

# Political Prosecution of Journalists



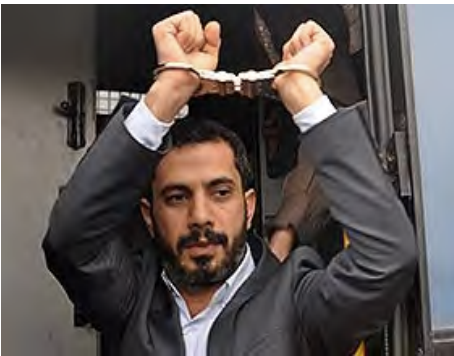
**Hidayet Karaca**  
*Samanyolu TV Chief*  
Has been in a high security prison since December 14, 2014



**Bulent Kenes**  
*Editor in Chief of Today's Zaman*  
Imprisoned on October 10, 2015 over tweets "insulting Erdogan"



**Gultekin Avci**  
*Columnist for Bugun Daily*  
Arrested on September 20, 2015; wasn't allowed to testify in court



**Mehmet Baransu**  
*Columnist & Correspondent for Taraf*  
Arrested on March 2, 2014; solitary confinement in high security prison



**Jake Hanrahan;**  
**Philip Pendlebury**  
*VICE Journalists*  
Detained alongside M. Rasool; were released six days later



**Muhammed Rasool**  
*Iraqi Journalist*  
Arrested w/ VICE journalists on Aug. 28, 2015 for "links to terror organizations" - was not released



**Ekrem Dumanli**  
*Ex-Editor-in-Chief of Zaman*  
Detained on Dec. 14, 2014 for "leading a terrorist organization"



**Frederike Geerdink**  
*Dutch Reporter in Diyarbakir*  
Detained twice in 2015 for "PKK propaganda" -deported on Sep. 9



**Ugur Dundar**  
*Columnist for Sozcu, TV producer*  
Jail sentence of 11 months and 20 days for "insulting Erdogan"



### **Sedef Kabas**

*Journalist; TV Presenter*

Detained in Dec. 30, 2014 over tweet on government corruption; Acquitted on October 6, 2015



### **Can Dundar**

*Editor-in-Chief of Cumhuriyet Daily*

Erdogan filed a criminal complaint against him for publishing images of arms allegedly being shipped to Syria; life sentence was requested



### **Ivan Watson**

*Ex- Istanbul Correspondent for CNN*

Detained filming a live news report on 2014 Taksim demonstrations



### **Ahmet Altan**

*Journalist; ex Editor-in-Chief of Taraf*

Ankara Public Prosecutor's Office opened investigation on Sep. 20, 2015 for insulting Erdogan



### **Stephen Kinzer**

*Journalist; Academic*

Honorary Turkish citizenship revoked in May 2015 for article in Boston Globe on Erdogan's palace



### **Hasan Cemal**

*Journalist; Chairman of Platform for Independent Journalism (P24)*

Was called by the İstanbul Chief Public Prosecutor's Office to testify over column on Erdogan



### **Ahmet Hakan**

*Columnist for Hurriyet & TV Producer at CNN Türk*

Has been injured after an assault in front of his home by a group of AKP supporters lead by an AKP parliamentarian in front of his house on October 1, 2015 because of his criticism against Erdogan and AKP. He suffered serious injuries and was hospitalized.

## Pressure on Media Companies



### **Koza Ipek Holding (Bugun and Kanal Turk)**

- Tax inspections
- Raided by police on Sep. 1, 2015 only hours after Bugun published photos showing clandestine shipment of materials used to make arms for ISIS militants in Syria



### **Hurriyet**

- Huge tax fines
- Group of 200 attacked Hurriyet headquarters on Sep. 7, 2015 with sticks and stones; one organizer of the attack is an AKP MP; occurred immediately after Erdogan called out the Dogan media group)



### **Nokta (Turkish Magazine)**

- raided on Sep. 14, 2015
- copies were seized for mock Erdogan selfie with the coffin of a soldier (an allusion to comments that families of soldiers killed by Kurdish rebels could be happy about their martyrdom)



### **Zaman Newspaper/ Today's Zaman**

- Raided on Dec. 14, 2015 and Oct. 10, 2016
- 23 arrested during the first raid accused of "forming an illegal organization and trying to seize control of the state"



### **Samanyolu TV Group**

- Raided on December 14, 2014
- Struck with large tax fines

The following were subject to either harsh fines or tax inspections:

**Cihan News Agency**

**Hurriyet Newspaper**

**Taraf Newspaper**

**Halk TV**

## Continuous raids on Gulen-inspired schools and NGOs



20 police raid Izmit office of **Kimse Yok Mu** humanitarian organization (Ecosoc Member) on Sep. 2, 2015



Police raided **daycare centers** in Zonguldak with inspectors on August 7, 2015



Counterterrorism units raided Samanyolu kindergarden in Ankara on September 21, 2015

## Censorship of Social Media (Direct)

- a. July 22, 2015 - After the deadly bombing in the Turkish city of Suruç, and just three months after the country's last ban on social media, a Turkish court extended another gag order to a national ban of content on Twitter, YouTube, and Facebook, as well as 38 news websites.
- b. October 8, 2015 -After the Ankara bomb attack that killed 97 people , Prime Ministry declared temporary media ban on all news outlets from covering the Ankara bomb attack.
- c. April 6, 2014- Twitter, Youtube, Facebook temporarily blocked before local elections over Istanbul prosecutor siege images.
- d. May 28, 2013- Twenty-nine people were put on trial for tweets posted during the Gezi protests in a court case in which the then-Prime Minister Erdoğan is himself listed as a victim. All of the tweeters were accused of "inciting the public to break the law." Three of them were also accused of "insulting the Prime Minister."
- e. May 11, 2013. After the twin car bombs shook the district of Reyhanli in Turkey's southeastern province of Hatay a local court issued a ban on all news outlets from covering the incident, alleging that coverage "violates the secrecy of the investigation,"
- f. In March 2014, a leaked recording from a meeting at Turkey's foreign ministry detailed the government's considerations for military involvement in Syria. Shortly after that recording was posted on YouTube, access to the platform was blocked entirely in Turkey.

## Censorship by Satellite Carriers

TV streaming services Digturk, Turkcell TV, Tivibu and TNet stopped broadcasting Bugün TV, Kanaltürk, Shaber, Samanyolu, Mehtap TV, Irmak TV and children's channel Yumurcak TV by order of the Ankara Public Prosecutor's Office on the suspicion that the channels support a terrorist organization.



# International Watchdog Reports on Turkey

## **Human Rights Watch:**

“Significant obstacles remain to securing justice for victims of serious human rights abuses by police, military, and state officials, creating what amounts to a culture of impunity.”

“Over the past year, Erdoğan’s AKP has responded to political opposition by tearing up the rule book, silencing critical voices, and wielding a stick”

“In terms of its make-up, the National Human Rights Council of Turkey lacks independence from the executive, is tied to the Office of the Prime Minister, and seven out of eleven members of its board are appointed by the cabinet.”

“A law passed in February increased the power and discretion of the TIB to demand that internet service providers (ISPs) remove content or block websites with just four hours’ notice. The TIB must refer the matter within 24 hours to a judge, who must rule on the matter within 48 hours. ISP administrators may face a penalty of six months’ to two years’ imprisonment for failing to comply with a judicial order. “

## **U.S. State Department, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2014**

According to internet freedom NGO Engelliweb, as of October a total of 58,635 websites were blocked-- 54,091 by the TIB. According to the Transportation, Maritime, and Communication Ministry, as of September the government took a total of 18,491 decisions to block websites.

## **World press freedom index in 2014:**

Turkey is ranked 154th out of 180 countries.

## **Reporters Without Borders:**

Turkey is ranked 149th out of 180 for hostile environment for journalists.

## **Freedom House, Freedom of the Press 2015**

Turkey’s score in freedom of expression declined from 62 to 65 due to a number of legislative changes and continuing state efforts to influence reporting through intimidation and economic incentives. New laws restricted the freedom of journalists to report on national security and empowered the intelligence service to access a wide range of information without oversight, while amendments to the internet law increased authorities’ power to block online content. In November 2013, PEN International reported that 73 writers and intellectuals were being held in Turkish jails, up from 60 in 2012.

**The Committee to Protect Journalists** reported that 40 journalists were incarcerated in Turkey as of December 2013, more than in any other country. Most of those behind bars were Kurdish and charged under antiterrorism laws in KCK-related cases.