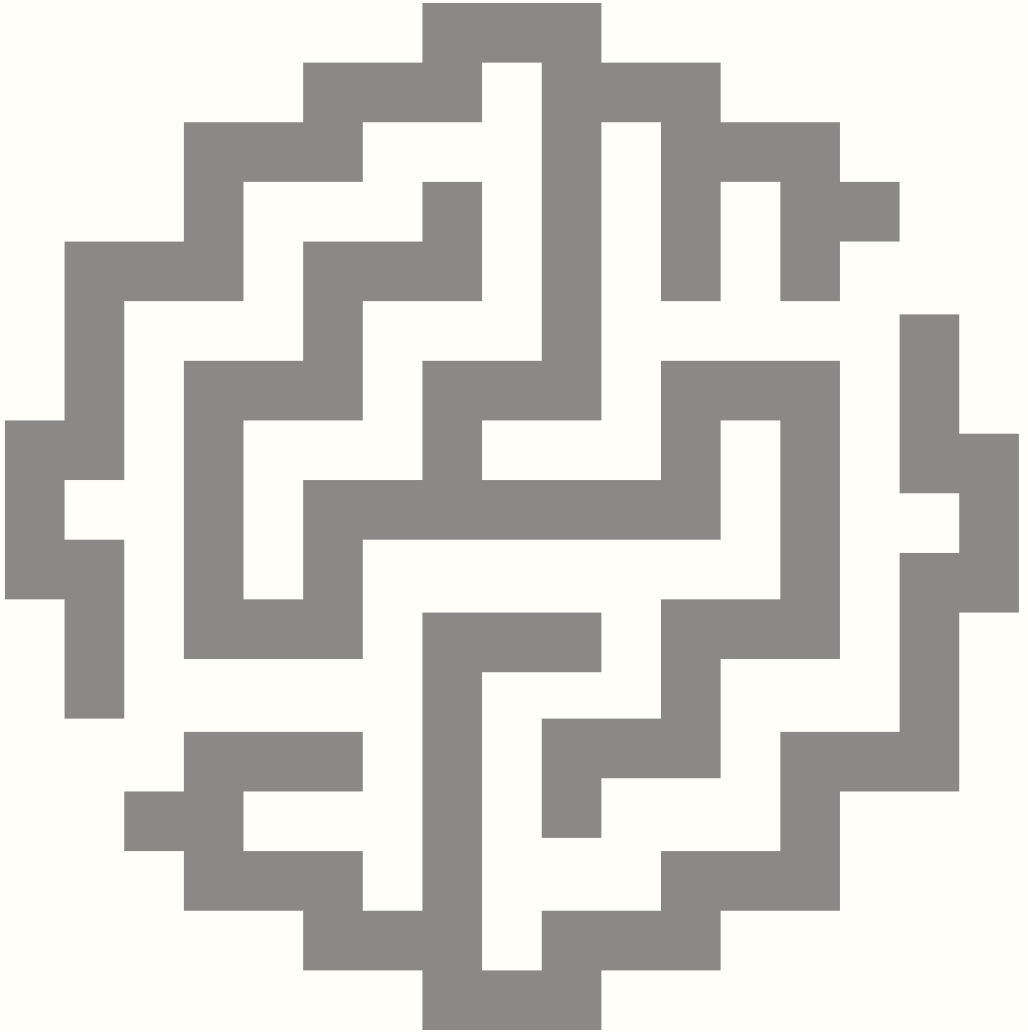


**KEEP THE
VOLUME UP:
RIGHTS
DEFENDERS'
ALMANAC 2022**

HAKIKAT ADALET HAFIZA MERKEZI



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HAKİKAT ADALET HAFIZA MERKEZİ



**SESSİZ
KALMA**
Hak Savunucuları için

*Dedicated to dear Osman Kavala
and the Gezi Park trial detainees
with an ardent hope that they will
be freed as soon as possible.*

FOREWORD

The civic space in Turkey has been under continuous siege for quite a long time. Amid this reality, which was aggravated by the devastating effects of the political developments in 2015 and 2016, the restrictions on fundamental rights and freedoms—particularly the freedoms of expression, assembly, and association—provided the government with the foundation to further regulate and control rights as it wishes. While the state responded to myriad legitimate claims from the civic space with oppression and obstruction, the judiciary and presidency took it upon themselves to silence diverse voices and placed themselves in stark opposition to civilian struggles for rights.

While the cost this atmosphere has levied on rights defenders and civil society organizations that work to uphold rights has been high and ever increasing, it has also led to the perception that civil society itself is greatly suffering. The rapid increase in pro-government and government-supported civil society organizations, particularly those that work against the fundamental freedoms and rights of women and LGBTI+ individuals, has effectively wounded both the concept and perception of civil society in Turkey. This has been the result of the state diversifying and hardening its oppression by targeting every rights defender, banning every event and criminalizing every civil society organization. This series of actions has eroded one by one the basic mission of producing information, suggesting solutions, influencing decision-making, monitoring and advocacy. With civil society organizations fully excluded, decision makers feel no need to consult those knowledgeable on the topics at hand for their opinions and suggestions, bringing about an environment in which it is impossible for existential crises not to arise.

The past seven to eight years, in other words, have been an existential struggle for civil society organizations. This struggle against the current state, which continues to attempt to rescind rights that have been secured over the course of many years, is a matter of maintaining existence.

The purpose of this almanac is to record and remind of the unequal conditions present in this struggle for existence. This includes contributing to the demands of rights advocates—who are themselves targeted for being rights defenders through their work, statements and actions—who protect and aid the development of human rights despite being subjected to various pressures. It also functions to draw attention to the difficult conditions in which rights defenders are forced to work as they strive to maintain the struggle for rights.

From Analysis to Almanac

As *Hafıza Merkezi* (Truth Justice Memory Center), we initiated monitoring, reporting and support-based activities for human rights defenders in response to pressures and the shrinking civil space in 2018. In line with our monitoring and documentation efforts in this field, we published our report titled “Keep the Volume Up: Intimidation Policies Against Rights Defenders” in 2022, aiming to provide a legal analysis of the data we collected. In this report, we sought to highlight a comprehensive intervention repertoire, categorized under various aspects such as enacting laws that affect the working environment of civil society by giving rise to interventions against human rights defenders through unlawful and antidemocratic practices, misinterpreting existing legislation in a malicious and hostile manner, abuse of administrative and judicial powers, and smear campaigns in the media.

In the “Rights Defenders’ Almanac 2022,” we aimed to present the repressive environment and practices that civil society organizations and rights-based struggles faced in 2022, based on the categories of interventions identified through the judiciary, public authorities, and media.

Hafıza Merkezi prepared this almanac by reviewing open sources, such as civil society bulletins and independent monitoring reports gleaned from news reports, which it compiled throughout the year on the monitoring website sesizkalma.org. The almanac includes monthly summaries of who has been targeted by pro-government media amid the current political climate.

Rights Defenders’ Year in Review 2022

Certainly, “Rights Defenders’ Almanac 2022” contains many events and situations that cannot be confined to the year 2022 alone. On the other hand, understanding the trends specific to 2022 and the prominent strategies is crucial for establishing counter-strategies, points of resistance, and channels of solidarity.

Taking a quick look at the prominent agendas, one of the most striking developments is the conclusion of the Gezi Trial with heavy convictions, which has been highlighted in the relevant judgment of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) and is characterized by baseless accusations such as “attempting to overthrow the government,” a trial that was initiated with the aim of silencing civil society. This verdict stands as the most severe example of baseless and unjust accusations directed towards anyone engaged in civil society work, underscoring the potential outcomes of such cases. While the trial may not have successfully generated the intended deterrent

effect, we have consistently asserted that it is a case targeting civil society. With the outcome of this trial, we continue to advocate for fair trials and the immediate release of every human rights defender whose freedoms have been deprived.

The infringement proceedings against Turkey initiated within the scope of the ongoing inspection process before the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe after Turkey refused to implement the ECtHR's ruling concerning Osman Kavala is yet another example of how antidemocratic and illegal practices stem from the state's hostility and refusal to recognize its international obligations. After Azerbaijan, Turkey is the second country ever to have had infringement proceedings brought against it. This situation makes it difficult to maintain hope amid the reality in which expectations of attaining universal standards of democracy and human rights are gradually whittled away.

Throughout the year, the Turkish Medical Association (TTB), which has been targeted through various levels of smear campaigns and by official authorities, ultimately experienced judicial harassment against the members of the Central Council and its President, Şebnem Korur Fincancı. While the state attempt to wear down the TTB— itself one of the largest professional organizations in the country—with accusations of terrorism, the periodic official statements from the state that announce that a law is being prepared for all professional organizations is an example of the precarious environment that threatens freedom of association.

The "closure cases," where freedom of association is most directly suppressed, are the most extreme examples of the malicious position rights defenders faced in 2022 in terms of power of representation. State and judicial authorities' various attempts to justify the accusations in the cases filed against the Tarlabası Community Center (TTM), the We Will Stop Femicide Platform Association (KCDP) and the Migration Monitoring Association (GÖÇİZDER), such as saying that the associations act contrary to law and morality or that they finance terrorism, reveals the violence against which they were founded and their purpose for existence.

In 2022 women's rights advocates relentlessly defended the Istanbul Convention, utilizing every available legal avenue. Following the withdrawal decision from the Istanbul Convention through a Presidential decree on March 21, 2021, numerous legal cases were initiated at the Council of State to seek the cancellation of this decision and halt its enforcement. These cases were presented in court hearings throughout June, and the final verdict from the Council of State was delivered in July. The 10th Chamber of the Council of State rejected the request for the annulment of the withdrawal from the Convention. Despite the outcome, the persistent and legitimate

struggle of women and LGBTI+ rights defenders showed once again that they would never give up on the Istanbul Convention and its achievements.

Another development that set 2022 apart from previous years was the initiation of rallies known as the “Great Family Gathering,” which targeted the existence of LGBTI+ individuals and legitimized hate speech under the pretext of family values and morality. These rallies began taking place across various regions of Turkey. Throughout the year, numerous official institutions and individuals made statements that aligned with the core themes of these rallies, encouraging the polarization against gender diversity. Additionally, even a constitutional body like the Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK) recommending a video promoting participation in these rallies as a public service announcement further signaled the emergence of exclusionary and isolating policies towards LGBTI+ individuals. In fact, the preparation of a legislative proposal centered around “strengthening the family,” which emerged towards the end of the year, becomes increasingly difficult to distinguish from the energy invested in organizing these rallies. With the influence of the 2023 general election, the wave of hostility against LGBTI+ individuals carry heavy consequences, indicating that in the coming period, all human rights advocates need to collectively confront this battle considering its implications.

While public gathering spaces remain wide open to anti-LGBTI+ groups, arbitrary bans and police interventions against certain peaceful meetings and protests continue to be one of the fundamental obstacles to advocating for human rights. Cases continue to be filed every year—despite many resulting in acquittals—against rights defenders who have long experienced the concept of “shrinking civil space” spatially yet remain determined not to relinquish the streets in support of events such as the Pride March, the November 25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and the March 8 Feminist Night March. As the legal case against the Saturday Mothers/People, who have been prevented from continuing their sit-in protest at Galatasaray Square since 2018, continues, the swift decision to ban the supporters from making a press statement during the September hearing, leading to police intervention and arrests of the dispersing crowd, follows the same pattern of preventing their activities. Unfortunately, this pattern extended to the banning of festivals and concerts that people would normally share their joy and happiness at in 2022. Throughout the summer months, alongside ongoing bans on actions and events in cities like Hakkari and Van, there was a series of ban-related news from various other cities, repeatedly raising questions about how the act of coming together to have fun was seen also as a threat.

The Law on the Amendment of the Press Law and Other Laws, known as the Disinformation Law, which the government claims is designed to combat disinformation that could mislead the public or that has the potential to cause anxiety, panic or fear among the public, was approved by Parliament and entered into force in October after being published in the Official Gazette. Professional journalism organizations and associations met under the Media Solidarity Group during the legislation process and proclaimed that the content of the law, which does not seem to concern civil society at first glance, would in reality facilitate censorship and would open the door to restrictions on and threats to freedom of expression. The question remains of whether rights organizations, which have the mission to disseminate the truth regarding human rights violations, will be subjected to this law. Although the law has not been used against rights organization as of yet, it is a near inevitability that regulations and practices that restrict freedom of expression lead to self-censorship.

In addition to this general restrictive environment for freedom of expression, 2022 saw the continued filing of cases against rights defenders for their statements and declarations on charges of inciting the people to hatred and enmity as well as insulting the Turkish nation, the Republic of Turkey or the institutions and organs of the state. These accusations formed the main arguments of the cases brought against the former and current directors of the Diyarbakır Bar Association and the co-chair of the Human Rights Association (İHD), Öztürk Türkdoğan, due to statements published on their institutional websites on the anniversaries of the Armenian Genocide. There have also been instances of rights defenders' statements being cited as evidence for the charges against them of making propaganda for a terrorist organization. Şebnem Korur Fincancı was accused of and arrested alarmingly quickly on this charge based on the views she expressed on a television program, which is the most recent example of the developments that marked the final months of the year.

The legal struggles of the Academics for Peace, who were tried on charges of making propaganda for a terrorist organization, expelled from their institutions through statutory decrees (KHK) or were forced to retire, continued in the administrative courts. Following the ineffectiveness of the academics' countersuits demanding a stay of execution of the decision in the State of Emergency Decrees to expel them from their institutions, the Inquiry Commission on State of Emergency Measures set up to address them issued unfavorable decisions, which the academics then brought to the administrative courts. Thus, the legal struggles of the Academics for Peace continued throughout 2022, having been blacklisted for defending the right to peace.

Charges of “membership in a terrorist organization” continued to be a convenient argument for the criminalization of human rights advocacy, as has been the case in every period. In the Büyükada Case, after the 2020 sentencing hearing, four out of ten human rights defenders were given prison sentences on charges of “membership in an armed terrorist organization” and “assisting an armed terrorist organization.” These sentences were overturned by the Court of Cassation on the grounds of ‘incomplete investigation’ and referred to the first instance court.

Meanwhile, GÖÇİZDER, the Healthcare and Social Service Workers' Union (SES), Rosa Women's Association, and members and leaders of the Human Rights Association (İHD) continued to face judicial harassment accompanied by "terrorism" charges due to their civil society activities, making the injustice ongoing in 2022.

Expecting the trend of associating human rights advocacy with terrorism charges to diminish in the short term doesn't seem very realistic and keeping the defense and support of civil society organizations and human rights defenders facing these charges on the agenda, as well as monitoring violations in this field, is a crucial aspect of defending civil space.

Rights defenders also face accusations specific to their fields of resistance. Cases filed by companies with allegations of unfair competition against those fighting for ecological rights can be considered a new method of intimidation. The most recent examples include the cases against Halime Şaman, a member of the Executive Board of the Marmaris City Council; and Ufuk Beydemir, the chairman of the council, both of which reveal the need to steadfastly continue the defense of rights by following these processes as well as reminding companies of their obligations regarding human rights.

This almanac records all these developments in detailed chronological order. Our aim is not to present a pessimistic or hopeless picture. On the contrary, we believe in the importance of showing the intensity of oppression as it happens by the day in order to strengthen solidarity and the counter-struggle with an intensity equal to the violations themselves.

During the preparation of this almanac, Turkey was grappling with the disaster caused by the February 6 earthquakes. In instances where mechanisms established under public authority fell short, the importance of civil society became evident. From the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, starting with search and rescue operations, shelter, and extending to addressing the long-term wounds through

psychosocial support, healthcare, education, and access to various rights, as well as organizing solidarity, the impact of civil society experience was clearly evident. In a way, it was a harbinger of a new era different from what came before.

Looking back, we believe that remembering how human rights defenders coped with challenges and building a memory around it holds its own value. Because we draw our faith in the days when defending rights won't be deemed a crime, when human rights advocates won't be discredited, and when they won't be subjected to judicial and administrative harassment, from the courage of those who continue to stand up for human rights against these intimidation policies. We are all lucky to have them.

JANUARY

JANUARY 5

- The trial of 22 lawyers—members of the Progressive Lawyers' Association (ÇHD) and People's Law Office—which was brought against them due to their professional activities, continued at the Istanbul 18th High Criminal Court. The court's announcement that some digital materials were added to the case file after eight years raised eyebrows. The court then ruled to continue the detention of Selçuk Kozağaçlı, Barkın Timtik and Oya Aslan, and adjourned the next hearing to March 23, 2022.

JANUARY 7

VIOLATION RULING CONCERNING ONE OF THE ACADEMICS FOR PEACE

The Constitutional Court ruled that the cancellation of the passport of one of the Academics for Peace, Onur Can Taştan, who was expelled from the Department of Political Sciences at Ankara University by a KHK decree, was a violation of the right to respect for private life.

- Fourteen Boğaziçi University students, two of whom were held in detention, appeared in court and were handed down prison sentences of five years and three months to 25 years and six months in the trial against them for having participated in the October 4, 2021 protests on campus against university Rector Naci İnci, who had been installed in the position by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. At the first hearing of the case at the Istanbul 22nd Criminal Court of First Instance, the court ruled for release on condition of judicial control students Caner Perit Özen and Enis Berke Gök, who at the time had been held in detention for 94 days. The students were accused of not immediately dispersing after being warned that the unarmed protest they joined contravened the law on meetings and demonstrations on the grounds that they had climbed onto İnci's official car during the protest, deprivation of liberty, resisting police, damaging public property, and hijacking and seizure of transportation vehicles.

JANUARY 8

- The Turkish Medical Association (TTB) Central Executive Council issued a

warning to the dean of the School of Medicine at Dokuz Eylül University, professor Oğuz Dicle, concerning the process to suspend and dismiss 12 lecturers from the Academics for Peace and suspended the school's vice-rector, professor Hale Ören, from medical practice for 30 days. Two years earlier, based on a complaint, the TTP General Assembly decided to open a disciplinary investigation into physicians who contributed to the expulsion of professors, and İzge Günel of the Academics for Peace filed a complaint against Dicle and Ören regarding the machinations of that process.

- President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan targeted the TTB in the speeches he gave at the opening ceremony for the Karaman–Konya High Speed Train Line, TOKİ 736 Residence, Karamanoğlu Mehmetbey University School of Medicine and Dentistry, and other completed projects. Referring to statements from TTB Secretary General Dr. Vedat Bulut, who criticized the Turkish Medicines and Medical Devices Agency's (TİTCK) approval of emergency use for the Covid-19 Turkovac vaccine without phase 1, phase 2 and phase 3 clinical trials, Erdoğan said, “These types are such liars and distortionists. Erciyes University, with its large personnel, invents and produces Turkovac. People say there's no such thing. These people are frauds and liars. Since [Bulut] would know, does the Medical Association have any achievements so far? No, it doesn't, but they put the blocks on those who do. They're all frauds.”

JANUARY 11

- Yatağan Thermal Energy Generation Inc., operating in the Yatağan area of Muğla, filed a case against Kazım Erol, the president of the Yatağan Green Life Association, demanding 1 million Turkish liras in non-pecuniary damages. The company claimed that the messages and videos Erol shared on social media damaged its commercial reputation.

- Mehmet Türkmen, the founding chairman of the United Textile, Weaving and Leather Workers' Union (BİRTEK-SEN), was detained in October 2021, due to the protests in front of a textile factory in Gaziantep. Türkmen was taken into custody upon a complaint from the textile company and was released the same day after giving a statement.

- Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) Chairman Devlet Bahçeli targeted the Turkish Medical Association (TTB) in a speech at a party group meeting at which he said, “When will the Turkish Medical Association be shut down, if not today? This disgraceful professional medical organization called the Turkish Medical Association has proven over and over again that it does nothing but defame Turkey and denigrate

respected scientific studies. This organization claims there are no phase 1, phase 2 and phase 3 studies for the Turkovac vaccine, which I myself readily received. They are just like the Omicron variant of the coronavirus. The Medical Association is the foremost institution of slander.”

JANUARY 12

- The fourth hearing was held in the trial at the Diyarbakır 10th High Criminal Court against four people, three of whom are police officers, regarding the murder of Tahir Elçi, the former president of Diyarbakır Bar Association. Before the hearing, police erected barricades in front of and around the courthouse. Diyarbakır Bar Association President Nahit Eren filed a criminal complaint against the prosecutor on the grounds that there was no effective investigation, that he misled witnesses through torture and deliberate negligence, and that this negatively affected there being a fair trial. Eren also requested that then Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu, who described Tahir Elçi’s murder as a political assassination, be heard as a witness in court. The court had sent the hard disc from a security camera from a kebab shop on the street where the murder took place and which contained footage of the incident—one of the most important pieces of evidence in the murder case—to the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) to be examined due to it having been corrupted and it was revealed that the hard disc was empty.
- The six-year and three-month prison sentence of the former Diyarbakır branch president of the Human Rights Association (İHD), Raci Bilici, on conviction of being a member of a terrorist organization was overturned by the Court of Appeals, after which he was retried and convicted of the same charges at the Diyarbakır 5th High Criminal Court, which was also overturned by the 2nd Penal Chamber of the Diyarbakır Regional Court. Bilici’s lawyers’ appeal was heard at the Court of Appeals. The prosecution demanded the appeal be rejected, yet the court unanimously acquitted Bilici on the grounds that there was no tangible, clear and convincing evidence, or argument beyond doubt that a crime had been committed.
- Three members of Aydın LGBTI+ Solidarity, who were verbally attacked while writing on the board about the suicide of university student Enes Kara on the campus of Adnan Menderes University, were later detained by the police. The group was released after being detained for six hours and their statements were taken on the charge that they insulted the president.

JANUARY 14

- Aydın LGBTI+ Solidarity member Hikmet Hazer, who was released after being detained for six hours the day before, was detained again from his home at midnight by counterterrorism police. This time, Hazer's statement was taken on the charge of making propaganda on behalf of the "PKK-YPG" (Kurdistan Workers' Party and People's Defense Units) due to having shared a Kurdish song on Instagram. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan was visiting Aydın for a mass opening ceremony when Hazer was taken into custody for the second time.

JANUARY 17

- The third hearing of the Gezi Park trial was held at the Istanbul 13th High Criminal Court. While Osman Kavala, who had been held in prison on remand for 1,539 days at the time, did not attend the hearing, those who did include defendants not held in pre-trial custody, Istanbul Metropolitan branch of the Chamber of Architects member Mücella Yapıcı, city planner Tayfun Kahraman, lawyer Can Atalay, former Anadolu Kültür employee Mine Özerden, academic Ali Hakan Altınay, social entrepreneur Yiğit Ali Ekmekçi and some defendants from the çArşı case. The defense requested that the çArşı and Gezi Park cases be separated. The court ruled that Osman Kavala would continue to be held in remand. The delegation ruled to accept the requests from the çArşı case defendants who wanted to be excluded from the hearings, and to continue the judicial control of the nine defendants in the Gezi Park trial who were banned from leaving the country. On January 22, 2021, the 3rd Penal Chamber of the Istanbul Regional Court of Justice overturned the previous rulings for acquittal in the Gezi Park case. The Court of Appeals ruled that the evidence against the defendants had not been adequately evaluated, and asserted that the file was related to the çArşı case pending before the Supreme Court of Appeals and that the two cases should be combined. After the 6th Penal Chamber of the Supreme Court of Appeals overturned the acquittal of 35 defendants, including members of the Beşiktaş supporter group çArşı, the Istanbul 30th High Criminal Court complied with the Court of Appeals ruling and combined the çArşı and Gezi Park cases on July 28, 2021.

JANUARY 18

- Police beat and detained nine women—members of the Campus Witches and Purple Solidarity Association—who intended to march to Parliament in Ankara to demand that menstrual products be free. Those detained on the charge of violating Law No. 2911 on Meetings and Demonstrations were released the same day after giving

statements to the police.

JANUARY 19

- University student Rozana Urkun reprimanded following a disciplinary investigation for having worn a face mask that read “The Istanbul Convention Saves Lives” while holding a pride flag at the graduation ceremony of Dokuz Eylül University.
- A criminal complaint filed by Justice and Development Party (AKP) Aydın MP Mustafa Savaş regarding Çine Life Platform spokesperson Ahmet Uslu resulted in non-prosecution. The Çine Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office ruled that the statement Uslu made in an interview on the mining activities on Mount Madran in which he said, “AKP MP Mustafa Savaş is following the business of the company,” did not constitute slander, was not a criminal insult, and did not damage Savaş’s honor and dignity, and thus dropped the case.

JANUARY 20

- Munzur Environmental Association member Özkan Arslan is sentenced to six years and three months in prison for membership in an armed terrorist organization. Tunceli 1st High Criminal Court argued that Arslan’s attendance to May Day events and demonstrations defending ecological rights as well as the poetry he posted on his social media accounts constituted evidence for this accusation. Arslan was previously banned from entering his own village for attending demonstrations aiming to preserve the Peri Valley, located at the juncture of the southeastern provinces of Dersim, Elazığ and Bingöl.

JANUARY 21

- The charges against lawyers Ali Babür Atila, Alp Selek, Bülent Utku, İlke Çandırbay, Kemal Aytaç, Mehmet Güvenç, Necdet Okcan, Sevin Şeker and Yavuz Okçuoğlu of making propaganda for a terrorist organization and not immediately dispersing despite being warned that they were participating in an illegal, unarmed meeting or demonstration were dropped four years after the original indictment. In its ruling for non-prosecution, the Prosecutor’s Office said, “Meetings and demonstrations should not be banned based on an abstract danger to public order and safety, and it should be determined whether the demonstrators had exhibited any aggressive or threatening behavior.” Police raided the house of lawyer Kemal Aytaç, who read the statement at

the 44th Justice Watch on February 1, 2018, which led to an investigation against the Turkish Medical Association (TTB) and took him to give a statement.

- Members and executives of the Health and Social Services Workers' Union (SES), who were detained on May 25, 2021, were indicted on charges of membership to an armed terrorist organization and making propaganda for a terrorist organization. SES Co-Chair Selma Atabey, previous Co-Chair Gönül Erden, former Chair Bedriye Yorgun, former Profession Competency Board (MYK) members Fikret Çağlayan and Belkıs Yurtsever, previous SES Ankara branch Co-Chair Rona Temelli, and branch managers Erdal Turan and Ramazan Taş were arrested on May 25, 2021. On June 1, 2021, the court released all except for Gönül Erden upon request for her arrest.

JANUARY 24

- The police in Mersin refused to allow the lawyers who planned to make a press statement in front of the courthouse on January 24, which marks the International Day of the Endangered Lawyer. The police claimed that they were not allowed to make a statement in front of the courthouse.

JANUARY 26

- An investigation was launched into 20 women who participated in the protests for International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women in Beyoğlu, Istanbul, on November 25, 2021. They were detained in a police operation for allegedly violating Law No. 2911 on Meetings and Demonstrations. Six of them were also accused of insulting the president.

MEDIA MONITORING

Targeting and smear campaigns against the Turkish Medical Association (TTB) and TTB Central Council Chair Şebnem Korur Fincancı were conducted through the pro-government media starting in early 2022. The uncertainty and concerns the institution expressed about Turkovac, Turkey's domestically developed and produced Covid-19 vaccine, formed the basis of the verbal attacks that began in early January.

The second wave of attacks against the TTB and Fincancı started after Fincancı made a press statement by Parliament

regarding the need to improve healthcare professionals' working conditions. The days-long smear campaign included claims that there was a relationship between the TTB and the PKK (Kurdistan Workers' Party), and that the TTB provided aid for the PKK.

Other rights defenders and institutions targeted in the pro-government media during January 2022 include the academics who conducted the Boğaziçi Watch; Osman Kavala, whose long and unjust detention was one reason that led the Index on Censorship magazine to name President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan the Tyrant of the Year for 2021; the Diyarbakır Bar Association, which supported Sezen Aksu when she was targeted with accusations of insulting religion because of her lyrics about Adam and Eve; Human Rights Association (İHD) Co-Chair Öztürk Türkddoğan, who was prosecuted on charges of membership to an armed terrorist organization; and the İHD, which established an LGBTI+ Rights Commission at its Istanbul branch.

Early 2021 also saw institutions that receive funding from foreign foundations being targeted again. Civil society organizations that defend rights were also included on lists published in the media.

FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 1

- An administrative fine of 51,730 Turkish liras was imposed on the president of Kazdağı Association for the Protection of Natural and Cultural Heritage, Süheyla Doğan, on the grounds that the association failed to fulfill some of its obligations following an audit of the association's activities by the District Governorate. The association explained that the reason for why the fine was so astronomically high was because they “have become the target of some [people’s] focus due to the many ecocide projects [the association] successfully stopped.”

FEBRUARY 2

- Trials continued against Turkish Medical Association (TTB) Central Council Chair Şebnem Korur Fincancı, Reporters Without Borders Turkey representative Erol Önderoğlu, and journalist and writer Ahmet Nesin, all of whom participated in the Editors-in-Chief on Watch campaign launched in solidarity with the Özgür Gündem newspaper, which was shut down by a statutory decree in 2016. At the hearing, Erol Önderoğlu said, “In all honesty, being on trial for six years is a burden in itself. As a person who only wants to advocate for human rights and make time for the rights of journalists, I come to this courthouse every two or three months as a defendant and get pummeled.” The next hearing was set for June 14, 2022.

- The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe—the supervisory body that executes the European Court of Human Rights’ (ECtHR) rulings—officially initiated infringement proceedings against Turkey, which had not and still has not released Osman Kavala despite the ECtHR’s ruling from December 10, 2019. With the majority of the 47 member states voting in favor, the Committee of Ministers decided to send the case back to the ECtHR in accordance with Article 46 of the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR) in order to determine whether Turkey fulfilled its obligations regarding Osman Kavala—who remains in detention—and if Turkey violated the articles of the ECHR. In a statement following the decision, the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs called the proceedings “interference in the independent judicial process” and a “violation of the principle of respect for the judicial process.”

FEBRUARY 3

- Police raided the Human Rights Association (İHD) Diyarbakır branch in Yenışehir in the early morning hours. The police barricaded all the entrances and exits to the building, which they spent hours searching. They seized personal documents belonging to employees and members of the association. The operation was conducted as part of an investigation by the Adıyaman Chief Public Prosecutor's Office into Ferhat Berkpınar, a member of the Board of Directors and secretary of the İHD Diyarbakır branch. Berkpınar was taken into custody as part of the investigation and transferred to Adıyaman, where the investigation was being conducted. İHD's directors filed a complaint with the Council of Judges and Prosecutors (HSK) concerning the magistrate who ordered the search and seizure and also filed a criminal complaint with the Diyarbakır Public Prosecutor's Office regarding the police who conducted the search.

- Regarding the ECtHR infringement proceedings initiated by the Council of Europe against Turkey concerning Osman Kavala's continued detention despite the earlier ECtHR ruling, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said, "We don't recognize those who don't recognize the rulings of our courts."

FEBRUARY 7

- The Intellectual and Industrial Rights Investigation Bureau of the Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor's Office filed an injunction against the Tarlabası Community Center (TTM) for its abolition and dissolution. The TTM directors and lawyers were only informed of the case from a headline in the Milat newspaper on February 10. The case was filed on the basis of Article 89 of the Turkish Civil Code and Article 30/b of the Law on Associations with allegations the association was unlawful and immoral

FEBRUARY 8

- In Van, police detained 10 people, including Turkish Medical Association (TTB) directors, in an action against healthcare workers who walked off the job in defense of their personal rights, chanting, "We are on strike, we are on duty." Hüseyin Yaviç, the president of the Van-Hakkari Medical Chamber, was one of the people the police beat when they attempted to make a statement in the name of the Van-Hakkari Chamber of Physicians and Health and Social Service Workers' Union (SES). Yaviç received an assault report and filed a complaint against the police.

FEBRUARY

- Police detained members of the Warehouse, Port, Shipyard and Marine Workers' Union (DGD-SEN) who were continuing to strike against their employer, a warehouse for the supermarket chain Migros, which had offered them an 8 percent raise. DGD-SEN Chair Neslihan Acar and two union executives were among those detained, all of whom were released later that night.

FEBRUARY 10

UNIKUIR AWARDED FOR FEARLESSNESS

The Roosevelt Institute distributed its annual Four Freedoms Awards. ÜniKuir was the recipient of the Freedom from Fear Award, the first time the award was given to an LGBTI+ activist or organization. The awards get their name from the four freedoms US President Franklin D. Roosevelt spoke of in his State of the Union address in 1941, and which would later be included in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

- The first hearing was held in the trial at the Izmir 44th Criminal Court of First Instance against 18 women, who protested Turkey's withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention in Izmir on August 5, 2020. The women were charged with violating Law No. 2911 on Meetings and Demonstrations.
- The court released Ferhat Berkpınar, a member of the Board of Directors of the Human Rights Association (İHD) Diyarbakır branch, on condition of judicial control after being held in detention for eight days.

FEBRUARY 12

- Tarık Güneş, a former president of the İHD's Muş branch, and Rümet Agit Özer, a lawyer registered with the Muş Bar Association, were detained on charges of being members of a terrorist organization. Güneş was formally arrested on February 13, while Özer was released on judicial control. In a written statement, the İHD said that the Magistrate of the Criminal Court for Peace and prosecutor's office interrogated Güneş and Özer about various reports and statements made for the İHD seven or eight years ago.

FEBRUARY 14

- Citing a ban issued by the Muş Governorate, police prevented Muş Bar Association President Kadir Karaçelik and the lawyers accompanying him from making a press statement in front of the courthouse in response to the detention of lawyer Tarık Güneş, the former president of the İHD's Muş branch, and Rumet Agit Özer, a lawyer registered with the Muş Bar Association, following the interrogation of the detained lawyers and police photographing the defense lawyers inside the courthouse.

SELAHATTIN GÜVENÇ: "HE WAS A TIRELESS DEFENDER OF RIGHTS"

Çukurova Göç-Der (Migration Association) president and Peoples' Democratic Congress (HDK) Immigration and Refugee Assembly spokesperson Selahattin Güvenç passed away due to a cerebral hemorrhage. Güvenç was born in Palu, Elazığ, in 1956, and had been engaged in advocacy since secondary school. After the 1980 coup, he was detained for alleged membership of a terrorist organization and spent two years in prison. He took part in the establishment of the Healthcare Professionals Association in Diyarbakır and was elected as its founding president. In the following years, he worked as the director of Confederation of Public Servants Trade Unions (MEMUR-SEN) affiliated Tüm Sağlık-Sen and Confederation of Public Employees' Unions (KESK) affiliated Health and Social Service Workers' Union (SES). He was also a member of the SES Central Board of Directors. He was arrested with 13 of his colleagues due to a statement they made as the Diyarbakır Democracy Platform in 1993 and was subsequently imprisoned for five months. He founded Akdeniz Göç-Der in 2004. The association conducted research in the field of forced migration and participated in university studies on migration. It prepared various reports for the Delegation of the EU to Turkey, the UN and the UN Development Fund (UNDP). Despite having been prosecuted many times, he was never found guilty.

Güvenç led the formation of the Migration Platform and the Mersin Discrimination Platform and was the spokesperson for both. He worked at many institutions, including the Istanbul Policy Center, Turkey Peace Council, Mersin City Council,

Eastern Mediterranean Civil Society Platform, Amnesty International Turkey branch and Civil Society Development Center (STGM).

He was among the representatives of rights-focused civil society organizations who went to Suruç on September 25, 2014, to observe the displacement caused by the war in Syria, the situation of refugees and the human rights violations on site. He was also a member of the HDK Central Executive Board and spokesperson for the Immigration and Refugee Council until his death.

FEBRUARY 15

- The first hearing of the trial in which Elif Tirenç İpek Ulaş, a member of the Rosa Women's Association Board of Directors, is tried on charges of membership to an armed terrorist organization, was held at the Diyarbakır 8th High Criminal Court. The court decided to send the case file to the prosecution for it to prepare an opinion on its merits and adjourned to March 3, 2022.

FEBRUARY 17

- Human Rights Association (İHD) Co-Chair Eren Keskin was acquitted of the charge of "making propaganda for a terrorist organization" at the first hearing of her trial in the Tunceli 2nd High Criminal Court. The case was brought on the grounds of what Keskin had said on a panel held in 2019, and her social media post of well wishes for Amedspor footballer Deniz Naki, who had been attacked. During the investigation for the case, police raided Keskin's mother's house. Keskin was not there at the time of the raid and was called by phone and summoned to the police to give a statement.

FEBRUARY 18

OSMAN KAVALA GIVEN AWARD IN GERMANY

Businessman and human rights advocate Osman Kavala, who has been in prison since November 1, 2017, was awarded the Tonhalle Düsseldorf 2022 Human Rights Award. The statement made by the

cultural center that hosts the Düsseldorf Symphony Orchestra emphasized that Kavala—the chairman of the board of Anadolu Kültür—supports cultural initiatives in Turkey through domestic and international collaborations.

Düsseldorf Symphony Orchestra conductor Ádám Fischer said that Kavala’s situation is a shocking example that reveals the massive political interference in the judiciary in Turkey. Fischer said, “Obviously a man campaigning for human rights is to be punished and silenced.”

FEBRUARY 19

- Police barricaded the area in front of the Çankaya Municipality Building, where the Ankara Women’s Platform had made a call for a demonstration on March 8. The police performed multiple criminal record checks on the women and journalists there. The women reacted to the police constantly following them on their way to where they would protest. Ultimately, police took 10 women into custody.

FEBRUARY 21

- The Diyarbakır 13th High Criminal Court gave its verdict in the case brought against then Diyarbakır Bar Association President Nahit Eren, previous President Ahmet Özmen and nine members of the Board of Directors on the ground of the association’s press releases titled “April 24 Great Calamity: We Share in the Pain of the Armenian People,” published on April 24, 2017; “We Share in the Unrelenting Pain of the Armenian People,” published on April 24, 2018; and its report on the armed unmanned aerial vehicle operation in Hakkari. The court acquitted all 11 defendants of the charges of insulting the Turkish nation, the state of the Republic of Turkey, and institution and organs of state as defined in Article 301 of the Turkish Penal Code (TCK) and inciting the public to hatred and enmity as defined in Article 216 of the TCK.
- The fourth hearing of the combined Gezi Park and çArşı cases was held. The Istanbul 13th High Criminal Court ruled to continue Osman Kavala’s detention and to separate the Gezi Park and çArşı cases, which had been combined on July 28, 2021.
- The fifth hearing of the trial of 52 Boğaziçi University students on charges of opposing Law No. 2911 on Meetings and Demonstrations and deprivation of liberty

was held at the Istanbul 49th Criminal Court of First Instance. The court removed the judicial controls imposed on the defendants whose statements were taken and adjourned the next hearing to July 4, 2022.

- The Milat newspaper reported that after the Istanbul 18th Civil Court of First Instance accepted the injunction filed by the prosecutor's office, the court ruled to suspend the activities of the Tarlabaşı Community Center (TTM).

FEBRUARY 22

- The trial of Human Rights Association (İHD) Co-Chair Öztürk Türkdoğan on the allegation of membership of a terrorist organization began at the Ankara 19th High Criminal Court. The indictment presents Türkdoğan's statements as İHD co-chair on the Garê operation, the lifting of the isolation of PKK leader Abdullah Öcalan, rights violations in prisons, and his phone calls with lawyers and journalists as evidence against him. In his defense, Türkdoğan said, "The purpose of this case against me is to intimidate human rights defenders, the association and we who work there. I think the case against me was opened by the Ministry of Internal Affairs. I'm a human rights defender. The legal and democratic activities I have done were named as [crimes] in the indictment. I will continue to perform human rights activities. This lawlessness must end." The panel of judges ruled to uphold Türkdoğan's travel ban and adjourned to April 19, 2022.

FEBRUARY 24

- The İHD Hatay branch made a statement regarding the attempted attack on the association's buildings. Speaking at the press statement made by İHD members in Köprübaşı, Antakya, Hatay branch Co-Chair Mürsel Tonguç Salmanoğlu said that when they arrived at the building on Monday, February 21, they found the information posters hanging on the door and walls had been burned and the door was partially damaged from the flames. Salmanoğlu said that they regarded the attack to have been deliberate, planned and organized, and added that they would follow up on the incident through the use of their legal rights.

MEDIA MONITORING

Come February, Osman Kavala and the Tarlabaşı Community Center (TTM) became the central focus of targeting and defamation campaigns in the pro-government media.

Kavala being a recipient of the Tonhalle Düsseldorf Human Rights Award once again made him a target, labeled in the news as the financier of the Gezi Park protests and "Soros residue." The pro-government media also derisively said he received the award from his "European friends."

The TTM was similarly targeted in the pro-government media from time to time with fictitious talking points starting in 2021. The subject of February's smear campaign was the report "Beyoğlu with Your Participation" prepared by the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality. Positive mention of the TTM and its work in the report led to the community center being accused of baseless and hateful allegations, such as that it makes LGBTI+ and PKK propaganda, exploits children and engages in pedophilia at its facility.

MARCH

MARCH 1

- The first hearing of the trial against 17 women who were detained during the 19th Feminist Night March held in the Beyoğlu district of Istanbul on March 8, 2021, on charges of insulting the president and violating Law No. 2911 on Meetings and Demonstrations was held at the Istanbul 10th Criminal Court of First Instance. The 17 women, including rights defender Nimet Tanrikulu, were accused of “moving with the rhythm” of the slogans “Tayyip run, run, run; women are coming” and “Jump, jump, whoever doesn’t jump is Tayyip” during the march. Prosecutors requested sentences of two years and eight months to seven years and eight months.

MARCH 3

- The second hearing of the case filed against Elif Tirenç İpek Ulaş, a member of the Board of Directors of the Rosa Women’s Association, on the allegation of membership to an armed terrorist organization was held at the Diyarbakır 8th High Criminal Court. Having given its opinion on the merits of the case, the prosecution demanded Ulaş be tried based on the evidence within the case file, statements from known and secret witnesses, actions recorded in a planner and documents, and claimed, “as specified in the KCK [Kurdistan Communities Union] hierarchy, the defendant surrendered her will to that of the organization, that she undertook organizational actions as part of the activities of the Rosa Women’s Association, of which she is a member, within the social domain.”

CAN CANDAN IS REINSTATED TO HIS POSITION

The rector of Boğaziçi University appointed by President Erdoğan, Naci İnci, dismissed academic Can Candan, who announced he would return to his position until a final decision was made upon the court’s rejection of the case he filed for a stay of execution and annulment of the decision.

İnci was appointed vice rector on July 15, 2021, after Melih Bulu was dismissed, and dismissed Candan on July 16, 2021, one day after he assumed the position. Can Candan is a documentary filmmaker who has been a lecturer in the Film Studies Program of

the Department of Western Languages and Literatures at Boğaziçi University since 2007. He filed a case against the Boğaziçi University Rector's Office for a stay of execution and annulment on August 13, 2021. The Istanbul 2nd Administrative Court, which ruled on the case in which Eğitim-Sen was also involved, rejected his request for a stay of execution on January 20, 2022. Candan objected to the ruling and filed a petition with the Istanbul 7th Administrative Court, which ruled with a majority of votes in favor of Candan's request, for a stay of execution on February 16.

In response to this development, Candan posted on social media: "I received news of the court's stay of execution on the 227th day after my unjust and lawless dismissal on baseless claims from Boğaziçi University, where I worked for 14 years. We will continue to resist], and not give up on autonomous, free, democratic universities across Turkey. The case for my reemployment continues. This interim ruling was given by the regional administrative court, which overturned the first court's rejection for the second time. This decision will not change until the final ruling is made. So I'm going back to my position until that final ruling is made."

MARCH 4

- The prosecution gave its opinion on the merits of the Gezi Park case during the hearing at the Istanbul 13th High Criminal Court in which it demanded that Osman Kavala and Mücella Yapıcı be sentenced to aggravated life imprisonment for the alleged crime of attempting to overthrow the government of the Republic of Turkey through force and violence. The prosecution also demanded the other defendants—Ali Hakan Altınay, Can Atalay, Çiğdem Mater, Mine Özerden, Tayfun Kahraman and Yiğit Ali Ekmekçi—be sentenced to 15–20 years in prison for the alleged crime of aiding an attempt to overthrow the government of the Republic of Turkey through force and violence.

MARCH 7

- The trial of 15 LGBTI+ rights defenders and a journalist who were detained during

the 1st Eskişehir Pride March on June 30, 2021 and charged with violating Law No. 2911 on Meetings and Demonstrations, began at the Eskişehir 8th Criminal Court of First Instance. Police had raided the Pride March before the march began and detained 17 people, two of whom were minors.

- The Adana Regional Administrative Court annulled the Mersin Governorate's ban on the 5th Mersin Pride Week, planned for July 1–7, 2019. The governorate then imposed a 20-day ban on events effective from June 25, 2019, but Pride Week events were still held despite the prohibition. The Muamma LGBTI+ Association filed an objection to the ban with the Mersin 1st Administrative Court. The court rejected the objection, after which the association filed an appeal.

MARCH 8

- Osman Kavala's lawyers made a statement concerning the opinion expressed by the prosecutor in the Gezi Park case being heard at the Istanbul 13th High Criminal Court. The defense council said that the charges of supporting the July 15, 2016 coup attempt (TCK 309) and espionage (TCK 328), which were used for the justification for the arrest warrant issued for Kavala following his acquittal on February 18, 2017, were baseless accusations with no evidence to support them and that "it's been confessed that the espionage charge in particular is being used with the purpose of continuing [Kavala's] detention." Osman Kavala has been held in detention since November 1, 2017.

- The compensation suit Sinpaş REIT filed against environmental activist Halime Şaman, a member of the Marmaris City Council and Muğla Environmental Platform, continued at the Istanbul 5th Commercial Court of First Instance. In the statement she made in front of the Istanbul Courthouse before the hearing, Şaman said that the court had overturned the decision that an environmental impact assessment (EIA) was not required for the Karacaöğüt Yacht Dock project and so she expects the same concerning the timeshare project in Kızılbük. While a report was presented at the hearing that detailed the complainant companies had not lost rights or money, they repeated the claim that Şaman's actions were injurious to them. Şaman's lawyer argued that the Muğla Administrative Court had annulled the ruling that an EIA was not required. They further stated that there were reports confirming that the national park and the coastline had been expropriated, which confirmed Şaman's statements.

MARCH 14

- In a statement given to the Sabah newspaper concerning Osman Kavala, Minister of

Interior Affairs Süleyman Soylu said, “Those who want Kavala released through abuse of the law are the murderers of children in Ukraine and Syria.”

- Physicians who are members of the Istanbul Medical Chamber of the Turkish Medical Association (TTB) met in Taksim Square to lay a wreath at the Monument of the Republic on the occasion of the March 14 Medicine Day. The doctors had said they would make a press statement after the wreath-laying ceremony, but police had cordoned off the area with barricades and did not let them enter. The police said they could not enter because it is forbidden to make press statements in the square and that only those who will lay a wreath and nothing more could enter. Police ultimately attacked the doctors, knocking Dr. Erdinç Köksal, 89, to the ground.

MARCH 16

- Many women, including Rosa Women’s Association President Adalet Kaya, Sur Municipality Co-Mayor Filiz Buluttekin—who by decree had been removed from her position and replaced by a trustee—and Healthcare and Social Service Workers’ Union Amed branch Secretary Fatma Yıldızhan were taken into custody in an early morning police operation in Diyarbakır. Local sources claim the grounds for the order to take the 24 women into custody were activities that took place on March 8.

- The fourth hearing of the case filed against 15 environmental activists for opposing the drilling for the mining operation planned for the hazelnut orchards in the village of Üçpınar in Ünye, Ordu, on October 28, 2020, was held at the Ünye 3rd Court of First Instance. In the indictment, the prosecutor demanded a penalty for the crimes of damaging property, non-compliance with the law, provocation and failure to perform duties. The court gave the defendants time for their written defense and adjourned the case to March 23, 2022.

MARCH 17

- The Counterterrorism Department of the General Directorate of Security announced that it filed a criminal complaint against Turkish Medical Association (TTB) Chair Şebnem Korur Fincancı, who participated in a YouTube broadcast organized by Erkam Tufan Aytav. Fincancı responded to the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) Chairman Devlet Bahçeli’s targeting of the TTB, as well as to the pro-government media, saying, “The mainstream, pro-government media doesn’t see any of our claims and acts as if the TTB does nothing, yet immediately saw the ambiguous criminal complaint that a crime had been committed in the broadcast I participated

in on YouTube. Did you call and we didn't answer? We would talk with any journalist who calls. I'm not a censor. Look at yourself!"

- The Constitutional Court annulled the State Supervisory Board's (DDK) authority to suspend officials of all levels and ranks in institutions while inspecting associations, ruling that it is unconstitutional. The court stressed that the right to establish associations is regulated in the Constitution and thus a decree on individual rights cannot be issued.

MARCH 18

- The court formally arrested seven of the women who were taken into custody in the police operations in Diyarbakır on March 16–17, while eight of them were released on condition of judicial control. Among the women who were referred to the courthouse, Yıldız Kardeş was released by order of the prosecutor's office while Rosa Women's Association President Adalet Kaya, Directors Fatma Gültekin and Nevin Oyman, Tüm Bel-Sen branch Co-Chair Nihal Yanık, Eğitim-Sen Branch No. 1 Secretary Hatice Efe, Hazal Yıldırım and Mühibet Özcanlı were released under judicial control. The magistrate of the Criminal Court for Peace ruled for the arrests of Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Yenişehir District Co-Chair Remziye Sızıcı, Bismil District Co-Mayor Gülşen Özer—who was removed by decree and replaced with a trustee—Yenişehir Municipal Council member Emine Kaya, Sakine Karadeniz, Fatma Kavmaz, Jale Okkan and Esmâ Efetürk on the charge of membership of a terrorist organization.

MARCH 19

- Eleven more women activists who were taken into custody in a police operation on March 16–17, were taken to the courthouse after giving statements to the police. As was done with the women who were previously detained, the prosecutor's office interrogated the women about why they participated in the November 25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, the activities done in opposition to Turkey's withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention, and the March 8 Women's Day rally. Sur Municipality Co-Mayor Filiz Buluttekin, United Transport Workers' Union (BTS) Branch Women's Secretary Bahar Uluğ, Health and Social Service Workers' Union (SES) Diyarbakır branch Women's Secretary Fatma Yıldızhan and Songül Kapanıcı were among the women referred to the Magistrate of the Criminal Court for Peace with a prosecutorial request that they be formally arrested on the charge of membership to an armed terrorist organization. The other women were released under judicial control. The latest arrest warrants increased the number

of women arrested in the operation to 11.

MARCH 21

- The second hearing of the case against 14 Boğaziçi University students was held at the Istanbul 22nd Criminal Court of First Instance. The students were charged with participating in an unlawful unarmed meeting or demonstration, not immediately dispersing despite a police warning, deprivation of liberty, resisting police, damaging public property, and hijacking or seizure of a transport vehicle for having climbed onto the official car of the university's appointed rector, Naci İnci, during a protest on October 4, 2021. The judge's conduct dominated the hearing. The defense asserted that the trial was not impartial, as the court had taken İnci's testimony without the defense present and they were not allowed to ask him questions due to İnci being a public official, thus the court had failed to fulfill its duty. In protest, they said, "We demand that this hearing not be held, as the conditions are not objective, and that the defendants be released from judicial control because they have been treated unjustly." As the tension in the courtroom increased, the judge asked for one of the defense lawyers to be removed from the courtroom. After a period of discussion, security guards were called in and the judge left the chamber. The security guards demanded that the courtroom be evacuated, but the defense said they would not leave until they received a written request to do so, after which a large team of riot police entered the courtroom. The judge never returned to the hearing and later announced through his private secretary that he had dismissed the students' lawyers, demanded the appointment of new lawyers from the bar association, and demanded that the lawyers be removed from the hall again. The judge also announced that he would issue an arrest warrant for the students who did not appear at the hearing.

- The sixth hearing of the Gezi Trial, which was revisited, took place at the Istanbul 13th High Criminal Court. As it was the first hearing after the prosecutor presented their opinion during the intermission, and since it was expected to be the final hearing where the verdict would be announced, the court decided by majority vote to grant more time for the defense to present their case. The next hearing was postponed to April 22, 2022. During the hearing, it was revealed that favorable statements made by the defendant Yiğit Aksakoğlu in his favor had been concealed in the telephone records cited as evidence in his trial, after being held in custody for 7 months as part of the case. Lawyer Aslı Kazan pointed out that in the records reflected in the case, Aksakoğlu immediately stated "I shouldn't have suggested Ivan," right after proposing Ivan Marovic to give lessons on nonviolent actions to an academician in a phone conversation in 2013. However, during the interrogation and in the indictment,

Aksakoğlu was accused of “attempting to inflame the Gezi protests by bringing Otpor leader Ivan Marovic to Turkey.” Since the audio recordings, which became accessible to lawyers only years after they were added to the case file, were requested by Kazan to be listened to during the hearing, her request was denied.

MARCH 22

- The Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) Chairman Devlet Bahçeli called for the closure of the Turkish Medical Association (TTB) at a group meeting of his party: “They will not prevent Turkey’s rise. They won’t be able to place a stone before us. Members of every profession that serve our nation and country are more than welcome—that can’t be disputed. We can’t prejudge anyone. Our gauges, criteria, our measure of understanding are quite clear. Those who hate Turkey are our opposing front. Those who bang the drum of betrayal, praise terrorist organizations and talk of human rights are baseless. To turn a blind eye to a betrayer is to partner with sin. The separatist organization called the Turkish Medical Association cannot be the representative of Turkish physicians. Our doctors are the primary path to healing. We have nothing bad to say to the Turkish physicians who are worthy of love and respect. But wherever there is malice, the TTB chair and her collaborating directors are there. They are a handful of opponents of the nation and the state. They are those who stand by the PKK (Kurdistan Workers’ Party) and stand with the HDP (Peoples’ Democratic Party). Calling them doctors and remaining silent to the word ‘Turkish’ that precedes ‘Medical Association’ is the most terrible crisis for Turkishness and medicine. Our justified criticism of the TTB concerns the radical enemies of Turkey who have descended upon the organization. Apart from them, our words shouldn’t be taken to reference other physicians and they shouldn’t take offence. The ill-treatment of a specialist sergeant of ours at a hospital in Muğla saddens us. We stand against violence perpetrated against our healthcare workers, but will also stand to the very end against attacks on and harassment of our soldiers. I openly declare—the TTB must be shut down in no uncertain terms.”

MARCH 23

- Third hearing was held in the trial against 33 women members of the Ankara Women’s Platform and LGBTI+ rights advocates who gathered in Kolej Square in Ankara on August 12, 2020, chanting, “The Istanbul Convention keeps us alive” (İstanbul Sözleşmesi yaşatır!), “We are meeting on the chain of life,” and who were detained by the police who attacked them before the protest started. The women were charged with violating Law No. 2911 on Meetings and Demonstrations.

- The fourth hearing was held at the Istanbul 21st Criminal Court of First Instance in the trial against 46 people detained by the police during the 700th weekly gathering of the Saturday Mothers/People on August 25, 2018. They faced charges of violating Law No. 2011 on Meetings and Demonstrations. Those on trial include relatives of people subjected to disappearances, human rights defenders, their supporters and journalists covering the demonstration. The next hearing was set for September 21, 2022.
- The trial against 22 lawyers—members of the Progressive Lawyers' Association (ÇHD) and People's Law Office—for their professional activities, continued at the Istanbul 18th High Criminal Court. Digital evidence that had not been discovered for 20 years entered the case file at the first hearing of the trial and the court ruled to give the Council of Forensic Medicine (ATK) time to report on the new evidence. The court also ruled to continue the detention of lawyers Selçuk Kozağaçlı, Barkın Timtik and Oya Arslan. The next hearing was adjourned to June 1, 2022.
- The final hearing of the trial that lasted more than a year against 15 rights advocates due to their protest against the drilling work for mining planned for the hazelnut orchards in the village of Üçpınar in the Ünye district of Ordu on October 28, 2020, was held at the Ünye 3rd Criminal Court of First Instance. The court ruled to acquit each defendant separately on all charges.

MARCH 28

- The Eskişehir 2nd Juvenile Court announced its reasoned decision in the trial of two minors detained during the 1st Eskişehir Pride March held on June 30, 2021. The court emphasized the right to organize meetings and demonstrations as upheld in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of the UN, ECtHR rulings, and the Constitution of the Republic of Turkey, and that the parade in question was within the limits of democratic activities. The court had earlier acquitted the minors at the hearing held on February 3, 2022.

MARCH 30

- Tarık Güneş, the former head of the Human Rights Association (İHD) Muş branch who was arrested after being detained in Muş on February 1 and accused of “membership of a terrorist organization” and “making propaganda for a terrorist organization” was released at the first hearing held at the Muş High Criminal Court. The trial was then adjourned to June 22, 2022.

- Five people, including the chairman of the Electricity, Gas, Water, Dam Workers' Union (Enerji-Sen), Süleyman Keskin, and the founding chairman, Kamil Kartal, were detained in a police action on members of Enerji-Sen who started a sit-in in front of Başkent EnerjiSA for the reinstatement of workers who had been dismissed and in protest of the pressure put on workers. Those detained were released later the same day.

MARCH 31

- Minister of Interior Affairs Süleyman Soylu targeted LGBTI+ associations and civil society in general when he said, "Presenting the concept of genderlessness, LGBT-ism, FETÖ-ism, Kuytul-ism, PKK-ism, DHKP-C-ism—most of them develop within civil society. Each of their origins is foreign. The origins of those who try to disrupt the unity of this country and erode its values are foreign. We don't have such harmful habits here. All of them have their origins outside [the country]."

- Three people who were detained in the violent police action on the 29th Istanbul Pride March on June 26, 2021, were tried at the Istanbul 14th Criminal Court of First Instance on the charge of violating Law No. 2911 on Meetings and Demonstration and were acquitted at the first hearing.

- Chamber of Architects Ankara branch President Tezcan Karakuş Candan and board members Ece Yoltay, Mustafa Özgür Bayramoğlu, Muteber Osmanpaşaoğlu, Nihal Evirgen Kabal, Tuğba Arslan Konak and Ünal Kara were charged with making propaganda for a terrorist organization. The justification for the charge in the indictment was the press award in memory of architect Emre Madran, who died in 2013, given to Jin TV reporter Güler Yıldız Bastion. The indictment of the directors of the Chamber of Architects, which demanded a prison sentence of one to five years, was sent to the Ankara 25th High Criminal Court.

MEDIA MONITORING

The political agenda in March also shaped the portrayal of rights defenders in the pro-government media. Osman Kavala, Şebnem Korur Fincancı and the Turkish Medical Association (TTB) were the top targets of the defamation.

The meeting on the first day of the month of the six-party alliance if the Republican People's Party (CHP), İyi (Good)

Party, Future (Gelecek) Party, DEVA (Democracy and Progress) Party, Saadet (Felicity) Party and Democrat Party, after which they announced their memorandum of understanding, led to further targeted attacks on Osman Kavala. Identical attacks were made by multiple media outlets due to the alliance's pledge to release those who, like Osman Kavala, had been deprived of their right to a fair trial and their freedom. Similar attacks occurred after CHP Chairman Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu expressed the same pledge while in Diyarbakır. News programs smeared Kavala as the financier of the Gezi Park protests, an agent of influence and the "Turkish arm of Soros," all couched in references to Kavala being a terrorist.

The increased frequency and severity of the smear campaigns against the TTB and Şebnem Korur Fincancı were based on her and the TTB's criticism of city hospitals, the publications she had been a part of, and her previous statements and social media posts. For example, one headline after Fincancı's criticism of the marketization of health services at city hospitals and it being shameful was "This nation is actually ashamed of you!" News referred to Fincancı as a "so-called physician," claimed she supported the PKK (Kurdistan Workers' Party) and FETÖ (Fethullahist Terrorist Organization) and opposed the Turkish Armed Forces, using social media posts of hers from 2012 as fodder for the smear campaign.

Fincancı was also demonized for the YouTube broadcast she participated in, with the claim that the person who ran the channel on which the program was broadcast was a fugitive member of FETÖ. After Fincancı's views on the Armenian Genocide were brought up out of context and distorted, it was implied that she was anti-Turkey. In addition, after the YouTube broadcast in question, a spurious campaign to close the TTB was launched and pro-government news reported that thousands of people participated in the campaign.

APRIL

APRIL 1

- The Amed Health Platform planned to organize a commemoration event in front of Diyarbakir Selahaddin Eyyubi State Hospital to commemorate the healthcare workers who died due to Covid-19 on April 1. The event was held up when the Diyarbakır Governorate issued a 10-day ban on events in the city.

APRIL 3

- The Şırnak Governorate suspended the Family Medicine License of Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TİHV) Cizre representative Dr. Serdar Küni for two months. The governor's office cited a lawsuit filed against Küni in 2015 as justification for the suspension.

APRIL 6

- The first hearing of the case brought against eight trade union members, including Health and Social Service Workers' Union (SES) Co-Chair Selma Atabey and members of its Central Executive Board, was held at the Ankara 22nd High Criminal Court. The court ruled to continue the detention of former Co-Chair Gönül Erden and for the secret and public witnesses who formed the basis of the indictment to give testimony at the next hearing.

- The Istanbul 18th Civil Court of First Instance deliberated the interim injunction regarding the suspension of activities of the Tarla başı Community Center (TTM). The court ruled in favor of the TTM and lifted the injunction.

APRIL 12

- The Diyarbakır Network Against Violence made a statement at the Human Rights Association (İHD) Diyarbakır branch on the rights violations of 24 women detained and taken into custody on March 16. During the operation, police did not inform the women of the reasons for their detention, woke up their sleeping children, deliberately ransacked some houses and did not leave their bedrooms while the women being detained got dressed. Blood was drawn from the women without their consent and without them being told the reason, and the women were kept in filthy solitary cells. The police forced their interrogations without the presence of a lawyer and under

psychological pressure.

- Ninety-one people were detained in connection to the Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office's Kobanê investigation. Lawyer and İHD Central Executive Board member Metin Kılavuz was one of the 48 people detained in the simultaneous police operations in 13 provinces. The Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office made a statement in which it said the detentions were based on accusations of opposition to Law No. 6415 on the Prevention of the Financing of Terrorism and membership to an armed terrorist organization.

APRIL 13

- Upon request from the Associations Desk and the Istanbul Governor's Office, the Istanbul Public Prosecutor's Office filed a closure case against the We Will Stop Femicide Platform Association (KCDP) on the charge of conducting illegal and immoral activities.

- Melih Bulu attempted to shut down the Boğaziçi LGBTI+ Studies Club after he was appointed rector of Boğaziçi University on January 2, 2021. The club then filed a request for a stay of execution of Bulu's decision to close the group on February 1, 2021, having been targeted during the protests against Bulu's appointment. The Istanbul 11th Administrative Court ruled against Bulu's order to close the club.

APRIL 14

- The 27th Criminal Chamber of the Istanbul Regional Court of First Instance upheld the prison sentences of 20 years and 10 months handed down in the main Özgür Gündem case to the newspaper's licensee Kemal Sancılı, Editor-in-Chief İnan Kızılkaya, Executive Editor Zana Kaya and Eren Keskin. At the hearing held at the Istanbul 23rd High Criminal Court on February 15, 2021, Kemal Sancılı, İnan Kızılkaya and Eren Keskin were sentenced to six years and three months on the charge of membership of a terrorist organization and Zana Kaya was sentenced to one year and 13 months on the charge of making propaganda for a terrorist organization.

- The first hearing of the declaration of nullity case filed against the Tarlabası Community Center (TTM) was held at the Istanbul 8th Civil Court of Peace. Before the hearing, rights advocates made a press statement in front of the Istanbul Courthouse in Çağlayan. The joint statement from 91 rights organizations in part said, "We stand by the Tarlabası Community Support Association" and praised its

existence. The court gave two weeks for the Ministry of Family and Social Services to submit an intervention petition and supporting materials, the defense to submit the association's records and for the evidence to be submitted to the case file. The trial was then adjourned to September 29, 2022.

- Human Rights Representative of the Council of Europe Dunja Mijatović shared with the public the opinion presented by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe concerning the infringement proceedings initiated against Turkey regarding the Turkish government's failure to implement the ECtHR's ruling to release Osman Kavala. Mijatović stressed that calls from senior government officials to not release Kavala run counter to the presumption of innocence and the independence of the judiciary, and asserted that the Turkish government continues Kavala's detention "in order to intimidate human rights defenders in Turkey."

APRIL 15

- The first hearing was held in trial at the Izmir 49th Criminal Court of First Instance against six of the 51 people, including lawyers, human rights defenders Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TİHV) employee Aytül Uçar, who were beaten and detained in the police action taken against the multi-institution press statement held in Alsancak, Izmir, on February 3, 2021, in support of Boğaziçi University students' protests. The defendants faced charges of resisting police, not immediately dispersing despite a warning of participating in unarmed illegal unarmed meeting or demonstration, and insulting a public official. One of the complainant police officers withdrew his complaint at the hearing. The court then adjourned to June 24, 2022.

APRIL 16

- It became public that the assets of 91 people were seized as part of the Kobanê investigation in which Human Rights Association (İHD) Central Executive Board member Metin Kılavuz was detained. It was also announced that the period of detention of 48 people detained in the operation held simultaneously in 13 provinces had been extended by four days.

APRIL 18

- A report, dated June 23, 2017, prepared by two civil servants and a chief inspector of the police assigned by the Ministry of Interior Affairs and General Directorate of Security regarding the assassination of then Diyarbakır Bar Association President

Tahir Elçi on November 28, 2015, was sent to the Diyarbakır 10th High Criminal Court, where the case was heard. It is noteworthy that the report was added to the case file seven years after the murder and five years after it was prepared. The report claimed that Elçi died not as a result of a premeditated action but by a bullet whose origin is unknown and thus concluded that there was no need for a preliminary investigation or disciplinary investigation of the police officers of the Diyarbakır Police Department, since there was no weakness in security. The Elçi family's lawyers argued that the report was not objective and that the police officers had been negligent in their killing of Tahir Elçi—even if they did not have the intention to kill him—and that the police clearly misused their duty, this the report should be considered inadmissible and they would raise an objection to it.

APRIL 19

- Another hearing was held in the trial at the Ankara 19th High Criminal Court against Human Rights Association (İHD) Co-Chair Öztürk Türkdoğan on the charge of membership to an armed terrorist organization. Having submitted its opinion on the merits of the case, the prosecution recommended acquittal on the grounds that there was no definitive or sufficient evidence that Türkdoğan had acted within the hierarchy of any terrorist organization. The court also ruled to acquit Türkdoğan in line with the prosecutor's opinion and decided to lift the judicial control without waiting for the finalization of the verdict.
- The first hearing of the trial against İHD Ankara branch Co-Chair Fatin Kanat on charges of making propaganda for a terrorist organization was held at the Ankara 25th High Criminal Court. The accusation against Kanat is based on nine press releases made by the Freedom for Sick Prisoners Initiative in 2019, and a 2018 press release by the Justice for Roboski Initiative. The next hearing was set for September 6, 2022.

APRIL 20

- The president of the Mersin Bar Association, Gazi Özdemir, announced that an investigation had been launched into 22 lawyers who attempted to make a statement in front of the Mersin Courthouse on February 18, 2022, on allegations of violation of Law No. 2911 on Meetings and Demonstrations, resisting police, and obstructing the activities of public institutions or professional organizations. The president of the Union of Turkish Bar Associations (TBB), Erinç Sağkan, was in attendance in support of Özdemir as he made the statement in front of the Mersin Courthouse, and called for the investigation to be dropped, as it had been initiated unlawfully. On February 18,

police had prevented the group of lawyers from making a press statement at the courthouse, which led to a brawl, resulting in nine lawyers receiving assault reports.

APRIL 21

- The Constitutional Court gave its verdict on the appeal of the administrative fine imposed on Construction Workers' Union Chairman Mehmet Avcı for having hung a banner that read: "Free the Protesting Workers and Union Directors Arrested at the 3rd Airport," which was deemed to have disturbed the environment. The banner was hung during a demonstration calling for the release of workers who had been detained during a protest in commemoration of the workers who had died due to the poor and unsafe working conditions at the Istanbul Airport. The court ruled that the fine was a violation of rights pursuant to the Misdemeanor Law, more specifically that it was a violation of the principle of the legality of crime and penalties as guaranteed in Article 38 of the Constitution. It then sent its ruling to the magistrate of the Istanbul Anatolian 2nd Criminal Court of Peace for retrial in order to resolve the consequences of the rights violation.

APRIL 24

- Eighteen of the 48 people detained as part of the Kobanê investigation on April 12 were arrested while the others were released on judicial control. One of those released, Human Rights Association (İHD) Central Executive Board member Metin Kılavuz said in the press statement made at the İHD Ankara branch that he had experienced the same type of investigation in Diyarbakır before and that it had been dismissed due to lack of grounds for legal action. İHD Co-Chair Öztürk Türkdoğan also drew attention to the fact that the investigating prosecutor requested arrest despite the investigations into Kılavuz in both 2012 and 2019 having been dropped due to lack of grounds for prosecution.

APRIL 25

- The final hearing of the reopened Gazi Park case was held at the Istanbul 13th High Criminal Court over two sessions on Friday, April 22, and Monday, April 25. At the hearing, Evren İşler, the defense lawyer for Can Atalay, Mücella Yapıcı, and Tayfun Kahraman and Evren İşler, drew attention to the fact that Murat Bircan, who was a member of the panel of judges presiding over the case, was an AKP parliamentary candidate for Samsun. In her defense, İşler reminded the court that the police officers, prosecutors and judges who produced the police investigation report were

arrested for doctoring evidence—the same evidence on which the trial against her clients was based. The court adjourned for an hour to make its ruling following the lawyers' statements on the merits of the case, and the defense and defendants' final statements. Upon its return, the panel of judges announced its verdict, acquitting Osman Kavala, who had been imprisoned since November 7, 2017, of the charge of espionage. However, the court found Kavala guilty of “attempting to overthrow the government of the Republic of Turkey or impeding its duty” and sentenced him to aggravated life imprisonment. The court convicted defendants Ali Hakan Altınay, Can Atalay, Çiğdem Mater, Mine Özerden, Mücella Yapıcı, Tayfun Kahraman and Yiğit Ali Ekmekçi of “aiding an attempt to overthrow the government through use of force and violence,” and sentenced each to 18 years in prison. Having been tried without detention throughout the trial, they were then formally arrested. After the court announced its verdict, boos and jeers filled the chamber from the gallery. Can Atalay then stood on his chair, turned to the gallery and said, “Know this. We will not surrender to oppression. We will resist oppression. We will not accept any procedure counter to law.”

APRIL 26

- The second hearing of the 1st Eskişehir Pride March case was held at the Eskişehir 8th Criminal Court of First Instance. Before the hearing, the Eskişehir Pride Week Committee gave information about the hearing and called for solidarity. The committee said that whereas the 15-day ban on events, which was cited as the justification for preventing the parade, was shown to the defendants while in detention, it was not published on the Eskişehir Governorate's website; that the pride flag was considered a terrorist symbol in the indictment; and that one of the students was expelled from the KYK dormitory where they lived while three students had their scholarships revoked. The court acquitted all the defendants on all the charges.

APRIL 28

- The case against the previous term board members of the Istanbul Medical Chamber was initiated due to the disciplinary investigation they opened against Kocaeli University Rector Sadettin Hülagü. The press statement given in front of the courthouse said, “This lawsuit, which was opened on the basis of an investigation carried out within on our powers and responsibilities outlined in the Constitution and legislation, is one of the indicators of the antidemocratic political environment in our country and targets the independence of our professional organization.” The court set the next hearing for October 4, 2022.

APRIL 29

- Before May 1 Labor and Solidarity Day, the directors of the Leather, Weaving and Textile Workers' Union (Deriteks), who were distributing leaflets in front of a factory, were beaten in front of Deapar Group Shoes and restrained.

MEDIA MONITORING

The pro-government media continued to attempt to defame the rights defenders who were detained, prosecuted or impeded in various ways throughout the month of April, many of whom had been on the receiving end of media defamation before.

The pro-government media continued to target the Turkish Medical Association (TTB), Şebnem Korur Fincancı and Osman Kavala, who had been in prison since November 1, 2017. Further emphasis was placed on the Tarlabaşı Community Center (TTM)—which had a closure case filed against it—Şırnak Medical Chamber President Serdar Küni, and the We Will Stop Femicide Platform Association (KCDP), against which a closure case had been filed.

The pro-government media carried out a smear campaign against the TTM, which opened in 2006 in order to establish safe spaces where children and women can meet in Tarlabaşı, Istanbul, and to protect the rights of all children and women who are disadvantaged and discriminated against. Attacks in many media outlets called for the shuttering of the association and repeated the others' allegations, with unfounded claims including that the association was deviant, that it made terrorist propaganda, defamed historical figures, abused the children and forcibly changed children's the sexual orientation.

The suspension of Serdar Küni's Family Medicine License was met with enthusiasm in some media outlets. In addition, some media tried to create a perception that Küni treated members of terrorist organizations and that he received the prison sentence he did because of this.

News stories on We Will Stop Femicide Platform Association (KCDP) evoked the first two examples. The Association's activities and objectives were misrepresented while the lawsuit demanding its closure was characterized as a positive development.

MAY

MAY 1

- The police violently attacked members of the Warehouse, Port, Shipyard and Marine Workers' Union (DGD-Sen); Hope Workers' Union (Umut-Sen); and Independent Mining Workers' Union members as they attempted to make their way from Beşiktaş to Taksim on the occasion of May 1 Labor and Solidarity Day. Numerous people were detained.

MAY 5

- The “European Parliament resolution of 5 May 2022 on the case of Osman Kavala in Turkey” was adopted by a large majority—483 votes in favor, 79 against and 27 abstentions—at a plenary session of the European Parliament in Strasbourg. The resolution condemns Turkey for refusing to implement the ECtHR's ruling on December 10, 2019, to release Osman Kavala and asserted that the Turkish government knowingly and willingly terminated its EU accession process. Speaking in parliament, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell condemned the aggravated life sentences Turkish courts handed down to Osman Kavala and other defendants in the Gezi Park trial and said the intense politicization of the case raised serious concerns while also being a new example that shows that the Turkish judiciary is not systematically independent.

MAY 9

THE COURT LIFTS BARRIERS TO RECORDING

The Journalists' Union of Turkey (TGS) announced that the implementation of the memorandum that prevented audio and video recording of the police in public areas had been halted.

The TSG filed a lawsuit in opposition to the memorandum concerning the audio and visual recording of police published on April 27, 2021. The Ministry of Internal Affairs and the General Directorate of Security objected to the 10th Chamber of the Council of State's decision for a stay of execution on September 15, 2021. The TGS announced that the Administrative Litigation

Chambers of the Council of State dismissed the objections to the ruling.

The memorandum, published before May 1, 2021, received an intense public reaction, as it aimed to prevent people from taking videos with their mobile phones in public.

- The Eskişehir Governorate announced that it had banned all mass events in the city planned for May 10–25, 2022, on the grounds of “ensuring peace, public order and safety; preventing crime; protecting the rights and freedoms of others; protecting general public order; and preventing the spread of violence.”

- In a written statement, the Adana Provincial Police Department announced that all press conferences, marches and meetings, including in parks, green areas and public buildings were prohibited throughout the city from May 9 to May 24, 2022.

MAY 10

- The Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK) fined TV stations KRT, TELE-1, Halk TV and Flash Haber for airing Republican People’s Party (CHP) Group Deputy Chairman Özgür Özel and Turkish Workers Party (TİP) MP Ahmet Şık’s statements after the Gezi Park case ruling on the accusations of insulting and humiliating the government.

MAY 11

- The first hearing of the case against Human Rights Association (İHD) Co-Chair Öztürk Türkođan for the content of the statement on the association’s website published on June 29, 2018, titled “Mandatory Statement Concerning Minister of Internal Affairs Süleyman Soylu,” was held at the Ankara 60th Criminal Court of First Instance. The indictment claimed that the content constituted a crime against Soylu. Türkođan said, “Our comments are to remind people of and criticize the minister’s statements. It is Soylu who should be on trial here.” The prosecution demanded Türkođan be found guilty of the crime of insult as regulated by Article 125/3 of the TCK for allegedly “insulting Soylu’s honor and dignity.” The next hearing was set for June 27, 2022.

MAY 13

- The second hearing of the trial against 18 people who were detained in the protest in Izmir on August 5, 2020, against Turkey's withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention, was held at the Izmir 44th Criminal Court of First Instance. The court ruled that the defendants, whose statements had not been taken, be brought to the next hearing and refused the defense's motion for acquittal.

- The trial involving six separate cases against 19 people detained while participating in the 19th Istanbul LGBTI+ Pride March on June 26, 2021, began at the Istanbul 60th Criminal Court of First Instance. Before the hearing, police prevented a press statement from being made in front of the Istanbul Courthouse in Çağlayan.

- The first hearing of the case against rights advocates Emine Akbaba, İrem Çelikbaş and Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TİHV) employee Aytül Uçar on charges of insulting the president was held at the Izmir 41st Criminal Court of First Instance. The defendants had been detained by police while making a press statement in Alsancak, Izmir, on February 3, 2021, in support of the Boğaziçi University student protests. The court accepted the request from President Erdoğan to participate in the case due to "the possibility that he was harmed by the crime," requested the indictment of the case filed at the Izmir 49th Criminal Court of First Instance against six people—including three who were tried in the case—and requested the camera footage from the detention vehicle on the day of the incident.

MAY 15

- Human Rights Association (İHD) Hakkari branch Co-Chair Yusuf Çobanoğlu received an anonymous phone call threatening his life, being told, "We will wipe you out and people like you. We will round up all the members of the organization like you. We got a report on you from the top. Any day now."

- İHD Central Executive Board member Metin Kılavuz, who was detained in April 2022 as part of the Kobanê investigation conducted by the Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office and released after being held for 12 days, was detained again in Diyarbakır within the same investigation along with a former co-chair of the Democratic Regions Party (DBP), Hafize İpek. Both were referred to the court on May 17, and were subsequently released.

MAY 16

- The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) decided to send two rapporteurs to Turkey to make contacts and conduct investigations in Istanbul and Ankara from May 18 to May 20, 2022. The rapporteurs were to hold talks concerning the political audit that PACE had been conducting since 2017 and the trial against Osman Kavala.
- Thirteen of the 24 women rights defenders who were detained in the police raids on their homes in Diyarbakır on March 16, were released pending trial. The remaining 11 women, Jale Okkan, Emine Kaya, Sakine Karadeniz, Fatma Kavmaz, Remziye Sızıcı, Gülşen Özer, Esmâ Efetürk, Feyme Filiz Buluttekin, Bahar Karakaş Uluğ, Songül Kapancı and Fatma Yıldızhan, remain in prison pending trial. Civil society organizations wrote a letter to the Special Procedures of the UN Human Rights Council, requesting that the issue be dealt with promptly in order for the necessary steps to be taken concerning the government of Turkey. The letter was co-signed by the Turkey Human Rights Litigation Support Project (TLSP), Association for Monitoring Equal Rights (AMER), Civil Rights Defenders, Foundation for Society and Legal Studies (TOHAV), Human Rights Agenda Association (İHGD), Life Memory Freedom Association (Yaşam Bellek Özgürlük Derneği), London Legal Group, Media and Law Studies Association (MLSA), Research Institute on Turkey (RIT), and the Truth Justice Memory Center (Hafıza Merkezi).

MAY 17

- Police detained Hanife Yıldız, one of the Saturday Mothers/People, who gave a press statement in front of the Istanbul Courthouse in Çağlayan on the first day of the International Week of the Disappeared, held every year between May 17–31. The reason for her detention was cited as her referring to Minister of Internal Affairs Süleyman Soylu as “Fancy Sülo” in her statement. Yıldız gave a statement to the police and was later released.

MAY 18

- The closure case filed against the Tarlaşaşı Community Center (TTM) on allegations that it operated contrary to law and morality began at the Istanbul 18th Civil Court of First Instance. The court decided to issue a writ to the Istanbul Police Department and Istanbul Governorate inquiring as to whether there was an investigation into the association. It also ruled that it would evaluate the Ministry of Internal Affairs and

Ministry of Family and Social Services' requests for involvement in the case at a later date. The next hearing was set for November 2, 2022.

MAY 19

- Seventy people were detained in the police action on the Pride March organized by the Boğaziçi University LGBTI+ Studies Club, which was shuttered by Boğaziçi University Rector Melih Bulu, who was appointed by President Erdoğan on February 1, 2021. A student became faint during the police action and was taken to a hospital.

MAY 22

- The Istanbul Governorate banned the picnic the Federation of Dersim Associations (DEDEF) was to hold in Aydos Forest. In response, the DEDEF released a statement that said, "The Dersim People's Unity and Solidarity Picnic, which we have held as a tradition for 32 years, was banned on arbitrary pretexts by the Istanbul Governorate 24 hours before the event was to take place."

MAY 24

- The Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance levied a fine of 12,500 Turkish liras on both Eren Keskin and Reyhan Çapan, the executive editor and managing editor of the newspaper Özgür Gündem, which had been shut down by decree in 2016. Keskin and Çapan had been charged with "publishing details that could reveal the identities of perpetrators or victims of crimes who are under the age of 18." The article in question in the case concerned Berkin Elvan, 14, who was killed when a tear gas canister fired by the police struck him in the head during the Gezi Park protests. The Press Crimes Investigation Bureau of the Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutors Office issued five separate indictments against five articles published in Özgür Gündem in 2013 and 2014 on the grounds that they revealed Elvan's identity. The indictments were later combined into a single case file and the trial was held at the Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance. The 19th Penal Chamber of the Supreme Court of Appeals found the judicial fines of 10,416 Turkish liras given on March 7, 2019, to be insufficient and sent the case to the local court for retrial.

- The Ministry of Internal Affairs amended the Regulation on the Implementation of the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations. According to the amendment made in line with the decision made by the 10th Chamber of the Council of State in 2020, the phrase, "will not complicate citizens' daily lives," in Article 3, Paragraph 1, Subparagraph

(a) of the regulation, which regulates the determination of meeting and demonstration routes, was changed to “will not make citizens’ daily lives excessively and unduly difficult.” The amendment entered into force after being published in the Official Gazette.

MAY 25

- A police action against Enerji-Sen’s sit-in protest in front of the Sabancı Center resulted in the detention of seven people, including Enerji-Sen Chairman Süleyman Keskin and founding Chairman Kamil Kartal.
- The ongoing compensation case Sinpaş GYO (Sinpaş Real Estate Investment Trust) filed against environmental activist Halime Şaman continued at the Istanbul 5th Commercial Court of First Instance with an e-hearing. Şaman’s lawyer, Arzu Alper, requested case be dismissed on the grounds that no evidence was presented regarding loss of reputation or profit of the plaintiff, that the documents submitted by the prosecution showed an increase in the company’s stock sales on the Istanbul Stock Exchange, and that the defendant’s statements were protected under freedom of expression. The next hearing was set for September 8, 2022. Traveling back and forth between Marmaris and Istanbul for every hearing also imposed an extra financial burden on Şaman.

MAY 26

- The trial began against the previous term chairman of the Van-Hakkari Medical Chamber, Dr. Hüseyin Yaviç, and Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TİHV) representative Sevim Çiçek on charges of violating Law No. 2911 on Meetings and Demonstrations on the grounds that they participated in the press statement intended to be held in Van on October 25, 2021, regarding the death of Dr. Rümeyza Berin Şen, who was killed in a traffic accident. After the defense gave its statement, the court adjourned the next hearing to October 18 2022, in order for experts to examine the camera footage in the case file in detail.

MAY 28

- Documentary producer Mine Özerden, who was arrested and sentenced to 18 years in prison at the end of the Gezi Park trial, was allowed to attend the funeral of her father, Ahmet Yalkın Özerden, accompanied by many gendarmes. Those who wanted to give their condolences to Özerden were told to keep their distance and do so from afar.

MAY

MAY 30

AWARD FOR THE GEZİ PARK DEFENDANTS

The winners of the 2022 Ali İsmail Korkmaz Life Award, organized by the Ali İsmail Korkmaz Foundation together with the Confederation of Public Employees' Unions (KESK), Confederation of Revolutionary Trade Unions of Turkey (DİSK), Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects (TMMOB) and the Eskişehir Medical Chamber (EBTÖ), were named as Osman Kavala, Mücella Yapıcı, Can Atalay, Tayfun Kahraman, Çiğdem Mater, Mine Özerden, Ali Hakan Altınay and Yiğit Ali Ekmeççi, who were sentenced to prison at the conclusion of the Gezi Park trial.

MAY 31

- The ECtHR announced its judgment regarding the case filed by Taner Kılıç, the former chairman of the board of Amnesty International, who was arrested in 2017. The judgment determined that Kılıç's detention in 2017–2018 was a violation of his rights to personal liberty and security (Articles 5/1, 5/3 and 5/5 of the ECHR) and freedom of expression (Article 10). Following the ECtHR decision, Amnesty International called on Turkey to overturn Kılıç's conviction.
- The police intervened against those gathered in front of the Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects (TMMOB) building in Beyoğlu, Istanbul, with the intent of marching up İstiklal Avenue, an event organized by Taksim Solidarity on the occasion of the ninth anniversary of the Gezi Park protests. Police shot tear gas and detained 170 people. Four people were also detained at the anniversary march in Izmir.

MEDIA MONITORING

Apart from the news following the police violence experienced by union representatives attempting to go to Taksim Square on May 1 Labor and Solidarity Day, the pro-government media systematically targeted the defendants in the Gezi Park trial and the Tarlabası Community Center (TTM) throughout May 2022 with remarkable intensity.

Mücella Yapıcı was accused of agitating after she conveyed the problems she witnessed to Republican People's Party (CHP) MP Mahmut Tanal when he visited her in prison. The pro-government media characterized Yapıcı as "crying" about the problems in the prison that she identified and told Tanal. In a social media post after she visited Yapıcı in prison, Eren Keskin spoke of Yapıcı's observation that the Bakırköy Women's Closed Prison in which she was being held was not ready for a possible earthquake. Yapıcı, herself an architect, said, "If there's an earthquake, how will the locks on the cells be opened? Prisons must switch from the door lock system to the remote unlocking system, otherwise a lot of people will die in an earthquake."

News of the appeal of the prison sentences of eight people in the Gezi Park trial was similarly filled with distorted facts and targeting. Even a simple legal process such as appealing a sentence was instrumentalized to attack civil society organizations defending LGBTI+ rights. News pieces demanded the closure of these organizations, which they alleged Osman Kavala funded, referred to LGBTI+ individuals as "LGBTI+ members" as if they belonged to some sort of organization in order to create a perception of LGBTI+ people as forming some kind of illegal organization or carriers of a contagious disease.

The pro-AKP and nationalist media followed the same talking points concerning the closure case against the TTM, which opened on May 18. Six different media outlets used similar offensive language for the association and its activities in their reports. One, however, was particularly striking. After drawing attention to the large participation in the press statement made by human rights defenders before the trial, the report criticized indifference of religious people to the case, assuming they were in the opposite camp, using language that exceeded the bounds of professional ethics and even bordered on being unlawful.

JUNE

JUNE 1

- The trial of the closure case against the We Will Stop Femicide Platform Association (KCDP), which was accused of immoral activities, opened at the Istanbul 13th Criminal Court of First Instance. Before the trial, many women and women's organizations met in front of Istanbul's Çağlayan Courthouse in support of the KCDP.
- The trial of 22 lawyers—members of the Contemporary Lawyers Association (ÇHD) and People's Law Office—having been charged in connection to their professional activities, continued at the Istanbul 18th High Criminal Court. The board of judges decided to continue the detention of lawyers Selçuk Kozağaçlı, Barkın Timtik and Oya Aslan. The next hearing was set for September 7, 2022.

JUNE 3

- Police detained 22 people in an operation against the Migration Monitoring Association (GÖÇİZDER). The justification for the police operation included the claim: "It has been determined that the association uses funds procured from the EU and UN in organizational activities, such as preparing publications and seminars that are propaganda for the organization, and that resources obtained through fraudulent and/or contrived legal proceedings are spent in line with the organization's goals and objectives."
- The police conducted a morning raid of the house in Diyarbakır of Dicle Müftüoğlu, a co-chair of the Dicle Fırat Journalists Association (DFG) and an editor at the Mesopotamia Agency. The police searched the house and found no one home, after which they summoned Müftüoğlu to the police station to give a statement. The police detained her upon her arrival at the Diyarbakır Provincial Security Directorate. It was later revealed that she had been detained in connection with an investigation initiated by the Van Chief Public Prosecutor's Office into funding a terrorist organization for sending money to detained correspondents from the agency during her tenure as managing editor of the Dicle News Agency. Müftüoğlu was transferred to the Diyarbakır Courthouse on June 6, 2022. She was later released on condition of judicial control after giving a statement to the Van Public Prosecutor's Office via video link.

JUNE 7

- The court rescinded the administrative fine of 51,730 Turkish liras imposed on Süheyla Doğan, the president of the Kazdağı Natural and Cultural Heritage Preservation Association, that had been imposed by the Edremit District Governorate.
- The rector of Middle East Technical University (ODTÜ) sent an email to students and alumni announcing that the Pride March planned to be held on campus on June 10, 2022, would not be allowed to proceed.
- The Istanbul 13th High Criminal Court announced its detailed ruling in the Gezi Park trial.

JUNE 9

- Following the court's announcement of its detailed ruling in the Gezi Park trial, the defense appealed the ruling and arrest warrants with the Constitutional Court. In the filing, the defense argued that the arrest warrants issued by the Istanbul 13th High Criminal Court for Osman Kavala and the other defendants, Ali Hakan Altınay, Can Atalay, Çiğdem Mater, Mine Özerden, Mücella Yapıcı, Tayfun Kahraman and Yiğit Ali Ekmekçi—who had not been held in detention throughout the trial—violated their right to personal liberty and security, freedom of expression and dissemination, right to organize demonstrations, and freedom of assembly, and that it restricted their physical integrity and freedom. The defense also emphasized that Akın Gürlek—the head of the Istanbul 14th High Criminal Court where the objection to the arrest warrants was made, evaluated and rejected the objection—was appointed deputy minister of justice by presidential decree shortly thereafter and thus could not be an impartial authority.

JUNE 10

- A large number of rapid response police and TOMA (Intervention Vehicle against Social Incidents) water cannons were sent to the ODTÜ campus in Ankara due to the 10th ODTÜ Pride March organized by ODTÜ LGBTİQAA+ Solidarity attempting to proceed despite the ban imposed by the rector. The police attacked the parade, shot tear gas and rubber bullets, and beat and detained many students. Sixteen students were detained in total.

JUNE 11

- Twenty-two people, including Migration Monitoring Association (GÖÇİZDER) Co-Chairs Kamile Kandal and Mehmet Boğakan, who were detained on June 3 in connection with an investigation by the Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor's Office and detained for eight days, were transferred to Istanbul's Çağlayan Courthouse. Six people were released on condition of judicial control after being interrogated at the Criminal Court of Peace, while the remaining 16 people, including Bilal Yıldız who is a social worker at the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TİHV) Istanbul office, were arrested on charges of membership of a terrorist organization.

JUNE 14

- A hearing was held at the Istanbul 13th High Criminal Court in the trial against Turkish Medical Association (TTB) Central Council Chair Şebnem Korur Financı, Reporters Without Borders Turkey representative Erol Önderoğlu, and journalist and writer Ahmet Nesin, all of whom had participated in the Editors-in-Chief on Watch campaign launched in solidarity with the newspaper Özgür Gündem. The court adjourned, with the next hearing set for October 18, 2022, ruling to wait for a response to its request for Ahmet Nesin to provide a rogatory statement from abroad.

- The case against Elif Tirenç İpek Ulaş, a member of the Rosa Women's Association Board of Directors, on the charge of membership to an armed terrorist organization continued at the Diyarbakır 8th High Criminal Court. At the hearing, the presiding judge brought up the fact that another investigation into Ulaş by the Diyarbakır Chief Public Prosecutor's Office resulted in a decision of non-prosecution. The court decided to issue a writ regarding the Chief Public Prosecutor's decision of non-prosecution to the Criminal Court of Peace as to whether it would be reversed or not. If the decision of non-prosecution was to be annulled and an indictment issued, then the two cases would be combined. Ulaş's lawyers pointed out that the opinion was given three months before and objected to waiting for the reevaluation of the decision of non-prosecution. The next hearing was set for September 22, 2022.

JUNE 15

- Members of the Marmaris City Council, who were fighting against the resort hotel and timeshare project under construction in İçmeler Kızılbük, located in the Marmaris district of Muğla, gave a statement after the company undertaking the project issued a complaint.

JUNE 16

- The Yatağan Civil Court of First Instance dismissed the lawsuit for non-pecuniary damages of 1 million Turkish liras brought by Yatağan Thermal Energy Production Ltd. against Kazım Erol, the president of the Yatağan Green Life Association.

JUNE 17

- Amnesty International declared seven people to be prisoners of conscience due to the sentences they received in the Gezi Park trial. At the press conference held a week after the verdict was announced, Amnesty International Secretary General Agnès Callamard said, "Naming these seven people as prisoners of conscience is a recognition of the chronicle of injustice they have suffered beginning with arbitrary detention and politically-motivated prosecutions and ending in a show trial and convictions. ... The shocking injustice meted out to the Gezi Park defendants exposes again how Turkey's judicial system has become a repressive tool to silence dissent."

JUNE 22

- The Muş High Criminal Court convicted former president of the Human Rights Association (İHD) Muş branch, Tarık Güneş, of "membership of a terrorist organization" and "making propaganda for a terrorist organization," and sentenced him to six years and three months in prison.

JUNE 23

- The trial against the Ankara Branch of the Chamber of Architects, which awarded an environmental news prize to Jin TV, has begun. Within the scope of the Emre Madran Press Awards for Conservation, organized annually by the Ankara Branch of the Chamber of Architects, Güler Yıldız Bastion, the producer of the "Green Window" ecology program on Jin TV broadcasting from the Netherlands, was honored with the "International Television Journalism" award in 2021. The first hearing of the trial in which Tezcan Karakuş Candan, the Branch President, and six former members of the Board of Directors were charged with "making propaganda for a terrorist organization" took place at the Ankara 25th Heavy Criminal Court.

JUNE 24

- The second hearing of the trial of six rights defenders, including Human Rights

Foundation of Turkey (TİHV) employee Aytül Uçar, was held at the Izmir 49th Criminal Court of First Instance. The defendants had been detained on February 2, 2021, during a demonstration in support of Boğaziçi University student protests and were charged with “resisting police,” “not immediately dispersing despite a warning of participation in an illegal unarmed meeting or demonstration,” and “insulting a public official.” In response to the court’s request for video recordings from the day of the incident, the Police Directorate of Security said the cameras in the building were out of order on the day of the incident and there were no cameras in the detention vehicle. The next hearing was set for November 4, 2022, so that some of the complainants could appear again.

- The trial of 22 women who participated in the November 25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women protests in 2018, and were charged with “violating Law No. 2911 on Meetings and Demonstrations,” began at the Istanbul 36th Criminal Court of First Instance. They were charged with violating Law No. 2911 on Meetings and Demonstrations. The indictment also included the two additional charges of resisting police and damaging property for two of the defendants. The press statement made by the defense before the hearing noted that this was the first time the demonstration had been impeded in the 17 years it had been held every November 25 since 2006, and the case was opened four years after the incident.

JUNE 25

- The Saturday Mothers/People encountered a police barricade when they arrived at Galatasaray High School on their way to their 900th weekly gathering in Galatasaray Square. Human Rights Association (İHD) Co-Chairs Eren Keskin and Öztürk Türkdoğan were handcuffed and detained in the ensuing police action. Others who were detained included İHD Istanbul branch President Gülseren Yoleri, Maside Ocak, Jiyan Tosun, Besna Tosun, Hasan Karakoç, İkbal Eren, Mikail Kırkbayır, Ali Ocak, Hanife Yıldız and Arat Dink. The 16 people detained were released after giving statements to the police.

- The Ministry of Justice declared that Diyarbakır Bar Association President Nahit Eren and the members of the Board of Directors were subject to Article 301 of the Turkish Penal Code (TCK) for their statement titled “We Share in the Pain of the Great Catastrophe” published by the Diyarbakır Bar Association on the occasion of the day of commemoration for the Armenian Genocide on April 24, 2021. In accordance with the article, the ministry gave permission for an investigation on the allegation that the Bar Association had “insult[ed] the Turkish nation, the state of the Republic of Turkey,

and the institutions and organs of state.”

JUNE 26

- Police erected barricades in and around Taksim in order to prevent the 20th Istanbul LGBTI+ Pride March, planned to be held in the Beyoğlu district of Istanbul. A total of 373 LGBTI+ rights defenders attempting to march despite the ban on the parade were detained.

JUNE 27

- The final hearing of the case brought against Human Rights Association (İHD) Co-Chair Öztürk Türkdoğan on charges of insulting Minister of Interior Affairs Süleyman Soylu was held at the Ankara 60th Criminal Court of First Instance. The court acquitted Türkdoğan on the grounds that his statements did not constitute the crime of libel.

- Fourteen Boğaziçi University students were charged with participation in an illegal unarmed meeting or demonstration, not immediately dispersing despite being warned, deprivation of liberty, resisting police, damaging public property, and hijacking or seizure of transport vehicles for their participation in a protest on the campus on October 4, 2021 against the university's rector, Naci İnci, who had been appointed by decree by President Erdoğan. The fourth hearing of the case was heard at the Istanbul 22nd Criminal Court of First Instance. Defense lawyer Ömer Kavili was not permitted into the courtroom and the doors were locked to further prevent him from entering. The next hearing was set for November 14, 2022.

JUNE 29

- The Istanbul 56th Criminal Court of First Instance gave its verdict for the case concerning the threats made against the Hrant Dink Foundation. The defendants, who were tried without arrest, did not appear at the hearing. The court sentenced the accused, Hüseyin Ateş, to two years and six months in prison for the crime of making continuous threats and the other defendant, Ersin Başkan, to two years for the same crime. The foundation's lawyers asserted that the defendants should have been sentenced in line with the crime of making qualified threats and that they would appeal the ruling.

JUNE 30

- Pride flags brought by audience members to a concert at Istanbul's Küçükçiftlik Park by former One Direction singer Louis Tomlinson were confiscated at the entrance and thrown away.
- The Saturday Mothers/People filed a criminal complaint regarding the police action and violence they experienced while trying to leave carnations in Galatasaray Square during their 900th weekly gathering on June 25.

MEDIA MONITORING

News reports included the police operation against Migration Monitoring Association (GÖÇİZDER) members and directors on June 3, the ruling in the Gezi Park trial announced on 7 June, and the press statement made by Şebnem Korur Fincancı at the Grand National Assembly of Turkey.

The pro-government media continued its five-year attempt to defame Osman Kavala and declared that those detained in the police action against GÖÇİZDER had ties to terrorist organizations before the indictment had even been written.

Pro-government media reports did not mention what Şebnem Korur Fincancı said in her statement in Parliament to draw attention to the problems healthcare workers face, rather focusing on the conditions under which she entered the building.

LGBTI+s and LGBTI+ organizations that held LGBTI+ Pride Marches in various cities throughout June, which is celebrated as Pride month, were also targeted. Boğaziçi LGBTI+ Studies Club was placed at the center of a hate campaign.

JULY

JULY 2

- Boğaziçi University's communications office sent a threatening email to students before the university's graduation ceremony due to the protests and objections by students and academics that had been ongoing for a year-and-a-half since President Erdoğan appointed Melih Buluh as the rector. Specifically, the email stated that any student who planned to protest at the ceremony would have their graduation certificates revoked and they would not be allowed to enter the campus.

SARE DEMIR OF THE SATURDAY MOTHERS PASSES AWAY

Sare Demir of the Saturday Mothers, who lived in the İdil district of Şırnak, passed away at the age of 85. Demir's son İbrahim Demir was detained and disappeared on December 12, 1991, in the village of Xendok (Çukurlu) in the İdil district of Şırnak.

With her age making it difficult to participate in the group's weekly Saturday demonstrations, Sare Demir described her unending grief in a letter she sent to the Saturday Mothers: "Time heals everything but grief. The wound in my heart bleeds a little more every day. Twenty-six years have passed and I am old now. My heart is too old to bear the pain. The good always won in the tales I told you, but that isn't what happens in real life. Sometimes the bad guys win. But don't forget that the good guys are always in the right. When [evil people] kill a child, they also kill the mother. A genuine person wouldn't make a mother cry, but these people are cruel. Don't worry son, we will drag them from hiding and hold them accountable for what they have done."

JULY 3

- Police violently intervened in the Eskişehir Pride March and detained 10 people. After the police action, participants in the parade dispersed across Eskişehir and read a press statement.

JULY 4

- The sixth hearing of the trial of 52 students, who were arrested and charged with “violating Law No. 2911 on Meetings and Demonstrations” and “depriving a person of their liberty” in the protests against Melih Bulu, appointed as the rector to Boğaziçi University by President Erdoğan on January 2, 2021, was held at the Istanbul 49th Criminal Court of First Instance. A.A., who was named as a victim in the case file, said they had been an executive assistant at the university for a long time and that the students had not committed any crime. At the hearing, A.A. said, “I am not a complainant, but my name was included in the case file. My job is tied to when the rector leaves. On the day of the incident, the rector didn’t leave, so I was working. Our colleagues who wanted to leave left. There was nothing preventing it, no one deprived us of our liberty. I don’t want to be a part of this case.” The next hearing was set for December 12, 2022.

- The second hearing of the case in which eight Health and Social Service Workers’ Union (SES) directors were tried on charges of managing a terrorist organization, being a member of a terrorist organization and making propaganda for a terrorist organization was held at the Ankara 22nd High Criminal Court. At the hearing, the court ruled to continue the detention of former Co-Chair Gönül Erden, who had been held in prison since September 22, 2021, and formally arrest the current co-chair, Selma Atabey. The next hearing was set for October 3, 2022.

JULY 5

- The chairman of the New Welfare Party (YRP) Youth Branch, Melih Güner, said that the Ankara Governorate had personally called him regarding the 2nd Ankara Pride March planned to be held at Kuşulu Park, which he had been targeting for days, and informed him that the march would not be allowed. Güner added, “So help me God, we will not allow [the parade] to happen.”

- Police intervened in the 2nd Ankara Pride March and detained more than 50 participants. Radical Islamist groups also tried to attack the marchers and called on passers-by to join them.

JULY 7

- The fourth hearing of the case in which three police officers were tried for the crime of torture for subjecting Mücella Yapıcı and her daughter Cansu Yapıcı to a strip

search during the Gezi Park protests (2013) was held at the Istanbul 11th High Criminal Court. Mücella Yapıcı was being held at the Bakırköy Women's Closed Prison. The court denied Mücella Yapıcı's request to attend the hearing in person as well as her request to attend by video link. The court decided to issue a writ for Mücella Yapıcı and the accused police officers to attend the next hearing, set for December 1, 2022 by video link.

JULY 8

- Imprisoned Gezi Park trial defendant Tayfun Kahraman's wife, Meriç Demir Kahraman, explained that despite having the right to closed and open visitations with three people, excluding first-degree relatives, her husband, Can Atalay and Hakan Altınay had not been allowed any visits for 75 days: "The day after they were detained, they announced the names of their friends whom they wanted to come for visitations, because they knew their rights. But these friends of theirs were never given permission to visit. There's also no time limit for the approval of visitations. Our friends on the visitation lists of Tayfun, Can and Hakan are directors of chambers and associations, academics and civil servants. These are people who have already gone through many security screenings to get to their positions. It's obvious that they're trying to psychologically pressure our friends in Silivri [Prison] by deliberately impeding visitations."

JULY 9

- For the first time in years, the Saturday Mothers/People laid carnations in Galatasaray Square. Relatives of the disappeared, İkbâl Eren, Cemil Kırbayır's brother Mikail Kırbayır, Rıdvan Karakoç's brother Hasan Karakoç and Hanife Yıldız came to Galatasaray Square holding carnations for their 902nd weekly demonstration. An argument broke out when the police attempted to prevent them from doing so. The relatives of the disappeared said they would not leave without laying the carnations and laid the flowers across the police barricade.

JULY 11

- The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) ruled that Turkey had violated Article 46/1 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) for not implementing the court's decision on Osman Kavala. Sixteen members of the panel of 17 judges approved the decision, with the sole opposing vote coming from the Turkish judge, Saadet Yüksel. The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, which

is responsible for the execution of ECtHR judgments, ruled that the government of Turkey—itself a founding member of the Council of Europe—was in violation for having refused to implement the ECtHR ruling for the immediate release of Osman Kavala, and officially initiated the proceedings concerning Turkey's violation of Article 46/1 on February 2, 2022.

JULY 18

CAN CANDAN WINS HIS LEGAL BATTLE

Can Candan, an instructor and documentary filmmaker in the Film Studies Program of the Department of Western Languages and Literatures at Boğaziçi University, who was removed from his position by Naci İnci, appointed as acting rector by President Erdoğan on July 15, 2021, following Melih Bulu, has won his legal battle.

Candan announced on his Twitter account that the decision dated July 16, 2021, to terminate his employment was deemed unlawful by the Istanbul 7th Administrative Court on May 31, 2022, and that he has been awarded his lost employment benefits and financial rights along with their respective interest payments.

Can Candan, a lecturer and documentary filmmaker in the Film Studies Program of the Department of Western Languages and Literatures at Boğaziçi University was dismissed by Naci İnci, who President Erdoğan had appointed as the acting rector on July 15, 2021, after he removed by decree his previous appointee, Melih Bulu.

Candan posted on his Twitter account that on May 31, 2022, the Istanbul 7th Administrative Court ruled to annul the decision to terminate his job dated July 16, 2021, and that his personal and material rights that he had been deprived of were to be repaid with interest.

JULY 20

- An event was held in Ankara in commemoration of the 33 young people who were killed in the ISIS suicide bombing of a demonstration in Suruç, Urfa. Participants in the demonstration had collected toys for children and it was also a show of support for the fight against the ISIS assault on Kobanê in 2015. Before the event could begin, police surrounded the members of youth organizations who planned to hold the commemoration in Güven Park in Kızılay, and detained many people. Police also implemented intense security measures to prevent a similar event planned to be held in front of the Süreyya Opera House in Kadıköy, Istanbul, and detained dozens of people who came for the commemoration.

JULY 21

- The Diyarbakır Bar Association was targeted for making a statement in which it held the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) responsible for the July 20 airstrike on the city of Zakho, which killed civilians in the Kurdistan region of Iraq on the border with Turkey. After being threatened in the press as well as on social media and having the Diyarbakır Public Prosecutor's Office launch an investigation into its statement, the Bar Association published another statement titled, "The Diyarbakır Bar Association Will Not Bow to Threats," which read, "The Diyarbakır Bar Association confirmed the aforementioned news with local news outlets and, based on the official statements from central and local government officials, was informed that similar incidents have happened in the past, that they would seek legal actions against those responsible for this act that violated [civilians'] right to life, and that they had expressed their condolences on their official Twitter account to the families of those killed."

- The Boğaziçi University administration blocked without justification the screening of the LGBTI+ themed films *Benim Çocuğum* (My Child), *Laurence Anyways* and *Go*, planned as part of the outdoor events organized by the Boğaziçi University Cinema Club (BÜSK). In a statement, the BÜSK emphasized that the film *Benim Çocuğum* was directed by the recently reinstated academic Can Candan, and that the film had been shown on campus many times before.

JULY 22

- The İliç Prosecutor's Office in Erzincan launched an investigation after the Anagold Mining company, which operates the Kapakler Gold Mine, filed a criminal complaint against Sedat Cezayirlioğlu, who had long fought against the detrimental

environmental impacts of the mining operation. In the investigation, charges brought against Cezayiroğlu included libel, fabricating a crime, public defamation, incitement to hatred and enmity, attempting to influence a fair trial, making threats, incitement to commit a crime, and attempting to influence an expert or witness involved in a trial. Cezayiroğlu had made public the cyanide leak and its effects as a result of a pipe at the mine that burst on June 20. He also announced that he had received threats from the mining company the same day he went public with the information.

JULY 26

- Women members of the Confederation of Public Employees' Unions (KESK) attempted to hold a demonstration in protest of the Council of State's approval of Turkey's withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention, but were blocked by police and subjected to violence. Police also attacked journalists who were covering the event.

MEDIA MONITORING

Media targeting throughout the month of July went back and forth between the Turkish Medical Chamber (TTB) and Şebnem Korur Fincancı, and the Diyarbakır Bar Association. Following the murder of cardiology specialist Dr. Ekrem Karakaya at the beginning of the month, the Turkish Medical Association's (TTB) decision to initiate a two-day work stoppage became the catalyst. However, it should also be noted that even in the absence of a specific event, there is an ongoing effort in the media to keep the TTB and Şebnem Korur Fincancı in constant focus and target them.

In the news, after the prevention of a march from Çapa Faculty of Medicine to the Istanbul Directorate of Health in the aftermath of the murder, a post on the official Twitter account of the Turkish Medical Association (TTB) was presented as "threatening the police." In the mentioned post, it was stated, "We warn the law enforcement authorities: You are committing a crime! Do not stand in the way of our grief and anger; remove the barriers!" The efforts of doctors, wearing nothing but white coats, to surpass the police barricade were depicted as "attacking the police." It was claimed that the actions were

carried out not for mourning and protest purposes but rather aligned with personal interests.

An investigation was launched against a mosque imam in the Selçuklu district of Konya, who allegedly risked public health by targeting healthcare workers and accusing them of disrupting work stoppages. This information was reported in connection with claims that the Turkish Medical Association (TTB) targeted the said imam. The institution's holiday message wishing for freedom and happiness was depicted as a "publicity stunt." Behind all these news reports, the argument persisted that the TTB had connections with terrorist organizations and was anti-government in nature.

The reason the Diyarbakir Bar Association was the focus of media targeting in July was the statement it made after eight civilians were killed in an airstrike conducted by the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) on the city of Zakho, located on the Kurdistan region of northern Iraq on the border with Turkey. The TTB held the TSK responsible for the deaths in its statement that read: "Civilians, including children, were killed in the TSK bombing. As it was in Roboski, humanitarian law is considered worthless when it comes to Kurds. We offer our condolences to the families of those killed and to Kurdistan."

In the last days of the month, the award presented to Şebnem Korur Fincancı at the 22nd International Love, Peace, Friendship, Culture, and Art Festival in Zonguldak Ereğli triggered a new wave of opposition against Fincancı.

The trend of targeting LGBTI+ associations continued throughout July. Pro-government media reports claimed that gender studies centers at universities were trying to "corrupt the youth" and target the family structure while debasing Turkey.

AUGUST

AUGUST 1

- Following the attempted coup on July 15, 2016, the State of Emergency (Olağanüstü Hal or OHAL) declared on July 21, 2016, came to an end on July 17, 2018. Subsequently, certain provisions of Law No. 7145, enacted on July 25, 2018, which was referred to as “permanent state of emergency,” were repealed. With these changes to the law, detention periods were shortened and normal disciplinary procedures for dismissal from the public sector were restored.

AUGUST 2

THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT RULES THE DISCIPLINARY PUNISHMENT OF THE ACADEMICS FOR PEACE TO BE A VIOLATION OF THEIR RIGHTS

The Constitutional Court ruled that the disciplinary punishments handed down to academics for signing the Academics for Peace declaration violated their freedom of expression. The unanimous ruling also included that of Constitutional Court member İrfan Fidan, who had personally conducted the investigation into 733 academics, which led to the arrest of three of them when he was the deputy chief public prosecutor of Istanbul.

The Constitutional Court ruled the disciplinary punishments of the academics, including those of Deniz Pelin Dinçer Akan, Işıl Çakan Hacıbrahimoğlu, Rabia Beyza İnan, Çağatay Yağcı and Ayşe Nevin Yıldız, to be a violation of the freedom of expression, and that two of the complainants be paid compensation of 10,000 Turkish liras while rest were to receive 13,500 Turkish liras.

- An unidentified assailant carried out an armed attack on the Nuyap Office Center in Yenışehir, Diyarbakır, where offices of many civil society organizations are located. The masked attacker, who arrived in front of the business center at around 1:00 a.m., fled after firing two shots at the door of the building. In addition to law and commercial offices, the civil society organizations with offices at the business center include Botan International, the Women’s State of Solidarity Association (DAKAHDER), the Kurdish Studies Center (KSC), the Diyarbakır Political and Social

Research Institute (DİSA), and the Şeyh Said Association.

AUGUST 3

- The Union of Chambers of Engineers and Architects of Turkey (TMMOB) and its affiliated professional chambers attempted to make a press statement in front of the Constitutional Court in support of the detained defendants in the Gezi Park case. The police did not give permission to the TMMOB members who intended to call on the Constitutional Court to discuss the individual applications of the seven rights defenders who had at the time been in prison for 100 days since April 25. TMMOB members were forced to go to Ahlatlıbel Park opposite the Constitutional Court, and after a scuffle with the police, went to the area where they wanted to organize a forum for the Gezi Park detainees and read their statement.

AUGUST 5

SERDAR KUNI IS REINSTATED

The Turkish Medical Association (TTB) announced the reinstatement of the chairman of the Şırnak Medical Chamber, Dr. Serdar Küni, whose Family Medical License washad been suspended on April 3.

The statement read, "Based on the penal code concerning family medicine and on the grounds of a lawsuit filed six years ago, Dr. Serdar Kuni—the former chairman of the Şırnak Medical Chamber whose Family Medicine License was suspended on April 3, 2022—was reinstated on July 28, 2022. Küni was detained for four months due to an unlawful decision, and has now returned to work the day after the ruling for his reinstatement. Despite all the pressure and intimidation, we will continue under all circumstances to fight to defend our job security, personal rights, labor, professional values and the public's right to healthcare."

AUGUST 9

- Following the reversal of the decision not to require an environmental impact assessment for the Sinpaş GYO construction project in Kızılbük, Marmara, members of the Marmaris City Council went to check on the construction area and announced that the construction activities had not stopped. Activists held the first watch and announced that they would continue to keep watch over the area. Police intervened in the watch and detained 15 people on the allegation that they had blocked transportation.

- Boğaziçi University Rector Naci İnce, who had been appointed by President Erdoğan, dismissed lecturer Can Candan from his position in contravention to court rulings. In a majority decision, the 7th Istanbul Regional Administrative Court ruled for a stay of execution as a precautionary measure and ordered Candan's reinstatement. Candan announced on July 18 that the court had annulled his dismissal due to it being unlawful and that he was to receive compensation for having had his employee personal rights and material rights violated.

- Osman Kavala made a statement regarding the dinner that was used as the basis of the allegation of espionage against him, which was given as the justification for his re-arrest despite having been acquitted in the Gezi Park trial on February 18, 2020. In response to media reports, academic Henri Barkey made a statement on August 6, in which he said that he had dinner with a female journalist, not Osman Kavala, on July 18, 2016. Kavala confirmed this in his statement and added that the prosecutor had known this fact very well from the outset. The indictment of Kavala and Barkey following the conclusion of the investigation that led to the Kavala's rearrest, charged the two men with attempting to overthrow the constitutional order (TCK 309) and espionage (TCK 328) on allegations that they had organized the coup attempt on July 15, 2016.

AUGUST 10

- The fines imposed on women who participated in protest actions organized in Mersin by the Mersin Women's Platform, following their call, have been evaluated by the Constitutional Court (AYM) as a violation of rights. Since the protests that took place after the murder of Pınar Gültekin, around 20 women had been fined a total of nearly 120,000 TL. Following the Constitutional Court's decision, some courts began to issue rulings to lift these fines.

AUGUST 11

- Can Candan filed two new cases against Naci İnci, the appointed rector of Boğaziçi University, who had unlawfully dismissed him a second time without grounds, citing a disciplinary sanction as the justification for the dismissal. Candan requested the annulment of the punishment imposed as a result of the disciplinary investigation, and the suspension and annulment of process to dismiss him.

AUGUST 12

- A case was filed against the 53 city council members who allocated space to the Pir Sultan Abdal Cultural Association (PSAKD) and the Southeast Journalists' Association, as well as then Diyarbakır Metropolitan Mayor Osman Baydemir, on charges of abuse of office. The Diyarbakır 13th Criminal Court of First Instance accepted the indictment and ruled that the case was out of its jurisdiction, stating that the trial should be held in a high criminal court on the grounds that the defendants should also be tried on charges of embezzlement. The defendant's lawyers appealed on the grounds that there were neither material nor non-material elements to constitute the crime of embezzlement and that the charge of abuse of office was itself in contradiction to law.

AUGUST 16

- Boğaziçi University academics gathered for the 590th time in protest of the university's appointed rector. Can Candan, a lecturer in the Film Studies Program of the Department of Western Languages and Literatures, was not allowed to enter the campus.

- Three members of the Marmaris City Council were detained again during a demonstration. They were taken to the District Police Station and their telephones were confiscated on allegations of violating Law No. 2911 on Meetings and Demonstrations. After giving the police their statements, they filed a complaint concerning violation of functional immunity and were taken to another police station. The city council members were held in custody overnight and were released the next morning after giving their statements.

AUGUST 18

- The provincial head of the Zafer (Victory) Party in Gaziantep filed a criminal

complaint against the Şanlıurfa Bar Association. The Şanlıurfa Bar Association filed a criminal complaint with the Chief Public Prosecutor's Office against Zafer Party Chairma Ümit Özdağ for “insulting the memory of a person,” and “inciting the public to hatred and enmity” after he insulted Sheikh Said. The justification for the criminal complaint from the Zafer Party was for praising a person publicly known to be guilty.

AUGUST 19

- A member of the Marmaris City Council was called to testify after the Marmaris Ecology Resistance Committee made a press statement. City Council member Halime Şaman said, “We are doing what all citizens in this country should do. We protect the environment. The area where this company wants to operate is a national park, and we say this area must be protected. Secondly, there are court rulings for [the protection of] this area. Muğla's 3rd Administrative Court annulled the ruling that this project wouldn't require an environmental impact assessment back on August 8, but the company keeps on with its project despite this. These are the things we are guilty of saying.”

AUGUST 23

- The gendarmerie conducted a nighttime operation against the villagers fighting against the drilling for a geothermic power plant planned to be built between the villages of Mezeköy and Uzundere in the Köşk district of Aydın. The 18 people detained were released in the morning and the district governorate prohibited entry into and exit from Mezeköy for a week.

AUGUST 26

- The Constitutional Court ruled that arrest warrants against Can Atalay, Mücella Yapıcı and Tayfun Kahraman, who had been sentenced to 18 years in prison at the end of the Gezi Park trial, are lawful. The trio's lawyers had filed an application with the Constitutional Court, claiming that the arrest warrants issued with the sentence violated the rights to personal liberty and security of person, freedom of expression, and freedom of demonstration and assembly.

AUGUST 29

- Despite the court order, environmental activists who were protesting against the ongoing construction in Marmaris were once again denied entry to the National Park

by the police, stating that they posed a “security threat.”

AUGUST 30

- Police intervened against members of the Human Rights Association (İHD) Istanbul branch’s Commission Against Disappearances and the Saturday Mothers/People as they attempted to make a press statement in front of the Istanbul Altınşehir Cemetery on the occasion of August 30, UN International Day of the Disappeared. Police beat and detained 14 rights defenders, including relatives of the disappeared. The rights defenders were released after giving their statements only to be taken into custody again by order of the prosecutor’s office. The 14 rights defenders were then released again in the evening.

MEDIA MONITORING

In August, there was a notable decrease in media-sourced harassment targeting human rights advocates and organizations. Press outlets following a nationalist line focused on targeting the LGBTI+ movement in general, and specifically Kaos GL, using funds obtained from abroad. Meanwhile, the agenda of the conservative and Islamic media continued to include the Turkish Medical Association (TTB) and Şebnem Korur Fincancı. This was due to Fincancı’s request to make Covid-19 vaccines available for everyone over the age of five.

SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 2

- A hearing of the case against rights advocates Emine Akbaba, İrem Çelikbaş and Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TİHV) employee Aytül Uçar on charges of insulting the president was held at the İzmir 41st Criminal Court of First Instance. The defendants had been detained in a police action on a protest in Alsancak, İzmir, on February 2, 2021, in support of Boğaziçi University student demonstrations. Police officers from the Security Department attended the hearing in the gallery. The defense lawyers protested and said it was inappropriate for police officers to be in the courtroom: “We consider it to be against the principle of a fair trial. It could put witnesses under duress.” The defendants also expressed their discomfort with the presence of the police in the courtroom. The next hearing was set for October 7, 2022.

- The environmental activists who were detained by the gendarmerie on the night of August 22 for gathering as part of their fight against the drilling for the geothermal power plant planned to be built between the villages of Mezeköy and Uzundere in the Köşk district of Aydın, announced that they were pressured to withdraw their complaints and that the doctors they went to for battery reports did not want to issue reports.

SEPTEMBER 3

- The Constitutional Court ruled that the Diyarbakır Governorate’s ban on demonstrations and marches on August 17, 2016, based on Law No. 2911 on Meetings and Demonstrations, and Law No. 2935 on the State of Emergency, was a violation of the right to organize meetings and demonstrations.

- Former president of İzmir Bar Association and members of the Board of Directors are facing a lawsuit. Following the sermon by Ali Erbaş, the President of Religious Affairs on April 24, 2020, which targeted the LGBTI+ community, İzmir Bar Association criticized hate speech by reminding of the prohibition of discrimination. The indictment submitted to the Karşıyaka 1st High Criminal Court demanded that Yücel and 10 members of the Board of Directors be tried for openly insulting religious values.

SEPTEMBER 6

- The High Disciplinary Board of the Ministry of Interior Affairs dismissed the head of the Ankara branch of the Chamber of Architects, Tezcan Karakuş Candan, from the civil service despite the Council of State having repealed the decision to launch an investigation into her. The Ministry of Internal Affairs gave permission to investigate Candan after the owner of the TOGO towers, Sinan Ayygün, alleged that Candan received a salary without going to work and that she made an unfair profit, but the 1st Chamber of the Council of State subsequently canceled the decision.

- The second hearing of the case filed against Human Rights Association (İHD) Ankara branch Co-Chair Fatin Kanat on the charge of making propaganda for a terrorist organization was held at the Ankara 25th High Criminal Court. Since one of the judges on the panel from the first hearing was appointed as a chief judge of the Küçükçekmece High Criminal Court, a replacement judge was installed on the panel. The new panel, which said that it had not examined the case file, decided to send it to the prosecution so it could prepare its opinion on the merits of the case and adjourned the next hearing to October 19, 2022.

SEPTEMBER 7

- The trial continued against 22 lawyers—members of the Progressive Lawyers' Association (ÇHD) and People's Law Office—on the grounds of their professional activities. It was noted that the Council of Forensic Medicine (ATK) report concerning the "Belgium and the Netherlands Documents," which the former director of the Intelligence Department Ramazan Akyürek had archived, were received by the court. It was revealed that the ATK had not examined the documents as to whether they had been tampered with or not. The presiding judge told the defense to prepare its statement on the merits of the case and adjourned the next hearing to November 7–11, 2022.

- An investigation has been initiated against Hanifi Zengin, the Director of the Security Branch of the Istanbul Police Department, who was mentioned in the media regarding allegations of violence and harassment against those participating in social actions and events. The investigation was launched following the criminal complaints made by women and LGBTI+ individuals regarding torture and harassment inflicted during the Pride March on June 26, 2022. Another investigation was launched into Zengin for allegedly threatening journalist Bilal Meyveci and preventing him from performing his job.

SEPTEMBER 8

- The Education and Science Workers' Union (Eğitim-Sen) has decided to gather in front of the Ministry of National Education to demand the withdrawal of the regulation related to the Teacher Profession Law, which categorizes teachers as “experts” and “chief teachers”. When they planned to leave the union building as 3:00 p.m. was approaching, many police surrounded the building and blocked all from exiting. The police also tried to prevent journalists from taking photographs. Teachers then started a sit-in in front of the Ministry of National Education in protest of the police's actions.

SEPTEMBER 9

- The statement that the Istanbul and Batman chapters of Media, Communication and Postal Employees' Union (HABER-SEN) intended to make in front of the Ankara PTT General Directorate, after gathering in Ankara by walking with the slogan “We March Against Exile, Lawlessness, and Incompetence,” was prevented by the harsh intervention of the police. The directors and members of HABER-SEN marched from Istanbul and Batman to Ankara under the slogan “We March Against Exile, Lawlessness and Incompetence.” The police violently intervened when the group attempted to make a statement in front of the Post and Telegraph (PTT) General Directorate.

SEPTEMBER 11

- The water supply was cut off to the village of İzikköy after residents' extended the protest against the opening of a coal mine in the Akbelen Forest.

SEPTEMBER 13

- Eren Keskin, the Co-Chair of the Human Rights Association (İHD), was called in for questioning by the Counter-Terrorism Unit (TEM) of the Istanbul Police. When she arrived at the TEM branch, the first question posed by the officer was “Which organization are you affiliated with?” Upon her conversation with the relevant officer, Keskin learned that she had been called in for questioning due to a complaint filed with the Presidency's Communication Center (CİMER) over a tweet she posted. The tweet in question by Keskin, concerning former Chief of the General Staff of the Gendarmerie Musa Çitil, had been reported as implying a potential assassination.

SEPTEMBER 14**OSMAN KAVALA RECEIVES THE AWARD FOR THE DIALOGUE OF CULTURES**

The Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations in Berlin and Stuttgart, Germany, announced businessman and human rights activist Osman Kavala as the 2022 winner of the Award for the Dialogue of Cultures. Kavala has been held in Silivri Prison since November 2017. The award—previously given to Nicaraguan poet, priest and politician Ernesto Cardenal, and Queen Silvia of Sweden—was presented at a ceremony in Berlin on November 10.

- The trial of eight women who were arrested after a police intervention against those who wanted to make a press statement during the first hearing of the lawsuit against 33 women's rights advocates related to the demonstration organized by the Ankara Women's Platform on August 12, 2020, to defend the Istanbul Convention, began on June 7, 2021. At the hearing at the Ankara 53rd Criminal Court of First Instance, defense lawyers noticed a police officer taking photographs of a witness for the defense. The police officer was removed from the courtroom and the defense requested a criminal complaint be filed against the officer. The panel of judges adjourned the next hearing to January 17, 2023.

SEPTEMBER 15

- The second hearing of the lawsuit against the Ankara Branch of the Chamber of Architects in relation to the Emre Madran Press Awards for Conservation announced in September 2021 was held. The lawsuit was filed against the management of the branch due to the award given to the ecology program "Yeşil Pencere" (Green Window) of Jin TV in the category of "International Television Journalism." At the hearing at the Ankara 25th High Criminal Court, the court denied the defense's request to query whether an investigation had ever been launched before due to an award being given or received. The next hearing was set for November 22, 2022.

TİHV RECEIVES THE 14TH INTERNATIONAL HRANT DINK AWARD

The International Hrant Dink Awards were held for the 14th time, with the awards given to the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TİHV) and Afghan women’s rights defender Shaharзад Akbar.

At the ceremony, as is done every year, people and groups that fight for a more just and equal world and take game-changing risks were commemorated in the section of the program for the Shining Lights, including individuals and groups from Poland, Mexico, Brazil, Russia, the UK and Turkey.

In his speech, TİHV President Metin Bakkalcı talked about his meetings with Hrant Dink, and particularly their exchange of views on trauma and identity. He said that Turkey is a country in uncompleted mourning. He emphasized that the TİHV strives to realize the dream of a world without torture and said that the TİHV receives the award for all those who have been subjected to torture around the world and who strive to prevent torture.

SEPTEMBER 16

- The screening of the documentary “Cumartesi Anneleri” (Saturday Mothers) and the “LGBT Concept Workshop,” which were planned to be held as part of the 19th Munzur Culture and Nature Festival, have been banned by the Tunceli Governorate on the grounds of “preserving public health and general morality, or the rights and freedoms of others.”
- Workers and union directors protesting the seizing of money owed to them at the ETF Tekstil factory in Tuzla, Istanbul, were detained. Police dismantled the workers’ protest tent while more officers detained 32 people who were attempting to block trucks from leaving the factory.
- The Istanbul 26th High Criminal Court accepted the Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office’s September 1, 2022 indictment against 23 people, including Migration Monitoring Association (GÖÇİZDER) Co-Chairs Kamile Kandal and Mehmet Boğakan. Statements made by the directors of the association, funds received from the EU, activities such as the workshops carried out by the association and the reports drafted formed the basis of the allegations in the 331-page indictment. The court ruled the first hearing would be held over December 13–15, 2022.

EREN KESKİN RECEIVES THE JUSTITIA AWARD

Human Rights Association (İHD) Co-Chair Eren Keskin was given a Justitia Award by the Women in Law Initiative based in Vienna, Austria. Keskin could not attend the gala to receive the award in person due to the travel ban imposed on her.

In the video recording she sent to the gala, she said, "I am the co-chair of the Human Rights Association and of an association that defends the rights of women and transgender people when they are tortured and experience violence in detention. I have been punished for my work. Aside from the fact that such awards are honorable, I think that this award will protect me as one of the people of this region who lives under pressure. Thank you once again to everyone who gave me this award."

SEPTEMBER 20

- The Diyarbakır 10th High Criminal Court reversed its decision to hear Ahmet Davutoğlu, who was the PM at the time, as a witness in the case regarding the murder of Tahir Elçi.
- The trial against nine people, including İHD Van branch President Ömer Işık and former Human Rights and Solidarity Association for the Oppressed (MAZLUM-DER) Director Yakup Aslan, for their participation in the delegation of representatives of civil society organizations as part of the reconciliation process initiated in part by the İHD in 2013, has begun. At the first hearing, the Van 2nd High Criminal Court ruled to release nine defendants on condition of judicial control after they spoke in their defense over video link from prison. Seventeen people had been detained on June 3 as part of an investigation by the Van Public Prosecutor's Office. In a statement, the İHD Van branch said the arrests were made based on an old photograph and that a previous investigation in 2013 into the İHD main office concerning the Commission to Oversee Withdrawal resulted in a decision of non-prosecution.

SEPTEMBER 21

- The Kağıthane District Governorate banned rights activists from making a statement in front of the Çağlayan Courthouse in Istanbul, with the justification that

the country is “going through a sensitive period.” The rights activists had planned on making the statement before the hearing of the trial against 46 people who had been detained when the police intervened the 700th weekly demonstration of the Saturday Mothers/People on August 25, 2018. The rights activists defied the ban and were subsequently surrounded by the police, who prevented them from reading the press statement out and detained 14 people. The detainees were released on the same day after their statements were taken.

SEPTEMBER 22

- The trial at the Diyarbakır 8th High Criminal Court continued against member of the Rosa Women’s Association Board of Directors and lawyer Elif Tirenç İpek Ulaş on the charge of membership to an armed terrorist organization. The presiding judge ordered that all the activities of the association be included in the case file. The court denied the defense’s request for acquittal, citing precedent, on the grounds that a new indictment prepared to consolidate cases against Ulaş was under evaluation. The next hearing was set for December 22, 2022.

SEPTEMBER 27

- The third hearing at the Milas 3rd Criminal Court of First Instance was held in the trial against two women who stood guard to protect trees from the mining operation of YK Enerji in the Akbelen Forest in Milas, Muğla. The hearing was postponed, as the Bodrum High Criminal Court had not yet evaluated the İkizköy residents’ lawyers’ request from the previous hearing for a judge to be recused. The next hearing was set for November 21, 2022.

SEPTEMBER 28

- A hearing in the damages suit filed by Sinpaş GYO against Halime Şaman, an environmental activist from Marmaris, was held as an e-hearing upon Şaman’s request due to the financial and intangible burden of having to travel between Marmaris and Istanbul for every hearing.

SEPTEMBER 29

- The second hearing of the “determination of absence” case, which is one of the two separate cases against the Tarlabası Community Center (TTM), was held. The court accepted the Ministry of Family and Social Services’ request to be included in the case

and the next hearing was set for May 9, 2023.

- An appeals court overturned the prison sentences given to members of the Central Council of the Turkish Medical Association (TTB), which had been based on the association's press statements, "It's Quite Possible for Us to Live in Equality and Peace in These Lands" from September 1, 2016, and "War Is a Public Health Issue" from January 24, 2018. The Ankara 32nd High Criminal Court had found Ayfer Horasan, Bülent Nazım Yılmaz, Dursun Yaşar Ulutaş, Funda Barlık Obuz, Hande Arpat, Mehmet Raşit Tükel, Mehmet Sezai Berber, Mustafa Taner Gören, Selma Güngör, Sinan Adıyaman and Şeyhmus Gökalg guilty on two charges of provoking the public to hatred and enmity and sentenced them to two 10-month terms in prison. The court had also sentenced TTB Central Council member Hande Arpat to one year, six month and 22 days in prison on the charge of making propaganda for a terrorist organization in her social media posts. The appeals court ruled that none of the statements were criminal in nature.
- The Istanbul Governorate did not authorize an investigation into the Head of the Security Branch Division of the Istanbul Police Department, Hanifi Zengin. The decision was delivered on September 22 to those who filed the criminal complaint against Zengin due to the police beating and threatening women and LGBTI+ rights activists at the 30th Istanbul LGBTI+ Pride March in June claimed that officers had used "gradual and proportional force." The report also alleged there was no supporting information or images for the applicants' claims of assault, torture and ill-treatment.

MEDIA MONITORING

In the early days of September, the response of Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) Secretary-General İsmet Büyükataman to Republican People's Party's (CHP) post-election promises, in which he labeled Osman Kavala, was highlighted in headlines exactly as it was said, enclosed in quotation marks. Unfortunately, this is a method frequently used by media organizations close to the government. They take the statements targeting human rights defenders and organizations exactly as they are and present them in headlines. They claim that enclosing the statements in quotation marks relieves them of the responsibility towards professional ethics.

The depiction in the pro-government media of the indictment in the Migration Monitoring Association (GÖÇİZDER) case was the beginning of a smear campaign against the association. The media referred to the allegations in the indictment made them appear to be a definite judgment of already proven and settled crimes. The first of the hate rallies targeting LGBTI+ individuals took place in Istanbul's Saraçhane Square on September 18, and these rallies will spread across all of Turkey in the following months. LGBTI+ individuals and advocates of LGBTI+ rights became the focal point of this hate campaign with the first rally. In this context, the narratives targeting the Tarlabası Community Center were reiterated and brought back to the agenda.

The Chamber of Pharmacists planned to demonstrate over the unavailability of medicine amid the worsening economy and was thus referred to in the pro-government media as an enemy of the state and the nation, characterizing the attempt to seek justice as a plan to put the government in a bad light.

The pro-government media was irked that the court overturned on appeal the convictions of the Turkish Medical Association (TTB) Central Council members for the statement it published upon Turkey's military operation in Afrin, Syria, in 2018, titled "War Is a Public Health Issue," calling the appeal scandalous.

OCTOBER

OCTOBER 3

- Members of the Health and Social Service Workers' Union (SES) intended to organize a "food boycott" protest, claiming that the poor-quality food at the Diyarbakır Women's and Children's Hospital constitutes a violation of the right to a healthy diet. A person who claimed to be the cafeteria manager and whose name has not been divulged fired shots on the healthcare workers before they could begin the demonstration.

- The court ruled to continue the detention of eight members of SES, including SES Co-Chair Selma Atabay and previous term Co-Chair Gönül Erden, at the third hearing of their trial at the Ankara 22nd High Criminal Court. The defendants stood charged with directing a terrorist organization, membership of a terrorist organization and making propaganda for a terrorist organization. In a press statement made with the participation of representatives from the European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU) and the UNISON public service union from the UK, SES Co-Chair Hüsnü Yıldırım emphasized that the trial itself was defamation. The next hearing was set for December 26, 2002.

OCTOBER 5

- Abdullah Zeytun, the President of the Diyarbakır Branch of the Human Rights Association (İHD), filed an appeal with the Diyarbakır 1st Administrative Court regarding the Governor's ban on all events and demonstrations from March 26 to April 4, 2022. The court rejected the appeal, ruling that the ban was legitimate, as it was made to ensure the safety of life and property and was a measure taken to prevent crime in view of the nature and intensity of possible violence and resultant damage, and therefore did not violate the democratic social order.

- The second hearing of the closure case against the We Will Stop Femicide Platform (KCDP) was held at the Istanbul 13th Civil Court of First Instance. At the hearing, association lawyer Rukiye Leyla Süren said, "There have been 114 murders between the first and second hearings of this trial. One hundred seven families have called for our association not to be shut down. They've collected signatures. We are all losing time due to this case." The court rejected the requests from the Federation of Women's Associations of Turkey, the Purple Roof Women's Shelter Foundation, and the Women and Children First Association to be included in the case. It decided to hear witness

testimonies and wait for missing files to be included in the record. The next hearing was set for January 11, 2023.

OCTOBER 6

- Three students in Antalya were indefinitely expelled from the Higher Education Student Loan and Housing Board (KYK) dormitory in which they lived for having participated in the March 8 Feminist Night March. The notification sent to the students read: “Due to the act you committed on 03/08/2022, Indefinite Expulsion from the Dormitory, having been evaluated and proposed by our Dormitory Directorate with decision No. 38 dated 08/22/2022, was approved by our General Directorate on 10/06/2022 in accordance with Article 24, Paragraph 2, Subparagraph (f) for having been found to have behaved contrary to the characteristics of the State of the Republic of Turkey as stated in the Constitution, hanging flags or symbols with the purpose of being injurious to national solidarity and feelings of unity or being disruptive; singing anthems; going on hunger strike; holding sit-ins; carrying or hanging banners; organizing ideological or political demonstrations, meetings or ceremonies; making a statement; and/or participating in or forcing one to participate in the aforementioned acts Therefore, you are indefinitely expelled from the dormitory as punishment.

- Türkan Elçi, the wife of Tahir Elçi, requested the disqualification of the Diyarbakır 10th Heavy Penal Court panel, claiming that they had lost their impartiality, after the court decided to withdraw the decision to hear former Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu as a witness in the Tahir Elçi murder case, a decision that was taken by the Union of Turkish Bar Associations (TBB), the Diyarbakır Bar Association, and the lawyers involved in the case. However, her request for the judges’ disqualification was rejected.

OCTOBER 7

- The trial of Emine Akbaba, İrem Çelikbaş, and Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TİHV) employee Aytül Uçar, who were detained during a police intervention at a protest held in İzmir Alsancak on February 3, 2021, in support of the resistance of Boğaziçi University students, on charges of “insulting the President,” was held at the İzmir 41st Criminal Court of First Instance. The İzmir Provincial Police Department informed the court that the images the court had requested were not available, upon which the court adjourned to December 9, 2022, in order to give the defense time to present footage of the incident in question.

HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATES ARE AWARDED THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

The 2022 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to human rights advocate Ales Bialiatski from Belarus, the Russian human rights organization Memorial and the Ukrainian human rights organization Center for Civil Liberties.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee statement read, "Peace Prize laureates represent civil society in their home countries. They have for many years promoted the right to criticize power and protect the fundamental rights of citizens. They have made an outstanding effort to document war crimes, human right abuses and the abuse of power. Together they demonstrate the significance of civil society for peace and democracy."

OCTOBER 10

- A panel of five judges at the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) rejected Turkey's appeal, which included its objection to the ECtHR ruling concerning Amnesty International Honorary Chair Taner Kılıç. The ECtHR order regarding Taner Kılıç became final upon its rejection of Turkey's appeal.

- The first hearing of the case against women who were detained in front of the Kadıköy Ferry Pier while trying to attend the 20th Feminist Night March on March 8, 2022, was held at the 13th Criminal Court of First Instance in Kartal, Istanbul Anadolu Courthouse. The defendants were being tried on charges of "violating Law No. 2911 on Meetings and Demonstrations" and "resisting to prevent the performance of duties," and their request for acquittal was denied. The next hearing was adjourned to April 3, 2023. They stood charged with violating Law No. 2911 on Meetings and Demonstrations and resisting police. The court rejected the defense's request for acquittal and set the next hearing for April 3, 2023.

OCTOBER 14

- The secretary of the Zonguldak branch of educator's union Eğitim-Sen was reinstated to his teaching position after being dismissed by the Decree Law (KHK) dated February 7, 2017 and published in the Official Gazette.

OCTOBER 17

- The trial of Cihan Aydın, the former president of the Diyarbakır Bar Association, and 10 members of the Board of Directors, who were being tried under Article 301 of the Turkish Penal Code for two separate statements they made, was held. Both statements were included as evidence in the indictment. The first was titled “1915!...” and published on the Bar Association’s official website on the day of commemoration of the 1915 Armenian genocide on April 24, 2019. The other statement, “We Are Not Afraid and We Won’t Be Silent,” was published on December 2, 2019, regarding the case against the Bar Association administration from 2017 to 2018. The court acquitted all the defendants, having not been convinced that they had committed the crime of which they stood accused.

OCTOBER 18

- The trial of Dr. Hüseyin Yaviç, the President of the Van-Hakkari Medical Chamber, and Sevim Çiçek, the Representative of the Turkish Human Rights Foundation (TİHV), who were detained in Van on the grounds of a “protest ban” and subsequently faced legal action, continued at the Van 4th Criminal Court of First Instance. At the hearing, lawyers gave their statements regarding the expert report and the court adjourned to January 26, 2023.

OCTOBER 19

- The trial of Şebnem Korur Fincancı, the President of the Central Council of the Turkish Medical Association (TTB), Erol Önderoğlu, the representative of Reporters Without Borders (RSF) in Turkey, and journalist-writer Ahmet Nesin, who participated in the Editors-in-Chief on Watch campaign launched in solidarity with the Özgür Gündem newspaper, was held at the Istanbul 13th Heavy Penal Court. The defense requested the judge recuse himself upon learning he had once been a parliamentary candidate for the Justice and Development Party (AKP). The court decided to send the request to the higher 14th High Criminal Court to evaluate the request and set the next hearing for February 1, 2023.

- The prosecution demanded conviction in the third hearing of the case at the Ankara 25th High criminal Court in which Human Rights Association (İHD) Ankara branch Co-Chair Fatin Kanat stood on charges of making propaganda for a terrorist organization.

- In a joint statement, professional organizations and civil society organizations in

Diyarbakır criticized journalist Abdülkadir Selvi's column, "The Deep State, Mithras and Expectations of Erdoğan in Diyarbakır," which included Selvi's impressions of President Erdoğan before his visit to the city. Selvi's October 17 column in the newspaper Hürriyet in part read, "The PKK has a smaller presence in the mountains; it cannot create a climate of fear in the city and it cannot paralyze the city by lowering store shutters and setting fire to the streets. But it has moved on to a different concept. I have observed this in Diyarbakır. The HDP [Peoples' Democratic Party] maintains its cultural dominance in Diyarbakır through its politics, the chamber of commerce, Amedspor, Bar Association and CSOs. It determines the discourse." The statement signed by 48 professional and civil society organizations condemned Selvi's remarks to be defamatory and criminalizing.

OCTOBER 20

- The Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office launched an investigation into Turkish Medical Association (TTB) Central Council Chair Şebnem Korur Fincancı, who had spoken on the allegations that the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) had used chemical weapons in its military operations against the PKK in the Kurdistan region of northern Iraq and had called for an investigation by independent committees. According to the statement from the Chief Public Prosecutor's Office, Fincancı was charged with making propaganda for a terrorist organization and insulting the Turkish nation, the state of the Republic of Turkey, and the institutions and organs of state.

- Speaking at the Civil Inspection Board 2022 Review and Evaluation Meeting held in Fethiye, Muğla, Minister of Interior Affairs Süleyman Soylu called TTB Central Council Chair Şebnem Korur Fincancı's statement "debauched slander" and added, "Our fight against terrorism not only disturbs terrorist organizations but also those who support terrorist organizations. When Europe and America can't afford it, the operation puts its children into action. The presence of such a slanderer, an enemy of the country and the nation, at the head of the institution of the Turkish Medical Association, makes the nation's blood boil."

OCTOBER 24

- Following rejection by the Constitutional Court, the Kaos Gay and Lesbian Cultural Research and Solidarity Association (Kaos GL) applied to the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) for the annulment of the indefinite ban on LGBTI+ events the Ankara Governorate had put into place in November 2017 under the state of emergency that was in effect at the time.

- President Erdoğan targeted the Turkish Medical Association (TTB) and its Central Council chair, Şebnem Korur Fincancı, in a press statement after a Cabinet meeting: “Judgement of the president of the Turkish Medical Association has been put into action. Steps will be taken regarding this person and this institution. I have instructed my ministers to accelerate work on the legislation for the transition to a new structure for profession organizations, and particularly the Medical Association. If necessary, we will ensure its name is changed by legal regulation.”

OCTOBER 26

- Şebnem Korur Fincancı, whom the Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office had investigated due to her statements on allegations of the Turkish military’s use of chemical weapons, was detained at her home in Kadıköy, İstanbul. The Chief Prosecutor’s Office also requested the Civil Court of First Instance on Duty remove Fincancı as Turkish Medical Association (TTB) chair.
- After Fincancı was taken into custody, AKP Central Decision and Executive member and former MP Şamil Tayyar said that the government could appoint a trustee to head the TTB.

OCTOBER 27

- After being detained, Şebnem Korur Fincancı was taken to Ankara, where the investigation was being conducted. Following the procedures at the Ankara Police Department, she gave her statement to the prosecutor. Fincancı was referred to the magistrate of the Criminal Court of Peace to be arrested on charges of “making propaganda for a terrorist organization.” After questioning her, the magistrate ruled for Fincancı’s arrest. Members of the Turkish Medical Association (TTB) Central Council and representatives of professional organizations who went to the courthouse to follow Fincancı’s deposition were beaten by police.
- Minister of Justice Bekir Bozdağ said that work on the regulation regarding the TTB had begun and that it would be presented to President Erdoğan and the Presidential Cabinet once finished.

OCTOBER 28

- The Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office prepared a case requesting the dismissal of the members of the TTB Central Council and its chair, Şebnem Korur Fincancı.

OCTOBER 31

- The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Mary Lawlor, made a special statement upon the fifth year of Osman Kavala's imprisonment in which she warned that Turkey's failure to release the human rights advocate could have far-reaching consequences for anyone in the country attempting to seek justice.

MEDIA MONITORING

October saw an increase in the frequency of pro-government media attacks on rights defenders. The targets were mainly the detained defendants in the Gezi Park trial, the Turkish Medical Association (TTB) and its chair, Şebnem Korur Fincancı.

Fincancı was targeted for having said, "An effective investigation should be conducted in accordance with international conventions and protocols," in reference to allegations that the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) had used chemical weapons in its operations in the Kurdistan region of northern Iraq. Some in the pro-government media even went so far as to claim Fincancı was not a physician and demanded that she produce her diploma. All of these attacks declared Fincancı, having already been detained and arrested, guilty before any trial had taken place.

The founder of the Deep Poverty Network, Hacer Foggo, was targeted in the pro-government media for having accompanied CHP Chairman Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu on his trip to the US.

At the awards ceremony of the 59th Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival, award-winning directors and actors, such as Emin Alper and Özcan Alper, voiced support for and demanded the release of the detained defendants in the Gezi Park case, after which the pro-government media once again branded them "enemies of the people."

NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 1

- On the fifth anniversary of his arrest, Osman Kavala released a statement in which he referred to the indictments prepared against him and stated, “As can be seen, there is no evidence indicating that I have engaged in any criminal activity.

- When Şebnem Korur Fincancı’s home was raided by the police, the leaked police footage and photos from the investigation showed Bejan Matur’s book, Dağın Ardına Bakmak (Looking Behind the Mountain) visible on a bookshelf at Fincancı’s home. After this being covered by pro-government media, D&R bookstore chain and idefix e-commerce web site, both owned by the pro-government Turkuvaz Media Group, stopped selling the book.

NOVEMBER 2

- The second hearing of the closure case against the Tarlabaşı Community Center (TTM) was held at the Istanbul 18th Civil Court of First Instance. Many police officers were standing outside the courtroom. The court only allowed the parties to the case and the press into the hearing, citing the courtroom’s small size. Groups that had been targeting the TTM for more than a year had arrived at the courthouse before the hearing. The court ruled to wait to receive an expert opinion and set the next hearing for February 21, 2023.

NOVEMBER 3

- Lawyer Aryen Turan, who was subjected to racist hate speech for her speech at the Izmir Bar Association’s Ordinary General Assembly on October 22, 2022, where she called for an investigation into the allegations of chemical weapon use and concluded her speech with the slogan “Jin, jiyen, azadî!” (Women, life, freedom!) on behalf of the Association for Lawyers for Freedom (ÖHD), was taken into custody.

- The Organizing Committee for the “We Defend our Living Spaces Before it’s too Late Muğla Rally” announced that despite having applied to the Muğla Governorate for a march and rally permit for November 6, they were unable to get a permission for the time requested. The committee had applied to hold the march and rally from 11 am to 5 pm, and said the letter sent to them by the governorate instructed that the event could be held from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm.

NOVEMBER 4

- The trial at the Izmir 49th Criminal Court of First Instance continued against six rights activists on charges of violating “Law No. 2911 on Meetings and Demonstrations,” and insulting and resisting the police. The defendants had been detained in Izmir on February 2, 2021, as they attempted to make a press statement in solidarity with Boğaziçi University academics and students. The court issued subpoenas for the police officers who had not attended the hearings and who had not provided a reason for their absence. The trial was adjourned to January 13, 2023, in order to take missing statements and so the court could examine the images the defense had submitted to the case file.

NOVEMBER 8

- The first appeal against the detention of Şebnem Korur Fincancı, the President of the Central Council of the Turkish Medical Association (TTB), after her arrest on October 27, 2022, was rejected.

NOVEMBER 11

- The court announced its verdict in the case against 22 lawyers, including Progressive Lawyers' Association (ÇHD) Chairman Selçuk Kozağaçlı, who had been detained throughout the course of the 10-year trial in which they faced charges related to their professional activities. The court found Kozağaçlı guilty of membership to an armed terrorist organization and making propaganda for a terrorist organization and sentenced him to 13 years in prison. Oya Aslan was given 10 years and six months in prison for membership to an armed terrorist organization, six one-year concurrent sentences for making propaganda for a terrorist organization, and 10 months for prevention of public duty. Barkın Timtik was sentenced to a total of 20 years and six months for membership to an armed terrorist organization, making propaganda for a terrorist organization and prevention of public duty. All had their detentions extended. Güray Dağ, Efkan Bolaç, Serhan Arıkanoğlu and Sevgi Özer Sönmez were sentenced to six years and three months for membership to an armed terrorist organization. Gülbin Aydın, Güçlü Sevimli and Nazan Betül Vangölü Kozağaçlı were each sentenced to six years and three months in prison on the charge of membership to an armed terrorist organization and were all given deferred sentences for the charge of making propaganda for a terrorist organization.

NOVEMBER 13

- A terrorist attack with a bomb took place on İstiklal Avenue in the Beyoğlu district of Istanbul. Following the attack, lawyer and human rights activist Jiyan Tosun was claimed to be the attacker and targeted through photos circulated on social media. Tosun and Human Rights Association (İHD) Co-Chair Eren Keskin were engaged with a client at the Küçükçekmece Police Station at the time of the bombing and began receiving threatening phone calls. Keskin posted on her social media that she and Tosun had no security of life.

NOVEMBER 14

- İHD Co-Chair Eren Keskin protested Zafer (Victory) Party member Adem Taşkaya's targeting of lawyer Jiyan Tosun after the bombing on İstiklal Avenue, saying: "How eie this news circulate and how were our telephone numbers passed out?" In a statement, the İHD said, "After incidents such as this, we call on the authorities to take legal and administrative measures against hate speech and aggression." After claims that Jiyan Tosun was the woman shown in CC footage who planted the bomb, she applied to the prosecutor's office for police protection due to the death threats she had received.

- A case was filed upon request from the Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor against those detained at the Boğaziçi University Pride March on May 20, 2022. The indictment included claims that police warned the students carrying "LGBTIA banners" and shouting slogans, yet the students continued to march.

- The trial of 14 Boğaziçi University students who were charged with "participating in illegal gatherings and marches without arms, despite being warned to disperse," "deprivation of personal liberty," "resisting to prevent the fulfillment of duties," "damaging public property," "seizing and detaining public transportation vehicles" due to the protests held on the campus on October 4, 2021, to protest the appointment of Boğaziçi University Rector Naci İnci by President Erdoğan, was held at the Istanbul 22nd Criminal Court of First Instance. The court sent the case file to the prosecution for it to prepare its opinion on the merits and adjourned the next hearing to January 30 2023.

NOVEMBER 15

- The first hearing of the trial against İmece Friendship and Solidarity Association president and Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TİHV) member Günseli Suna

Kaya was held at the Izmir 18th High Criminal Court. Kaya faced charges of making propaganda for a terrorist organization due to speeches she gave about Aziz Yural, the volunteer TİHV doctor who was murdered in Cizre in 2016. The court ruled to acquit Kaya on the grounds that the evidence presented and social media posts did not constitute propaganda for a terrorist organization.

NOVEMBER 16

- The Supreme Court of Appeals overturned the 30-year prison sentence for knowingly and willingly aiding a terrorist organization that was handed down by the Diyarbakır 9th High Criminal Court to women's rights activist and Free Women's Movement (Kurdish: Tevgera Jinên Azad, or TJA) term spokesperson Ayşe Gökkan, who was held in detention throughout the course of the trial. Following the Supreme Court of Appeals overturning her sentence, Gökkan was again put on trial. At the new trial, her lawyers requested one of the judges be recused. The panel of judges rejected the request and set the next hearing for January 18, 2023.
- The Kadıköy District Governorate banned without justification the screening of the film *Paris Is Burning* (1990), which the Istanbul University Equality Community planned to show at the Kadıköy Culture House. The community posted a statement on its Twitter account that read, "The film screening we planned for today was banned by the Kadıköy District Governorate about three hours before it was set to begin."
- The prosecution gave its opinion in the case against Boğaziçi University students who were beaten by police for carrying pride flags, demanding that the 12 defendants be sentenced to up to three years pursuant to "violating Law No. 2911 on Meetings and Demonstrations." The next hearing was set for November 22, 2022.

NOVEMBER 17

- The first hearing of the trial where Hanife Yıldız of the Saturday Mothers/People faced charges of "insulting a public official" for statements she made about Minister of Interior Affairs Süleyman Soylu was held. Despite not being named in the indictment, the Kağıthane District Police Department was also listed in the case file as a victim. Yıldız was unable to attend the hearing, thus the Istanbul 48th Criminal Court of First Instance allowed her time to prepare for the next hearing, which it set for January 26, 2023.
- Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) MP Muhittin Taşdoğan submitted a bill to

Parliament to remove the word “Turkish” from the Turkish Medical Association (TTB) name. The bill also included removing the obligation for healthcare professionals to be members of the TTB.

NOVEMBER 21

- Upon the launching of the Turkish Armed Forces’ (TSK) Operation Claw-Sword in Syria and the Kurdistan region of northern Iraq on November 9, the Diyarbakır Governorate banned all activities, inside and outside, for one week while the Urfa Governorate and Bitlis Governorate banned all activities for two weeks, and the Van Governorate banned all activities for nine days.

- The fourth hearing of the trial against two women who fought the mining operations in the Akbelen Forest in İkizköy in the Milas district of Muğla, was held at the Milas 3rd Criminal Court of First Instance. The women faced charges of resisting the gendarmerie. The defense appealed the Bodrum High Criminal Court’s rejection of its request for a judge to be recused. After the appeal was evaluated, the court decided to resend the case file and set the next hearing for February 2, 2023.

- The Diyarbakır Bar Association filed an action for annulment that included a request for a stay of execution with Diyarbakır Administrative Court concerning the Diyarbakır Governorate’s banning of indoor and outdoor activities in the city for seven days.

NOVEMBER 22

- In the trial of 12 defendants at the Istanbul 24th Criminal Court, who are being prosecuted for allegedly “unlawfully displaying LGBTI+ flags and engaging in a collective unauthorized march without dispersing” during the protest demonstrations against the appointment of a rector to Boğaziçi University, the prosecution’s opinion was announced. The prosecution demanded the defendants receive sentences of six months to three years. The court set the next hearing for December 29, 2022, in order for the defense to prepare its response.

- The third hearing at the Ankara 25th High Criminal Court was held in the trial against the directors of the Ankara branch of the Chamber of Architects, who were charged with making propaganda for a terrorist organization due to having given an award to a reporter from Jin TV. In its opinion, the prosecution demanded that Chamber of Architects Ankara branch President Tezcan Karakuş Candan and six then

members of the Board of Directors receive sentences for “making propaganda for a terrorist organization” charge. The court adjourned the hearing to January 13, 2023, in order for the defense to prepare their defense.

- Police intervened on those who gathered in front of the Grand Post Office in Sirkeci upon the call of the Istanbul Medical Chamber (İTO) to send letters and cards to imprisoned Turkish Medical Association (TTB) Central Council Chair Şebnem Korur Fincancı. Police told the İTO members that the Fatih District Governorate had banned press statements, but that cards and letters could be sent. Police surrounded the people who intended to send cards and letters to Fincancı.

- The Supreme Court of Appeals overturned the conviction of the rights advocates in the Büyükada case. The court determined that the honorary chair of Amnesty International, Taner Kılıç, was sentenced following an incomplete investigation. The court also overturned the convictions of the former Turkey director of Amnesty International, İdil Eser, as well as those of Human Rights Agenda Association Board of Directors member Günel Kurşun and rights advocate Özlem Dalkıran, citing that there was no conclusive evidence that any of them had committed a crime. The case was then sent to the Istanbul 35th High Criminal Court for retrial.

NOVEMBER 23

- The Constitutional Court rejected the appeal as inadmissible in the case against 22 lawyers from the Progressive Lawyers' Association (ÇHD) and People's Law Office who had been charged due to their professional activities.

- The seventh hearing of the trial of the murder of Tahir Elçi, the former president of Diyarbakır Bar Association, was held at Diyarbakır 10th High Criminal Court. Speaking to the judge, Tahir Elçi Human Rights Foundation Deputy Chairman Neşet Gırasun said, “Leave your children a legacy of conducting a fair trial,” which angered the presiding judge, who responded, “Don't speak of my children,” and ended the hearing. Diyarbakır Bar Association President Nahit Eren then met with the panel of judges, after which the hearing continued. The next hearing was set for July 5, 2023, in order to receive the expected report from the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) regarding whether or not the hard disk containing footage of the incident had been tampered with, as well as to execute an arrest warrant issued for one defendant and extend the travel bans imposed on the other defendants. It is noteworthy that the date for the next hearing was to coincide with the Judicial and Administrative Justice Main Summer Decree, which would publicize the appointment

of judges to the Council of Judges and Prosecutors (HSK).

NOVEMBER 25

- It became public that the Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office had prepared an indictment against Turkish Medical Association (TTB) Central Council Chair Şebnem Korur Fincancı. The indictment recommended a prison sentence of seven years and six months for the crime of making propaganda for a terrorist organization.
- On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on November 25, the police violently attacked women's rights advocates participating in the march in Istanbul, breaking the foot of Dilbent Türker, the director of the All Automotive and Metal Workers' Union (TOMİS). The 216 women detained during the march were released the next morning.

NOVEMBER 27

- Police intervened against the women gathered in Kadıköy, Istanbul, for International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on November 25 upon the call of women's organizations. The women attempted to make a press statement despite the ban issued by the Kadıköy District Governorate. Police detained 23 participants.

NOVEMBER 30

- The November 25 Platform filed a criminal complaint concerning the violence and torture perpetrated by the police in Istanbul on International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on November 25.

MEDIA MONITORING

Pressure from the pro-government media on rights advocates continued to increase toward year-end. The people targeted and the reasons behind it were nearly the same as those in the previous month. The Tarlabaşı Community Center (TTM) continued to be targeted due to the second hearing of the closure case it faced being held.

In a new development concerning the media, the Turkish Medical

Association (TTB) filed a complaint with the Press Council regarding news reports from the pro-government media on current and previous TTB Central Council members. In the petition, the TTB requested the media organizations be sanctioned for violating journalistic principles.

The petition also put forth that reports were based on an untrue claim that distorted Şebnem Korur Fincancı's words and that statements against the claim were not included in the reports, thus the publications attempted to manipulate reader opinion.

DECEMBER

DECEMBER 1

- The indictment prepared against the Turkish Medical Association (TTB) Central Council President Şebnem Korur Fincancı was transferred to Istanbul 24th High Criminal Court after being deemed out of jurisdiction by Ankara 4th High Criminal Court and sent to Istanbul.
- Due to the threatening and hateful comments made on social media regarding the announcements about the Gender Workshop that the Youth Council of Bursa Nilüfer Municipality City Council intended to organize in collaboration with the Community Volunteers Foundation (TOG), the event announcement was removed.
- The fifth hearing was held at the Istanbul 11th High Criminal Court in the trial in which three police officers were tried on the charge of torture for having subjected Mücella Yapıcı and her daughter Cansu Yapıcı to a strip search during the Gezi Park protests. The accused police officers did not attend the hearing. The next hearing was set for April 25, 2023.

DECEMBER 2

- The Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office sent a letter to the Presidency of the Ankara 31st Criminal Court of First Instance, asking for information about the outcome and decision of the case against Turkish Medical Association (TTB) Central Council Chair Şebnem Korur Fincancı and the council members. The correspondence was made as part of the work the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Justice initiated upon UN special rapporteurs' request for tangible information and documents regarding Fincancı's arrest in November and the preparation of a case against members of the TTB Central Council.
- Following threats made on social media and targeting by the pro-government media, the Ministry of Internal Affairs announced it had initiated an investigation into the Municipality of Nilüfer in Bursa. The Ministry of Interior Affairs issued a statement that read, "The Ministry has started a preliminary investigation into the Municipality of Nilüfer's opening of a special solidarity center for the LGBTI concerning news reports and how it reflects on the public." Upon this, the Youth Assembly announced that its event was canceled.

DECEMBER 6

- Police detained seven environmental activists as they attempted to make a press statement in front of the office of Cengiz Holding—a large Turkish conglomerate—, which would coincide with the hearing of three cases against the Halılağa Copper Mine project that Cengiz Holding planned in the Mount Ida (Kaz Mountains).

DECEMBER 8

- Human Rights Association (İHD) Ankara branch Co-Chair Fatin Kanat was acquitted of the charge of making propaganda for a terrorist organization.

DECEMBER 9

- The Istanbul Chamber of Dentists responded to a complaint filed concerning the examination of Gezi Park case defendant Mücella Yapıcı on June 21, 2022 at the İstanbul Okmeydanı Oral and Dental Health Hospital, during which she was kept in handcuffs. The response stated that the chamber had made the unanimous decision not to open a disciplinary investigation into the dentist, and added, “It is understood that the physician treated the patient within the scope of routine treatment practices determined by the hospital and did not have any wrongful intention.”

- The trial continued at the Izmir 41st Criminal Court of First Instance against three women's rights activists on charges of insulting the president. The women had been detained in Alsancak, İzmir on February 3, 2021 during a demonstration in solidarity with Boğaziçi University students. In its statement on the merits of the case, the prosecution demanded the defendants—İrem Çelikbaş, Emine Akbaba and Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TİHV) employee Aytül Uçar—be punished for the crime of insulting the president. The court accepted the defense's request for time to prepare its response and set the next hearing for December 30, 2022.

DECEMBER 12

- The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Mary Lawlor, issued a statement regarding the director and members of Migration Monitoring Association (GÖÇİZDER), who were due to appear in court on December 13. In her statement, Lawlor announced that she had requested information from the Turkish government on the case on September 16, and that the government repeated its claim that GÖÇİZDER supports terror organizations with the funds it receives

from international organizations. “It is deeply troubling to see how Turkey’s courts are yet again being weaponized against those who seek to uphold human rights in the country,” Lawlor said in reference to Osman Kavala, and called for the immediate acquittal of the GÖÇİZDER detainees.

- The seventh hearing was held in the trial against 53 Boğaziçi University students charged with violating Law No. 2911 on Meetings and Demonstrations and deprivation of liberty. The students had been detained during a protest against President Erdoğan’s appointing Melih Bulu as the rector of the university on January 2, 2021 and were subsequently indicted. Boğaziçi University faculty member Feyzi Erçin, whose classes had been terminated, was present at the hearing as a witness. The prosecution requested that missing information be rectified. The court decided to send the case file to an expert on CD resolution and set the next hearing for March 22, 2023.

DECEMBER 13

- The Marmaris Criminal Court of Peace ruled that the fine imposed on Halime Şaman—a member of the Marmaris City Council Executive Board for the Environment and Muğla Environmental Platform (MUÇEP) spokesperson for Marmaris—was unlawful. Şaman had originally been fined for hanging a banner that read: “The green, the blue are constantly defended — Don’t touch it, let it stay a paradise” (Yeşil, mavi savunulup duru - Dokunma cennet kalsın). The court ordered the Marmaris District Governorate to repay Şaman the 581 Turkish liras she had been fined.

- The first hearing of the trial against the directors and members of GÖÇİZDER began at the Istanbul 26th High Criminal Court. The defendants included 23 rights defenders, of whom 17 were in pre-trial detention, who were charged with “membership in a terrorist organization.” The first session at the Istanbul Courthouse in Çağlayan began with the defense’s statement. Some of those who came to monitor the trial could not enter the courtroom because it had already reached capacity. The court decided to hold the second and third sessions in the courtroom at the Silivri Closed Prison Compound on December 14–15.

- The High Board of the Press Council finalized its decision concerning the complaint filed in regard to the provocative news reports on the members of the Turkish Medical Association (TTB) Central Council. The unanimous decision warned the newspaper Yeni Şafak, its managing editor Ersin Çelik and reporter Burak Doğan for violating Articles 4, 6 and 9 of the Professional Journalistic Principles.

DECEMBER 14

- The second day of the hearing in the case against the directors and members of GÖÇİZDER continued in the courtroom at the Silivri Prison Compound. The presiding judge frequently interfered with the defense and tensions rose in the courtroom when the defense lawyers' microphones were turned off. The panel of judges left the courtroom and the hearing continued in a different courtroom, which the defense lawyers and spectators were not allowed to enter.
- Numerous representatives from civil society organizations, olive producers, villagers whose livelihoods depend on olives, and activists who came to Ankara to protest the provision in the Omnibus Bill Proposal that opens olive groves to mining areas were stopped and prevented from entering the city by the police at the entrance.

DECEMBER 15

- The contention between the presiding judge and the defense lawyers continued on the third day of the first hearing of the GÖÇİZDER case. After the defendants gave testimony in the absence of their lawyers, the prosecution submitted its opinion and recommended the release of one of the detained defendants, İlyas Erdem, due to health problems, and the continuation of detention of the other defendants. The court gave an interim decision to release the detained defendants İlyas Erdem and Veysel Yıldız due to health problems, and Songül Köse and Kamile Kandal, as they had already testified. The next hearing was set for January 4–5, 2023.
- The first hearing of the trial against Öztürk Türkdoğan, the Co-Chair of Human Rights Association (İHD), was held at the Ankara 24th Criminal Court of First Instance. The trial is based on the charge of “publicly insulting the Republic of Turkey” under Article 301 of the Turkish Penal Code, using an announcement titled “Ending the Denial of the Armenian Genocide for Justice and Truth,” published on the association's website on April 24, 2017. Because the presiding judge of the court had been promoted and appointed as the public prosecutor of the Ankara Regional Court, the on-call judge heard the session. The next hearing was set for March 2, 2023.

DECEMBER 20

- The first hearing in the case filed by Sinpaş GYO against the chairman of the Marmaris City Council and member of the Marmaris Ecological Struggle Committee, Ufuk Beytekin, in which the construction company filed for compensation of 300,000

Turkish liras on claims of unfair competition was held at the Istanbul 16th Commercial Court of First Instance. The construction of Sinpaş GYO's hotel and timeshare projects in Marmaris, Muğla, were ongoing at the time of trial. The hearing was adjourned to April 11, 2023, to complete missing documents.

DECEMBER 22

- The trial against Elif Tirenç İpek Ulaş, a member of the Rosa Women's Association Board of Directors, on the allegation of membership to an armed terrorist organization continued at the Diyarbakır 8th High Criminal Court. A temporary panel of judges presided over the hearing in which the prosecution gave its statement on the merits of the case and demanded a prison sentence of seven years and six months to 15 years. The court granted Ulaş's lawyers' motion for an extension of the proceedings for the main panel of judges to evaluate the prosecution's opinion and set the next hearing for February 28, 2023.

- Marmaris City Council announced that it had found changes made to the minutes of the first hearing of the compensation lawsuit for 300,000 Turkish liras filed by Sinpaş GYO against Ufuk Beytekin, the chairman of the council and a member of the Marmaris Ecological Struggle Committee. The council said that the content of the copy given to the defendant and plaintiff after the hearing at the Istanbul 16th Commercial Court of First Instance and the copy uploaded to the National Judicial Network Information System (UYAP) on December 21, differed in a way that would change the outcome of the case, and added that the council's lawyers would initiate legal action.

DECEMBER 23

- The first hearing of the trial against Turkish Medical Association (TTB) Central Council Chair Şebnem Korur Fincancı on the charge of "making propaganda for a terrorist organization" was held at the Istanbul 24th High Criminal Court. Fincancı was handcuffed for five and a half hours as she was transferred from Ankara to Istanbul in a car for the hearing at the Çağlayan Courthouse. Police had cordoned off Çağlayan Square and there was a large police presence. Most of those who came to monitor the trial could not enter as the courtroom had already reached capacity. The court rejected the Ministry of National Defense request to be included in the case, as it found the ministry not to have been harmed. The prosecution gave its statement on the merits of the case in which it demanded Fincancı be sentenced to one year and six months to seven years and six months for the charge of making propaganda for a terrorist

organization through the press and that her detention be extended. The defense objected when the panel of judges limited it to three lawyers, but the court maintained its insistence. After giving their defense, all three of Fincancı's lawyers requested she be released from detention. The court ruled to continue her detention and set the next hearing for December 29, 2022.

- The trial against 19 people—who were detained on Mis Street in Beyoğlu district following the police intervention during the 19th Istanbul LGBTI+ Pride March held on June 26, 2021—resumed at the Istanbul 60th Criminal Court of First Instance. The defendants were charged with “violating Law No. 2911 on Meetings and Demonstrations” and “resisting police.” Five police officers listed as victims in the case file did not attend the hearing. The court rejected the prosecution's request that an expert report be prepared for the opinion and that the aggrieved police officers be heard in court. The court sent the case file to the prosecutor's office for it to give its opinion on the case's merits and set the next hearing for January 27, 2023.

- Through her lawyers, Turkish Medical Association (TTB) Central Council Chair Şebnem Korur Fincancı filed a criminal complaint against President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Minister of Interior Affairs Süleyman Soylu, Minister of Justice Bekir Bozdağ, Minister of National Defense Hulusi Akar and Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) Chairman Devlet Bahçeli. The criminal complaint detailed the forms of targeting Fincancı was subjected to and their corresponding crimes in the Turkish Penal Code, including by threat (Article 106), insult (Article 125), slander (Article 267) and attempt to influence a fair trial (Article 288). The criminal complaint also included the chief of the Counterterrorism Division of the Ankara Police Department, the chief of the Counterterrorism Division of the Istanbul Police Department and the police officers who participated in the raid and search of Fincancı's house for violation of private life (Article 134), professional misconduct (Article 257) and attempting to influence a fair trial (Article 288).

- The third hearing of the trial where 17 women were charged with insulting the president for chanting “Tayyip run, run, run; women are coming” and “Jump, jump, whoever doesn't jump is Tayyip” during the Feminist Night March on March 8, 2021 was held at Istanbul 10th Criminal Court of First Instance. The prosecution requested an expert report on the images as the defendants denied that they were the individuals seen in the footage. The court accepted the request and set the next hearing for May 9, 2023.

DECEMBER 26

- The November 25 Women's Platform filed a criminal complaint for the second time with the Istanbul Courthouse in Çağlayan against the police who used violence against women during the march they held in Taksim on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on November 25. The women had filed their first criminal complaint on November 30.
- The fourth hearing of the trial against eight Health and Social Service Workers' Union (SES) executives, including the detained Co-Chairs Selma Atabay and former Co-Chair Gönül Erden, on charges of "terrorist organization leadership," "terrorist organization membership," and "terrorist organization propaganda," took place at the Ankara 22nd Heavy Penal Court. The police prevented a press statement from being read out loud in front of the courthouse before the hearing began. As the defendants' telephone records had not yet been examined, the court ruled to continue Atabay and Erden's detention, lift the judicial control on Erdal Turan and Ramazan Taş, who had been held in detention, with a signature obligation and continue the defendants' international travel ban. The next hearing was set for March 13, 2023.

DECEMBER 27

- A second investigation was launched into Turkish Medical Association (TTB) Central Council Chair Şebnem Korur Fincancı and other council members on allegations of membership to an armed terrorist organization. A confidentiality order was imposed on the investigation.

DECEMBER 28

- The 3rd Penal Chamber of the Istanbul Regional Court upheld the sentences given in the Gezi Park trial in which Osman Kavala received an aggravated life sentence, and Ali Hakan Altınay, Can Atalay, Çiğdem Mater, Mine Özerden, Mücella Yapıcı, Tayfun Kahraman and Yiğit Ali Ekmekçi each received 18 years.
- During the first hearing of the lawsuit filed at the Bakırköy 15th Civil Court of First Instance for the closure of Migration Monitoring Association (GÖÇİZDER), the request for the dismissal of the case was rejected. The next hearing has been postponed to March 10, 2023.

DECEMBER 29

- 12 Boğaziçi University students who had been detained while supporting fellow students who unfurled a pride flag at the entrance to the university and who were charged with “violating Law No. 2911 on Meetings and Demonstrations” were acquitted.

- The second hearing of the trial where Turkish Medical Association (TTB) Central Council President Şebnem Korur Fincancı is accused of “making terrorist propaganda,” with a potential prison sentence of up to 7 years and 6 months, was held at the Istanbul 24th High Criminal Court. Fincancı has been in pre-trial detention since October 27, 2022. The panel of judges rejected the defense’s request that a judge be recused on the grounds that it would prolong the proceedings. The lawyer for the Ministry of National Defense, whose request to attend the previous hearing was rejected, once again requested to participate in the case. The court rejected the second request to participate as well, ruled to keep Fincancı detained and set the next hearing for January 11, 2023.

- The administration of Boğaziçi University has requested the relocation of the representative office of Eğitim-Sen, the authorized union of the university, from the North Campus to the Sarıtepe Campus in Kilyos, which is located 30 kilometers away from the main campus. The reason given for the request was a lack of space on campus and the rector gave the union seven working days to relocate.

DECEMBER 30

- The final hearing of the trial against human rights defenders Emine Akbaba, İrem Çelikbaş, and TİHV employee Aytül Uçar, who were detained during a demonstration held on February 3, 2021 in Alsancak, İzmir in solidarity with Boğaziçi University students, took place at İzmir 41st Criminal Court of First Instance. They were accused of “insulting the President.” The court ruled to acquit Aytül Uçar despite the prosecution’s demand for conviction, as there was no evidence that she had insulted the president. However, the court found Emine Akbaba and İrem Çelikbaş guilty of insulting the president and sentenced them to one year and two months in prison, which was reduced to 11 months and 20 days, and was reprieved.

MEDIA MONITORING

In the last days of the year, the focus of the pro-government media was primarily on Turkish Medical Association (TTB) Central Council President Şebnem Korur Fincancı, Hacer Foggo, and Peace Academics.

The pro-government media continually attempted to discredit and paint Fincancı as guilty throughout the year. The first hearing of her trial in December, the press statement made before the second hearing, the article published in a French newspaper about the allegations that the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) used chemical weapons and UN's call for her immediate release all gave rise to subsequent waves of targeting.

Seven years after she had posted them, the pro-government media discovered social media posts Hacer Foggo had made during the violence in the southeast and subsequent curfews in 2015. Foggo had also spoken at the "A Call to the Second Century" meeting organized by the Republican People's Party (CHP) in December 2022. The pro-government media labeled her an enemy of Turkish soldiers. A newspaper known for its nationalist editorial policy also ran an article titled "Who is Hacer Foggo?" in what appeared to be an attempt to blacklist her.

The same CHP meeting at which Foggo spoke made the Academics for Peace a target. In her speech, CHP Assembly member Selin Sayek Böke vowed that academics would be reinstated, causing outbursts of anger in the pro-government media, which labeled academics who had been dismissed from their universities as "slanderers and trench diggers."

A newspaper article published on the last day of the year made a collective assessment of 2022 and spoke of trials against human rights defenders and their outcomes as being correct and well-reasoned. The article praised the trial against Şebnem Korur Fincancı, the aggravated life sentence given to Osman Kavala, the withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention, and the closure cases against the Tarlabaşı Community Center (TTM) and the We Will Stop Femicide Platform Association (KCDP).

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Hafıza Merkezi initiated monitoring, reporting and support-based activities for human rights defenders in response to pressures and the shrinking civil space in 2018. In line with our monitoring and documentation efforts in this field, we published our report titled *Keep the Volume Up: Intimidation Policies Against Rights Defenders in 2022*, aiming to provide a legal analysis of the data we collected. In this report we sought to highlight a comprehensive intervention repertoire of administrative and legal measures, which constituted a basis for unlawful and antidemocratic policies.

With *Rights Defenders' Almanac 2022*, we now aim to present the repressive environment and practices that civil society organizations and rights-based struggles faced in 2022, based on the categories of interventions identified through the judiciary, public authorities, and media.