2016 military coup. CPJ was unable to determine the date Kılıç was first taken into custody. When the trial started in March 2017, an Istanbul court ordered Kılıç and several of the other journalists with whom he was being tried to be released while the case was heard. However, authorities brought fresh charges and the journalists were ordered to remain in custody, according to reports. Authorities ordered an investigation into the judges who had ordered the release and they were relieved of duty, according to reports. In the original indictment, all but one of the co-accused were charged with “being a member of an armed
[terrorist] organization,” which carries up to 10 years in prison. The second indictment listed the charges as “attempting, through violence and force, to disrupt and replace the order as recognized by Turkey’s Constitution” and “attempting through violence and force to eliminate or prevent Parliament from carrying out its duties.” Both charges carry a maximum life sentence without parole. CPJ found both indictments to be similar to those presented at trials of other journalists in Turkey. Prosecutors cited as evidence in these cases journalistic activity or acts of free speech and communication, or cited circumstantial evidence such as being employed by a certain media outlet or having an account at a bank allegedly linked to Gülenists. The first indictment accused the defendants of manipulating the public perception of FETÖ to turn citizens against the government, which prosecutors argued, made the journalists members of the group that Turkey alleges is behind the attempted coup. The second indictment, which was presented as an addition to the original case, argued that the journalists should be held responsible for more than alleged membership to the group. Prosecutors presented as evidence against Kılıç a post that he wrote on his blog Haberinnotu in September 2014, in which he praised a pro-Gülen charity; his social media activity; and his account at Bank Asya, which the government alleged was a Gülenist institution. The second indictment listed as evidence the bank; Kılıç’s mobile phone activity; his travel abroad; and communication records with people who were wanted or were on trial for alleged Gülenist activity. Some of these people had the Bylock app on their phones, according to the authorities, who say the application is of being a FETÖ member. Kılıç had the app installed on his phone, according to the indictment. It also said that Kılıç was associated with Gülenists through his past employment by an outlet owned by Samanyolu media. The indictment did not state why traveling abroad was significant. An Istanbul court on March 8, 2018, found Kılıç and at least 21 of the other journalists on trial guilty of “being a member of a [terrorist] organization,” and sentenced Kılıç to seven years and six months in prison, according to reports. The court acquitted all the defendants of the more serious coup-related charges in the second indictment. At least 18 of the journalists were sent to prison for varying prison terms. Two of them—Atilla Taş and Murat Aksoy—were sentenced and released for time served, and the journalists Bünyamin Köseli and Cihan Acar remain free pending the appeal, according to reports. Lawyers for the journalists told CPJ they are appealing the verdict. As of late 2018, Kılıç was detained at Silivri Prison in Istanbul.

PRISON SENTENCE: 7 years and 6 months

LEGISLATION USED: Turkish Criminal Law 314/2

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: Silivri Prison, İstanbul

CONDITIONS of DETENTION:

Information on his conditions of detention and health concerns can be found in a questionnaire by Platform 24 (P24).

The Turkish version of the questionnaire is available here.

HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

SOURCES:

For more information in English:


For more information in Turkish:

https://medyagozlemveritabani.org/gazeteci-seyit-kilica-orgut-uyeliginden-6-yil-3-ay-hapise-cezasi-verildi/

Regarding the trial:

2- http://bianet.org/bianet/ifade-ozgurlugu/177357-17-gazeteci-tutuklandi

4- http://bianet.org/bianet/toplum/18502-3-savci-13-gazeteciye-tahliye-istedi
5- http://bianet.org/bianet/medya/18505-8-21-gazeteciye-tahliye
7- http://bianet.org/bianet/hukuk/185511-tahliyenin-ardidan-gozaltina-alinan-12-gazeteci-tutuklandi
SEYİTHAN AKYÜZ

DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Adana representative for the pro-Kurdish Azadiya Welat newspaper

DATE of ARREST: 2009

DETAILS of ARREST: N/A

DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

Seyithan Akyüz, Adana representative for the pro-Kurdish Azadiya Welat newspaper, was arrested in 2009. He was convicted over alleged links to outlawed Kurdish militant groups and is currently serving a sentence of 22 years, six months in prison.

Source 2: Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)

Akyüz, the Adana correspondent for the now shuttered Kurdish-language daily Azadiya Welat (Homeland's Freedom), is serving a 12-year term at Diyarbakır Prison. According to a letter he sent to the independent news website Bianet in March 2016, in addition to his reporting job with Azadiya Welat, the journalist was helping with the newspaper's distribution as well as the distribution of another pro-Kurdish daily, Özgür Gündem, in the region. Occasionally, the letter said, Akyüz reported for the pro-Kurdish Dicle News Agency, in Kurdish. All three media outlets were shut down on October 29, 2016, by an emergency decree that accused them of having ties to terrorist organizations and representing a threat to national security. Akyüz was initially charged with aiding the banned Union of Communities in Kurdistan, or KCK, an umbrella group of pro-Kurdish organizations that includes the Kurdistan Workers Party, or PKK. Authorities cited as evidence his possession of banned newspapers and his presence at a May Day demonstration in Izmir. He was later convicted of membership in an armed terrorist organization, the PKK. Authorities publicly claim that the pro-Kurdish media are aligned with the PKK and the KCK. The government says the journalists produce propaganda in favor of the banned organizations. A 2012 trial in Adana made national news when the judge refused to allow Akyüz and other defendants to offer statements in their native Kurdish. In his March 2016 letter to Bianet, the journalist said he was never allowed to testify in court. A June 2014 report by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) also found that court officials withheld case documents from Akyüz's lawyer for more than a year. In late 2016, Akyüz's lawyer said the journalist was waiting for Turkey's Constitutional Court to decide whether it would hear an appeal in his case. In September 2018, Akyüz's lawyer Vedat Özkan told CPJ that the Constitutional Court rejected his appeal. The lawyer said the journalist had no known health problems.

PRISON SENTENCE: 22 years and 6 months

LEGISLATION USED: N/A

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: N/A

CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A

HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

SOURCES:

For more information in English:

For more information in Turkish:


SONER KARABULUT

DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Fersude Newspaper

DATE of ARREST: N/A

DETAILS of ARREST: N/A

DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)

Soner Karabulut, a reporter for the leftist news website Gazete Fersude, was taken into custody during house raids by the police in the Gazi neighbourhood, on May 14, his employer reported. The journalist was detained alongside members of the leftist political party ESP (the Socialist Party of the Oppressed). Karabulut was released with others on May 15, according to a leftist Etkin News Agency (ETHA) report.

PRISON SENTENCE: N/A

LEGISLATION USED: N/A

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: N/A

CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A

HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

SOURCES:

For more information in English:


ŞAHABETTİN DEMİR

DATE of BIRTH: N/A
GENDER: Male
PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Reporter for Dicle News Agency
DATE of ARREST: N/A
DETAILS of ARREST: N/A
DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)

Demir, a reporter for the pro-Kurdish Dicle News Agency, or DİHA, in the eastern city of Van, was serving a sentence of 11 years and one month at Bitlis E Type Prison on charges of attempted murder, assault with a weapon, and trespassing. The case was pending before the Supreme Court of Appeals in mid-2012. Demir was convicted along with two of his brothers after a reported fight with two relatives, according to defense lawyer Aydoğan Yolyapan. A cousin of Demir and the cousin’s wife suffered injuries in the altercation. Several aspects of the case were in dispute at trial, according to Yolyapan and court records. Demir not only denied involvement in the altercation, he said he was not present at the scene. One brother also denied involvement; the second acknowledged being at the scene but denied any criminal culpability. The cousin and his wife gave shifting and contradictory statements to authorities over time, court records show. In his initial statement to police, the cousin did not identify Şahabettin Demir as an assailant, although he later named the journalist in a statement given to the prosecutor. At trial, the couple said the brothers had not attacked them. The extent of the injuries was also in dispute at trial. Authorities introduced a medical report that described the cousin’s injuries as life-threatening, although the defense disputed the accuracy of the account. (The cousin’s wife, by all accounts, suffered minor injuries.) Despite the inconsistencies, the court found all three brothers guilty. In its ruling, the court cited a wiretapped phone conversation between Demir’s two brothers in which they referred to having been involved in a physical altercation. Yolyapan said his client believes he was targeted in reprisal for his reporting, which included coverage of four police officers accused of raping a girl in Erciş. Police, he said, threatened Demir with retaliation after the story was published. Demir had been previously convicted of producing propaganda for the Kurdistan Workers Party, or PKK, and sentenced to four years. That case was also pending before the Supreme Court of Appeals.

PRISON SENTENCE: 11 years and 1 month
LEGISLATION USED: N/A
CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested
CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: Bitlis E Type Prison
CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A
HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A
ŞEREF YILMAZ

DATE of BIRTH: N/A
GENDER: Male
PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Board member for Irmak TV
DATE of ARREST: 5 August 2016
DETAILS of ARREST: N/A
DETAILS of TRIAL:
Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

Şerif Yılmaz, a board member for Irmak TV, was ordered arrested on Aug. 5, 2016 as part of the government purge of individuals accused of spreading propaganda for the outlawed movement headed by U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gülen, who Turkey’s government accuses of having established a “parallel state structure” and who it blames for the failed July 15, 2016 coup attempt. On April 27, 2017, an Istanbul court accepted an indictment against Yılmaz and 29 other former Zaman Media Group employees that accuses them of attempting to overthrow the government, the Constitution and Parliament, and which seeks three consecutive life sentences for each suspect. The indictment also seeks another 15 years for each suspect on charges of being members of a terrorist organisation. The indictment alleges that Zaman, which was founded in 1986, was fully taken over by the Gülen movement the following year and was able to continue operating only due to the group’s financial support. It also accuses the group of “using the media as a weapon” to “manipulate society”, and alleges that Zaman employed “columnists with ideas that could have supported the organization”. As of April 28, 2017, other journalists imprisoned in the case include Ahmet Metin Sekizkardes, Ahmet Turan Alkan, Alaattin Güner, Ali Bulaç, Cuma Kaya, Faruk Akkan, Hakan Taşdelen, Hüseyin Turan, İbrahim Karayeğen, Mehmet Özdemir, Mümtazer Türköne, Murat Avcioğlu, Mustafa Ünal, Şahin Alpay and Zafer Özsoy.

PRISON SENTENCE: N/A
LEGISLATION USED: Turkish Criminal Law 314/2
CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested
CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: N/A
CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A
HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For more information in English:

For more information in Turkish:
1- https://medyagozlemveritabani.org/seref-yilmaz-orgut-uyeliginden-yargilaniyor/
5- http://bianet.org/bianet/medya/189901-30-gazetecinin-yargilandigi-zaman-davasi-basliyor
7- http://bianet.org/bianet/medya/192283-zaman-davasinda-ikinci-durusma
TURGUT USUL

DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Anchorman

DATE of ARREST: 4 January 2018

DETAILS of ARREST:

Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

Turgut Usul, former anchorman of state-owned broadcaster TRT, was arrested on Jan. 4, 2018 on charges of “membership in a terrorist organisation”. Usul had been brought to an Ankara court to testify on the same day on accusations of alleged links to U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gülen, who Turkey’s government accuses of having established a “parallel state structure” and of having mastermind the failed July 15, 2016 coup attempt. The court ordered his arrest based on charges of “membership in FETÖ terrorist organisation”. Usul had previously been dismissed from his position at TRT with a decree-law.

DETAILS of TRIAL: N/A

PRISON SENTENCE: N/A

LEGISLATION USED: N/A

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: Unclear

CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A

HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

SOURCES:

For more information in English:

P24


For more information in Turkish:

https://expressioninterrupted.com/tr/olaganustu-halde-gazeteciler-124/

DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Columnist/op-ed contributor

DATE of ARREST: 27 July 2016

DETAILS of ARREST:

Source 1: Expression Interrupted

Ufuk Şanlı, a business journalist for a number of media outlets including Zaman and Vatan dailies and a contributor to Al-Monitor, was arrested on July 27 as part of a sweeping crackdown on journalists suspected of being followers of Fethullah Gülen, an exiled preacher whom the government accuses of maintaining a “parallel state structure” and an armed terrorist organization, “FETÖ/PDY.” In the indictment against them, Şanlı and 28 others were formally charged with “membership of an armed terrorist organization,” carrying a prison term of up to 15 years.

DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: Expression Interrupted

The second hearing of the case was held on April 27, 2017, at Istanbul’s Çağlayan Courthouse. All three judges of the trial court and the prosecutor of the case were suspended after the court decided to release 21 of the 26 suspects under detention at the end of the first hearing.

The new judges of the case decided at the end of the second hearing to keep all detained defendants under detention and adjourned the trial until July 6, 2017.

At the end of the trial, on March 8, 2018, the court convicted 25 journalists standing trial in the case, including Şanlı, of terrorism-related charges. Şanlı and 11 other co-defendants were convicted of “membership in an armed terrorist organization” and sentenced to 7.5 years in prison. The court said in its verdict that their “actions and intent required a higher sentence than the lower limit set by the law.” The court also ruled for the continuation of detention of the imprisoned defendants in the case.

In October, the appeals against prison sentences given to 25 defendants in the case were rejected by an appellate court. The 2nd Criminal Chamber of the Istanbul Regional Court of Justice rendered its decision on 22 October. The court made the ruling without a public hearing despite defense lawyers’ requests for a hearing. The appellate court also ruled for the continuation of detention of all jailed defendants in the case.

Convictions against the journalists are now expected to be taken to the Supreme Court of Appeals.

PRISON SENTENCE: 7 years and 5 months

LEGISLATION USED: Membership of a terrorist organization

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested
CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: Silivri Prison

CONDITIONS of DETENTION:
Information on his conditions of detention and health concerns can be found in a questionnaire by Platform 24 (P24).

The Turkish version of the questionnaire is available here.

HEALTH CONCERNS: See questionnaire above.

SOURCES:
For more information in English:
International Press Institute: https://freeturkeyjournalists.ipi.media/cases-2/
Committee to Protect Journalists: https://cpj.org/data/people/ufuk-sanli/
For more information in Turkish:
https://medyagozlemveritabani.org/gazeteci-ufuk-sanliya-orgut-uyeliginden-7-yil-6-ay-hapis-cezasi-verildi/
https://expressioninterrupted.com/tr/ufuk-sanli-2/
ÜNAL TANIK

DATE of BIRTH: N/A
GENDER: Male
PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Editor
DATE of ARREST: 17 January 2017
DETAILS of ARREST:

Source 1: Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)

Police detained Tank, chief editor of the news website Rotahaber, in the western province of Yalova on January 17, 2017, according to press reports. The following day, an Istanbul court ordered him to be jailed pending trial as part of Turkey’s sweeping purge of suspected followers of exiled preacher Fethullah Gülen, according to press reports. The government accuses Gülen of maintaining a terrorist organization and "parallel state structure" (or FETÖ/PDY, as the government calls it) within Turkey that it blames for orchestrating a failed July 15, 2016, military coup.

DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)

Tank stood trial with several other journalists arrested after the failed attempted coup in July 2016. All but one of them were charged with “being a member of an armed [terrorist] organization,” which carries up to 10 years in prison, according to the indictment. CPJ found the indictment to be similar to those presented at trials of other journalists in Turkey. Prosecutors cited as evidence in these cases journalistic activity or acts of free speech and communication, or cited circumstantial evidence such as being employed by a certain media outlet or having an account at a bank allegedly linked to Gülenists. The indictment accused the defendants of manipulating the public perception of FETÖ to turn citizens against the government, which prosecutors argued made them members of the group that Turkey alleges is behind the attempted coup. Prosecutors cited as evidence against Tank content published on his website about an anonymous pro-Gülen Twitter whistleblower known as @fuatavni, and his account with Bank Asya, which the government alleged to be a Gülenist institution. When the trial started in March 2017, an Istanbul court ordered Tank and four of his co-accused to be detained for the duration of the trial, according to news reports. An Istanbul court on March 8, 2018, found Tank and at least 21 of the other journalists on trial guilty of “being a member of a [terrorist] organization,” and sentenced Tank to seven years and six months in prison, according to reports. The court acquitted all the defendants of the more serious coup-related charges in the second indictment. At least 18 of the journalists were sent to prison for varying prison terms. Two of them—Atilla Taş and Murat Aksoy—were sentenced and released for time served, and the journalists Bünyamin Köseli and Cihan Acar remain free pending the appeal, according to reports.

PRISON SENTENCE: 7 years and 6 months
LEGISLATION USED: Membership of a terrorist organization
CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested
CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: Silivri prison
CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A
HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A
SOURCES:
For more information in English:
https://freeturkeyjournalists.ipi.media/cases-2/

For more information in Turkish:
https://medyagozlemveritabani.org/gazeteci-unal-tanika-orgut-uyeliginden-6-yil-3-ay-hapis-cezasi-verildi/
https://expressioninterrupted.com/tr/olaganustu-halde-gazeteciler-85/
https://expressioninterrupted.com/tr/olaganustu-halde-gazeteciler-86/
https://expressioninterrupted.com/tr/olaganustu-halde-gazeteciler-114/
https://expressioninterrupted.com/tr/turkiyede-basin-ve-ifade-ozgurlugu-179/
VAHİT YAZGAN

DATE of BIRTH: N/A
GENDER: Male
PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Internet Reporter, Print reporter
DATE of ARREST: 8 August 2016
DETAILS of ARREST:
Source 1: Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)

Police detained Vahit Yazgan, the former Izmir Province correspondent for the now-shuttered daily newspaper Zaman, in the coastal city of Izmir on August 8, 2016, according to court documents and his lawyer. Izmir's Fourth Court of Penal Peace on August 25, 2016, ordered the journalist jailed pending trial on charges that he was a follower of exiled Fethullah Gülen, according to court documents and his legal representative. The government accuses Gülen of maintaining a terrorist organization and “parallel state structure” (or FETÖ/PDY, as the government calls it) within Turkey that it blames for orchestrating a failed military coup attempt on July 15, 2016. Police interrogated Yazgan about his work for the newspaper, according to records of that interrogation, which CPJ has reviewed. Yazgan told police that he worked as a correspondent for the newspaper until government-appointed trustees took over, and that he had been unemployed since. He denied having any ties to the Gülenist movement. According to records of his arraignment, which CPJ has also reviewed, he repeated these denials before the Izmir court, adding that he was not religious.

DETAILS of TRIAL:
Source 1: Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)

Yazgan's trial on a charge of “leading a terrorist organization” started in Izmir on July 1, 2017, according to reports by the right-wing İhlas News Agency (IHA), which described the journalist as “a former Aegean region representative for the daily Zaman.” The indictment said that Yazgan helped members of FETÖ infiltrate Izmir police and the local organization of the nationalist Great Union Party (BBP), and that he managed FETÖ/PDY’s infiltration of businessmen in the province, according to the IHA report. A former BBP politician testified that in 2014, Yazgan said that the “Hizmet movement,” the official name of the Gülenists, had failed to appoint a police chief in Izmir whom the group favored, IHA reported. Yazgan denied being a terrorist, according to IHA. The authorities said Yazgan had the Bylock app on his phone, which he denied, and also cited his bank account at Asya as evidence, the report said. Authorities allege that both use of the Bylock encrypted messaging app and banking at Asya are evidence of FETÖ/PDY membership. Yazgan told the court that he had health problems due to his continued imprisonment, according to news reports. Details of the health issues were not specified. The court refused two requests in 2017 that Yazgan be released pending trial, according to press reports that cited the official Anatolia News Agency. An Izmir court on February 28, 2018, found Yazgan guilty of “being a member of a [terrorist] organization” and sentenced the journalist to nine years and eight months in prison, according to the pro-government daily Türkiye/

PRISON SENTENCE: 9 years and 8 months
LEGISLATION USED: N/A
CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: Buca Kiriklar Prison in Izmir's Buca District (as of late 2018)

CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A

HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

SOURCES:

For more information in English:
International Press Institute:
https://freeturkeyjournalists.ipi.media/cases-2/

For more information in Turkish:
DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Reporter for Zaman and Yeni Hayat newspapers

DATE of ARREST: 29 July 2016

DETAILS of ARREST:

Source 1: Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)

An Istanbul court on July 29, 2016, ordered Çetin, a former court reporter for the shuttered dailies Zaman and Yeni Hayat, to be detained pending trial as part of a sweeping purge of journalists and others suspected of following exiled preacher Fethullah Gülen, according to his indictment. The government accuses Gülen of maintaining a terrorist organization and "parallel state structure" (or FETÖ/PDY, as the government calls it) within Turkey that it blames for orchestrating a failed July 15, 2016, military coup. CPJ could not determine exactly when police detained Çetin. The state-run Anadolu News Agency on July 25, 2016, reported that authorities had issued a warrant for his arrest. Istanbul's Fifth Court of Penal Peace late on July 29, 2016, arraigned Çetin and 16 other journalists, ordering them jailed pending trial on charges of "being members of an armed terrorist organization," according to the media monitoring group P24.

DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)

When the trial started in March 2017, an Istanbul court ordered Çetin and several of the other journalists to be released while the case was heard. However, authorities brought fresh charges and the journalists were ordered to remain in custody, according to reports. Authorities ordered an investigation into the judges who had ordered the release and they were relieved of duty, according to reports. In the original indictment, all but one of the co-accused were charged with “being a member of an armed [terrorist] organization,” which carries up to 10 years in prison. The second indictment listed the charges as “attempting, through violence and force, to disrupt and replace the order as recognized by Turkey’s Constitution” and “attempting through violence and force to eliminate or prevent Parliament from carrying out its duties.” Both charges carry a maximum life sentence without parole. CPJ found both indictments to be similar to those presented at trials of other journalists in Turkey. Prosecutors cited as evidence in these cases journalistic activity or acts of free speech and communication, or cited circumstantial evidence such as being employed by a certain media outlet or having an account at a bank allegedly linked to Gülenists. The first indictment accused the defendants of manipulating the public perception of FETÖ to turn citizens against the government, which prosecutors argued, made the journalists members of the group that Turkey alleges is behind the attempted coup. The second indictment, which was presented as an addition to the original case, argued that the journalists should be held responsible for more than alleged membership to the group. In Çetin's case, prosecutors cited as evidence in the first indictment his work and social media activity. The second indictment cited as evidence his account with Bank Asya, which the government alleged to be a Gülenist institution; his frequent travel abroad; and his communication records with people who were wanted or were on trial for alleged Gülenist activity. Some of these people had the Bylock App on their phones, according to authorities, who claim that the app
is evidence of being a FETÖ member. Çetin did not have the app installed on his phone, according to the indictment. The indictment did not specify why traveling abroad was evidence of wrongdoing. An Istanbul court on March 8, 2018, found Çetin and at least 21 of the other journalists on trial guilty of “being a member of a [terrorist] organization,” and sentenced Çetin to six years and three months in prison, according to reports. The court acquitted all the defendants of the more serious coup-related charges in the second indictment. At least 18 of the journalists were sent to prison for varying prison terms. Two of them—Atilla Taş and Murat Aksoy—were sentenced and released for time served, and the journalists Bûnyamin Köseli and Cihan Acar remain free pending the appeal, according to reports.

**PRISON SENTENCE:** 6 years and 3 months

**LEGISLATION USED:** Membership of a terrorist organization

**CURRENT LEGAL STATUS:** Arrested

**CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION:** Çetin was being held in Istanbul's Silivri Prison as of late 2018

**CONDITIONS of DETENTION:** N/A

**HEALTH CONCERNS:** N/A

**SOURCES:**

For more information in English:


[International Press Institute: https://freeturkeyjournalists.ipi.media/cases-2/](https://freeturkeyjournalists.ipi.media/cases-2/)

For more information in Turkish:


[https://expressioninterrupted.com/tr/olaganustu-halde-gazeteciler-1-2/](https://expressioninterrupted.com/tr/olaganustu-halde-gazeteciler-1-2/)

[https://expressioninterrupted.com/tr/olaganustu-halde-gazeteciler-56/](https://expressioninterrupted.com/tr/olaganustu-halde-gazeteciler-56/)

[https://expressioninterrupted.com/tr/olaganustu-halde-gazeteciler-64/](https://expressioninterrupted.com/tr/olaganustu-halde-gazeteciler-64/)

[https://expressioninterrupted.com/tr/olaganustu-halde-gazeteciler-68/](https://expressioninterrupted.com/tr/olaganustu-halde-gazeteciler-68/)


[https://expressioninterrupted.com/tr/olaganustu-halde-gazeteciler-86/](https://expressioninterrupted.com/tr/olaganustu-halde-gazeteciler-86/)

[https://expressioninterrupted.com/tr/olaganustu-halde-gazeteciler-93/](https://expressioninterrupted.com/tr/olaganustu-halde-gazeteciler-93/)


[https://expressioninterrupted.com/tr/olaganustu-halde-gazeteciler-100/](https://expressioninterrupted.com/tr/olaganustu-halde-gazeteciler-100/)

[https://expressioninterrupted.com/tr/olaganustu-halde-gazeteciler-114/](https://expressioninterrupted.com/tr/olaganustu-halde-gazeteciler-114/)
YALÇIN GÜLER

DATE of BIRTH: N/A
GENDER: Male
PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Reporter
DATE of ARREST: 19 August 2016
DETAILS of ARREST:
Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)
Yalçın Güler, with state-owned Turkish Radio and Television Network (TRT) in Erzurum, was ordered arrested on Aug. 19, 2016 as part of a purge of journalists allegedly linked to U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gülen, who Turkey’s government accuses of having established a “parallel state structure” and who it blames for the failed July 15, 2016 coup attempt.

DETAILS of TRIAL: N/A
PRISON SENTENCE: N/A
LEGISLATION USED: N/A
CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested
CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: N/A
CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A
HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A
SOURCES:
For more information in English:
For information in Turkish:
For information in Kurdish:
YETKİN YILDIZ

DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Editor

DATE of ARREST: 22 July 2019

DETAILS of ARREST:

Source 1: Expression Interrupted

Yetkin Yıldız, the former editor-in-chief of the news website Aktif Haber, was arrested on 22 July 2016 as part of an investigation into “Fuat Avni” a twitter handle that was active between 2014-2017 and that claimed to belong to an anonymous Ankara-insider leaking confidential information on the doings of the Justice and Development Party (AKP). Yıldız was allegedly aiming to lay the groundworks for the July 2016 coup attempt by way of “manipulating public opinion,” “degrading state officials,” degrading state institutions” through social media on behalf of FETÖ/PYD (Fethullahist Terrorist Organization/Parallel State Structure). After three days in custody, Yıldız was brought to the Istanbul Courthouse on 24 July 2016, where he appeared before the 2nd Criminal Judgeship of Peace. The judgeship jailed Yıldız pending trial and sent him to the Silivri Prison.

DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: Expression Interrupted

The indictment against Yıldız was prepared on 16 January 2017, around six months after his arrest, and on 13 February 2017, the 25th High Criminal Court of Istanbul took up his case. In the indictment against 29 defendants, most of whom were journalists, Yıldız was charged with “attempting to overthrow the Government of the Republic of Turkey or preventing it from fulfilling its duties,” and “establishing and managing an armed terrorist organization.” The first hearing of the trial was held from 27 to 31 March 2017 at the Istanbul 25th High Criminal Court. Delivering his defense statement on 30 March, Yıldız told the court that all press establishments had published news stories about the posts by the Twitter account called “fuatavni” but only a specific group of people were standing trial over their reporting. Yıldız said the allegations against him in the 190-page indictment covered only half a page. He said the allegations were that he published news on Fuat Avni and had TL 2,300 in a BankAşya account.” Yıldız requested to be released and acquitted. Submitting an interim opinion at the end of the five-day hearing, on 31 March 2017, the prosecutor asked the court to release journalists Yetkin Yıldız, Gökçe Fırat Çulhaoğlu, Murat Aksoy, Atilla Taş, Yakup Çetin, Abdullah Kılıç, Seyid Kılıç, Mustafa Erkan Acar, Hüseyin Aydın, Ali Akkuş, Bünyamin Köseli, Cihan Acar and Oğuz Usluer pending trial, taking into consideration the amount of time the defendants had already spent behind bars. In its interim ruling at the end of the hearing, the court ruled to release 21 defendants including Yetkin Yıldız pending trial and sent him to the Silivri Prison.

However, on the same day, the prosecutor filed an objection with the next court of first instance against the trial court’s decision to release the eight other defendants. The 26th High Criminal Court of Istanbul accepted the objection and ordered the arrests of these defendants. Again on the same day, the Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office launched a “coup” investigation and issued arrest warrants against the 13 defendants whom the prosecutor asked the court to release pending trial, including Yetkin Yıldız.
Rearrest

Yıldız and the 12 other defendants who were supposed to be released were arrested outside the prison upon the order of the Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office and taken to the Istanbul Police Department. The reasons for arrest were listed as “the existing evidence against the suspects, the nature of the alleged crime, and flight risk.” Yıldız and 12 other defendants were brought to the Istanbul Courthouse on 14 April 2017 after spending 15 days in custody. They appeared before the 12th Istanbul Criminal Judgeship of Peace, which jailed Yıldız and 11 other journalists (Gökçe Fırat Çulhaoğlu, Yakup Çetin, Bünýamin Köseli, Cihan Acar, Abdullah Kılıç, Oğuz Usluer, Atilla Taş, Hüseyin Aydın, Murat Aksoy, Mustafa Erkan Acar, Seyid Kılıç) pending trial on the charge of “attempting to overthrow the constitutional order.” Journalist Ali Akkuş was freed under judicial control measures. Following its release order, the panel of the 25th High Criminal Court of Istanbul (presiding judge İbrahim Lorasdağı and judges Barış Cömert and Necla Yeşilyurt Gülbiçim) and prosecutor Göksel Turan, were suspended on 3 April 2017 by the Council of Judges and Prosecutors (HSYK). The second hearing in the trial was held on 27 April 2017. The 25th High Criminal Court of Istanbul heard defense statements by Yıldız and his co-defendants, who requested to be released. Rejecting the requests, the court adjourned the trial until 6 July 2017.

Second indictment

A new indictment was prepared over the “coup” allegation on 6 June 2017 against Yıldız and 12 other journalists who were rearrested after being released. The 314-page indictment sought two aggravated life imprisonment sentences for the 13 journalists including Yıldız on the charges of “attempting to overthrow the constitutional order” and “attempting to overthrow the government of the Republic of Turkey.” The Office of the Chief Public Prosecutor sent the indictment to the 25th High Criminal Court of Istanbul for the case to be merged with the ongoing “FETÖ media trial” against 29 defendants. The court set 16-18 August 2017 as the dates for the next hearing. The third hearing in the “FETÖ media trial” against 29 defendants took place on 6 July 2017 at the 25th High Criminal Court of Istanbul. The court panel that had changed for the third time ruled for the continuation of the pre-trial detention of all jailed defendants in the case and the trial was adjourned until 24 October 2017.

“Coup” case merged with ongoing trial

The first hearing in the trial where Yıldız and 12 other defendants were accused of “attempting to abolish, replace or prevent the implementation of the Constitutional Order of the Republic of Turkey” and “attempting to overthrow the Government of the Republic of Turkey” took place on 16, 17 and 18 August 2017 at the 25th High Criminal Court of Istanbul. Making his defense statement at the hearing, Yıldız told the court that he was accused of “membership in a terrorist organization” in one case, for “instigating the coup” in another, even though the indictments of the two cases were practically the same. Yıldız requested to be acquitted. At the end of the three-day hearing, the court ordered the release of Bünyamin Köseli and Cihan Acar under travel bans while it also ruled for the continuation of the imprisonment of Yıldız and the other defendants in pre-trial detention. The court also decided to merge the “coup” case with the “terrorist group membership” case. The merged case was therefore adjourned until 24 October 2017. The first hearing after the cases were merged took place on 24 October 2017. While ruling for the release of defendants Murat Aksoy, Atilla Taş and teacher Davut Aydın, the court refused to release Yıldız and the other defendants. The court adjourned the trial until 4 December 2017.
At the hearing held on that date the court again rejected Yıldız’s request to be released and set 6 February 2018 as the date for the next hearing to allow time for the completion of the file.

“Coup” charge dropped

Presenting his final opinion at the hearing that took place on 6 February 2018, the prosecutor requested the charge of “attempting to overthrow the constitutional order” against 13 defendants including Yıldız to be dropped. On the other hand, the prosecutor requested all the defendants except Murat Aksoy, Gökçe Fırat Çulhaoğlu and Muhterem Tanık to be sentenced over “membership in FETÖ/PDY” and for all the defendants previously released in the case to be re-arrested. Announcing its interim decision at the end of the hearing, the court ruled for İbrahim Balta, the former economics correspondent of Zaman newspaper, to be released under judicial control measures. Granting additional time for the preparation of the final defense statements, the trial was adjourned until 22-23 February 2018. During the hearing held on 22 and 23 February 2018, 13 defendants delivered their final defense statements. At the end of the hearing the court ruled for the files of the two suspects at large, Bülent Ceyhan and Said Sefa, to be separated on the grounds that they were accused of “terrorist organization membership” in other cases while also ordering for the file of detained defendant Emre Soncan be separated and merged with another trial against him. As a result, the number of defendants in the case fell from 29 to 26. The trial was adjourned until 7-8 March 2018.

Verdict

Yıldız made his final defense statement at the final hearing on 8 March 2018. Announcing its verdict at the end of the hearing, the 25th High Criminal Court of Istanbul convicted 23 defendants including Yıldız of “membership in an armed terrorist organization.” The court sentenced Yıldız to 7 years and 6 months in prison. The court also ruled for the continuation of “the detention on remand” of all the detained defendants.

Appellate court decision

An appellate court upheld the prison sentences given to the 25 defendants including Yetkin Yıldız on 22 October 2018. Rejecting the appeal requests, the 2nd Criminal Chamber of the Istanbul Regional Court of Justice also ruled for the continuation of the imprisonment of the detained defendants. Due to Yıldız being sentenced to more than five years in prison, the case file was transferred to the Supreme Court.

Other cases against Yıldız

Upon the complaint of a presiding judge who was mentioned in a news story titled “Vakit gazetesinden şok iddia” (Vakit newspaper makes shocking claim) published on the website Stratejik Boyut, at the time when Yıldız was the editor-in-chief of the website, a lawsuit was launched for alleged “insult” against Yıldız in 2010. At the end of the prosecution, Yıldız was sentenced to 10 months in prison over “insult” by the 35th Criminal Court of First Instance, but the sentence was deferred. Inspecting Yıldız’s work, the 1st Criminal Court of First Instance of Silivri decided that Yıldız should be punished on the charges of “insult” and “provoking the commission of an offense” for an article that was published on the Aktif Haber news website, at the time when he was its editor-in-chief, about the police officers at Silivri Prison. On the grounds that Yıldız had committed a crime before five years passed after his sentence was deferred, at the hearing held on 9 May 2019, the 35th Criminal Court of First Instance of Ankara announced its verdict, sentencing Yıldız to 10 years in prison. However, the conviction was postponed for one year. Some of the trials launched against Yıldız over various news stories published on Aktif Haber are ongoing.
A lawsuit filed against Yıldız upon the complaint of Bülent Akyar, a police officer at the Gümüşhane Provincial Security Directorate Department of Anti-Smuggling, stemmed from an article published on Aktif Haber and other news websites, titled “Gümüşhane’de polis esnafi takibe aldı” (police is tracking shopkeepers in Gümüşhane.) The indictment prepared by the Gümüşhane Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office on 9 February 2017, requested Yıldız to be sentenced over “insult, illegally obtaining or disseminating someone’s personal data and violating the privacy of another person’s personal life.” Access was blocked to an article titled “Fuat Avni Suruç patlaması ile ilgili Twitter’dan çarpıcı mesajlar paylaştı” (Fuat Avni shared shocking posts about the Suruç bombing on Twitter) which was published on Aktif Haber on 23 July 2015, after the lawyers of Efkan Ala, who was the Interior Minister at the time, filed a complaint. On the grounds that the article was not removed despite access to it having been blocked, the Ankara Office of the Chief Public Prosecutor drafted an indictment on 10 September 2018. The indictment requested Yıldız to be punished for “failing to comply with the decision of the judiciary to remove the content.” This case is currently overseen by the Ankara Criminal Court of First Instance.

Another lawsuit for alleged “insult and slander” was filed upon the complaint of Ala against Yıldız over the same news story. The indictment drafted by Bakırköy Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office on 14 December 2015 sought the punishment of Yıldız on the grounds that the statements made in the news story were insulting and slanderous. The hearing dated 9 July 2019 and overseen by the 31st Criminal Court of First Instance was adjourned until 17 December 2019 for the completion of the case file.

The Aksaray Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office drafted an indictment against Yıldız over a news report he wrote on a suicide, which was published on Aktif Haber on 25 June 2015. The indictment for that case, dated 26 December 2018, requested Yıldız to be sentenced on the grounds that according to article 20 of Press Law number 5187, “those who publish articles which can encourage suicide beyond the limits of furnishing information on such activities shall be sentenced to pay a major fine” and he failed to comply with the first clause of article 75 of the Turkish Penal Code which stipulates that the determined penalty is to be paid within 10 days of any notification by the Public Prosecutor’s Office.

**PRISON SENTENCE:** 7 years and 6 months  
**LEGISLATION USED:** Membership of a terrorist organization  
**CURRENT LEGAL STATUS:** Arrested  
**CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION:** Silivri prison  
**CONDITIONS of DETENTION:** N/A  
**HEALTH CONCERNS:** N/A  
**SOURCES:**

For more information in English:  
https://cpj.org/data/people/yakup-cetin/  
https://freeturkeyjournalists.ipi.media/cases-2/  

For more information in Turkish:  
YILMAZ KAHRAMAN

DATE of BIRTH: N/A
GENDER: Male
PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Editor
DATE of ARREST: 2009
DETAILS of ARREST: N/A
DETAILS of TRIAL:

Source 1: International Press Institute (IPI)

Yılmaz Kahraman, an editor for Özgür Halk, was arrested in 2009. He was convicted over alleged links to outlawed Kurdish militant groups and is currently serving a sentence of 10 years in prison.

PRISON SENTENCE: 10 years
LEGISLATION USED: N/A
CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested
CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: Understood to be detained in Silivri F Type Prison
CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A
HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

SOURCES:
For more information in English:
For information in Turkish:
For information in Kurdish:
ZAFER ÖZCAN

DATE of BIRTH: N/A

GENDER: Male

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND:

DATE of ARREST: N/A

DETAILS of ARREST: N/A

DETAILS of TRIAL: N/A

PRISON SENTENCE: N/A

LEGISLATION USED: N/A

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: N/A

CONDITIONS of DETENTION: N/A

HEALTH CONCERNS: N/A

SOURCES:

For more information in Turkish:
ZİYA ATAMAN

DATE of BIRTH: 10 March 1989
GENDER: Male
PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Reporter
DATE of ARREST: 11 April 2016

DETAILS of ARREST:
Source 1: Media and Law Studies Association

Ziya Ataman, an intern reporter for the shuttered Dicle News Agency (DİHA), was arrested and jailed pending trial on the charge of “membership in a terrorist group” in April 2016 in the eastern province of Van. Ataman stood trial alongside 18 other defendants in a case overseen by the 1st High Criminal Court of Şırnak. Ataman was charged with eight different offences, including “disrupting the unity and integrity of the state,” “attempting to intentionally kill a civil servant because of the public service he performs with premeditation,” “intentionally killing a civil a servant because of the public service he performs with premeditation,” and “attempting to premeditated murder.”

DETAILS of TRIAL:
Source 1: Media and Law Studies Association

Ziya Ataman attended his 12th hearing on 24 September 2019 via SEGBİS video-conference system from Van Closed Prison where he’s been held since his initial arrest. Ataman presented his defense statement in his native Kurdish. A court clerk, who is also a certified translator, was present in the courtroom for translation. Ataman stated that he repeats his previous statements and reminded the court that witness statements against him were taken under torture and were later retracted. Ataman also mentioned the memo book that allegedly has his name listed and asked: “If there are 400-500 names in that notebook, then why is it that only a dozen are on trial?” Noting that this was illogical, Ataman stated that his long detention has caused him health problems and demanded his acquittal and release. Lawyer Zelal Doğan emphasized that her client was a journalist and drew attention to the fact that evidence against Ataman is made up of witness testimonies and a memo book with his name in it. Another lawyer, Mücahit Dursun, claimed that the prosecutor’s final opinion was copy-pasted from the police investigation report and the same text was used for each defendant without any specifications. “This is an attempt to fabricate crimes by using these defendants. Most of the defendants’ homes are burnt down. A lawsuit is filed based only on a memo book.” Following a brief recess for deliberation, the court finally announced its verdict and sentenced journalist Ataman to 14 years and 3 months in prison for “membership in a terrorist organization” charges. Ataman’s lawyers will appeal this decision.

PRISON SENTENCE: 14 years and 3 months

LEGISLATION USED: N/A

CURRENT LEGAL STATUS: Arrested

CURRENT PLACE of DETENTION: Van prison

CONDITIONS of DETENTION:

Information on his conditions of detention and health concerns can be found in a questionnaire by Platform 24 (P24).

The Turkish version of the questionnaire is available here.

HEALTH CONCERNS: See questionnaire above – according to IPA news “The journalist has been suffering from a chronic digestive system disease...”
that has reportedly deteriorated. Despite the medical reports by the prison doctor recommending it, Ataman has not been operated on.”

**SOURCES:**

**For more information in English:**


**For more information in Turkish:**

LIST OF IMPRISONED JOURNALISTS IN TURKEY

1. Abdulkadir Turay
2. Abdullah Kılıç
3. Abdullah Özyurt
4. Ahmet Altan
5. Ahmet Feyzullah Özyurt
6. Ahmet Memiş
7. Ahmet Metin Sekizkardeş
8. Ahmet Yavaş
9. Ali Ahmet Böken
10. Ali Akkuş
11. Ali Aşikar
12. Ali Ünal
13. Ali Yüce
14. Ayşenur Parıldak
15. Aytekin Gezici
16. Aziz İstegün
17. Bayram Kaya
18. Beytullah Özdemir
19. Burçin Dokgöz
20. Cemal Azmi Kalyoncu
21. Cuma Ulus
22. Cüneyt Seza Özkan
23. Emre Soncan
24. Ercan Gün
25. Erdal Süsem
26. Erdal Şen
27. Erol Yüksel
28. Erol Zavar
29. Fahri Öztöprak
30. Faruk Akkan
31. Ferhat Çiftçi
32. Fevzi Yazıcı
33. Gökçe Fırat Çulhaoğlu
34. Gurbet Çakar
35. Habip Güler
36. Hakan Taşdelen
37. Halil İbrahim Mert
38. Hamit Dilbahar
39. Hamza Güneriğök
40. Hanım Büşra Erdal
41. Hasan Bozkurt
42. Hasan Hüseyin Örs
43. Hasan Taşar
44. Hatice Duman
45. Hidayet Karaca
46. Hüseyin Aydın
47. İbrahim Halil Öztürkneri
48. İbrahim Varlık
49. İdris Okur
50. İsmail Çoban
51. İsmail Ersan
52. İsmail Evren
53. Kamuran Sunbat
54. Kazım Canlan
55. Kenan Karavil
56. Mehmet Ali Ay
57. Mehmet Ali Genç
58. Mehmet Baransu
59. Mehmet Güleş
60. Mehmet Kuru
61. Melike Aydin
62. Metin Arslan
63. Mikail Barut
64. Miktat Algül
65. Muhammed Sait Kuloğlu
66. Muhsin Pilgir
67. Murat Çapan
68. Murat Dağdeviren
69. Mustafa Erkan Acar
70. Mustafa Gök
71. Mustafa Gökkuşçu
72. Mustafa Göktaş
73. Mustafa Ünal
74. Mustafa Yayla
75. Mutlu Çölgeçen, Millet
76. Mutlu Özyay
77. Mümtazer Türköne
78. Nadir Yücel
79. Nedim Türfent
80. Nuh Gönültaş
81. Nuri Durna
82. Nuri Yeşil
83. Nurullah Kaya
84. Oğuz Usluer
85. Osman Yakut
86. Ömer Oruç
87. Özcan Keser
88. Özden Kınık
89. Ruken Demir
90. Sadık Topaloğlu
91. Sadiye Eser
92. Sait Gürkan Tuzlu
93. Sami Tunca
94. Sedat Laçiner
95. Serhat Şeftali
96. Serkan Aydemir
97. Sertan Önal
98. Seyid Kılıç
99. Seyithan Akyüz
100. Soner Karabulut
101. Şahabettin Demir
102. Şeref Yılmaz
103. Turgut Usul
104. Ufuk Şanlı
105. Ünal Tanık
106. Vahit Yazgan
107. Yakup Çetin
108. Yalçın Güler
109. Yetkin Yıldız
110. Yılmaz Kahraman
111. Yusuf Topaloğlu
112. Zafer Özcan
113. Ziya Ataman