

Last Two Weeks in Turkey...

1-15 September 2023

1 September 2023

Boğaziçi University launches inquiry into 13 faculty members



Boğaziçi University Rectorate launched an inquiry into 13 faculty members for taking part in the 15-minute "silent protest" vigil held in the South Campus during their lunch break. With this silent and peaceful action, academics seek to protest practices undermining the autonomous, independent, and democratic nature of the university and to raise public awareness.

The Rectorate claimed that the protest action was "unlawful" and "disruptive to the functioning of the university". The protests started upon the appointment of Melih Bulu as the rector [trustee rector appointed by the government], and have been continuing since 4 January 2021.

Cumhuriyet Daily - <https://www.cumhuriyet.com.tr/turkiye/bogazicili-akademisyenlere-universiteden-sorusturma-suclari-demokratik-universite-istemek-2114850>

Gazete Oksijen Weekly- <https://gazeteoksijen.com/turkiye/bogazicedeki-sessiz-prottestoya-katilan-akademisyenlere-disiplin-sorusturmasi-187832>

2 September 2023

32 detained at the 962nd weekly sit-in protest of Saturday Mothers

The police interfered in the Saturday Mothers' sit-in protest in its 962nd week, detaining 32 people. The detainees were released five hours later, after undergoing medical checks at three different hospitals. Since April, more than 600 individuals have been forcibly detained during the sit-in protests held in Galatasaray Square [in Istanbul] as well as the solidarity protests held in other cities. Journalists following the protests have also been subject to constant obstruction and violence.



Previously, the Istanbul Beyoğlu District Governor's Office had banned the 700th sit-in gathering of the Saturday Mothers, planned to take place on 25 August 2018 in Galatasaray Square on Istiklal Avenue, on the grounds that "no notification [of the sit-in action] was made [to the authorities]". The police had attacked those gathered

in the square for the sit-in protest as well as those waiting nearby, using pepper gas and rubber bullets, and detained 23 people. During the police intervention, Aydın Aydoğan's arm got fractured, and many rubber bullets were fired into his body. Subsequently, a lawsuit was filed against 46 people on charges of "breaching the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations".

In parallel, Aydoğan, one of the relatives of the missing persons Maside Ocak, and rights defender Leman Yurtsever filed a criminal complaint against the police chief and police officers involved. Their complaint was initially dismissed by the prosecutor's office, who found no grounds for investigation, and later their objection to [prosecutor's dismissal] was rejected by the court. Ultimately, Aydoğan and Ocak lodged an individual application to the Constitutional Court of Turkey (TCC).

Examining the application, TCC issued its judgment in February 2023, and held that "there was a violation of the right to assembly and demonstrations" as stipulated in Article 34 of the Constitution. TCC also ordered a payment of TRY 13,500 in non-pecuniary damages to Maside Ocak. As for Aydoğan's application, TCC issued its judgement in April, and established that police officers "violated the prohibition of ill-treatment", ordering a payment of TRY 60,000 in non-pecuniary damages to Aydoğan as well as prosecution of police officers in question.

In a separate individual application lodged by Sebla Arcan Tatlav, one of the Saturday People, who was subjected to police violence during the planned protest action in Galatasaray Square on 22 September 2018, TCC issued its judgment in January, and ruled that the prohibition of ill-treatment, the right to assembly and demonstration, as well the prohibition of torture were violated, ordering the payment of TRY 50,000 in non-pecuniary damages to Tatlav.

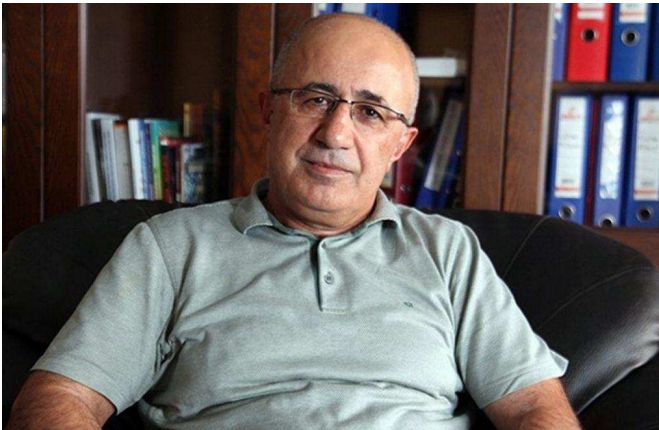
Despite these TCC judgments, through use of force and detentions, the police continue to prevent rights defenders from gathering in Galatasaray for their sit-in protests and press statements.

T24 - online news portal - <https://t24.com.tr/video/cumartesi-anneleri-nin-962-nci-hafta-bulusmasinda-32-kisi-gozaltina-alindi.56257>

Diken - online news portal - <https://www.diken.com.tr/cumartesi-anneleri-eylemdeki-polis-siddetine-aymeden-ihlal-karari/>

Gazete Duvar - online news portal - <https://www.gazeteduvar.com.tr/aymeden-cumartesi-annelerini-polis-saldirisina-eziyet-yasaginin-ihlali-karari-haber-1599323>

Lawsuit Against the Former Chair of Diyarbakır Bar Association and Rights Defender



Diyarbakır Chief Public Prosecutor's Office filed a lawsuit against the former chair of Diyarbakır Bar Association, Lawyer Mehmet Emin Aktar, on charges of "disclosing or publishing the identity of officials on anti-terrorist duties, hence targeting a Public Prosecutor involved in the case" (Anti-Terrorism Law 6/1).

Previously on 25 April 2023, [police carried out] an operation in Diyarbakır, detaining 216 individuals including journalists and lawyers. During this operation, [former bar chair] Lawyer Aktar, accompanied the [police] search at Resul Temur's office. Lawyer Aktar, [prepared and] shared through his social

media account a report regarding the irregularities [in the search operation]. Since the report included the name of the prosecutor [ordering the operation], a lawsuit was filed against Aktar. The first hearing of the case will be held on 14 December 2023 at Diyarbakır 5th High Criminal Court.

Previously, Mesopotamia News Agency reporter Fırat Can Arslan was arrested on 25 July 2023, based on the same Article [of Anti-Terrorism Law], due to his Tweet about the same prosecutor, who was assigned from Diyarbakır to Samsun Vezirköprü [in the meantime], as well as his wife who is a judge. Journalists retweeting Arslan's post, including Bianet editor Evrim Kepenek, T24 editor Sibel Yüksekler, journalist Evrim Deniz, and Mesopotamia News Agency reporter Delal Akyüz were also detained within the scope of the same investigation.

BIANET - online news portal <https://bianet.org/haber/diyarbakir-barosu-eski-baskani-aktar-a-savciyi-hedef-gosterdigi-suclamasıyla-dava-283358>

3 September 2023

University Students Face Disciplinary Inquiry Due To Rainbow Flag

Middle East Technical University (METU) Rectorate initiated a disciplinary inquiry into two students who unfurled a rainbow flag at the graduation ceremony held at METU Stadium in July 2023. The students were given a written notice, which stated "...were detected bringing in a LGBT flag in the bag and unfurling the flag as the parade started during the diploma ceremony held at the METU stadium on 26 July 2023 at around 19.40." However, no disciplinary regulation clause was cited as a basis for the inquiry.



According to media reports from 6 September 2023, three more students have been included in the inquiry.

Artı Gerçek - online news broadcaster - <https://artigercek.com/lgbti/odtulu-iki-ogrenciye-gokkusagi-bayragi-sorusturmasi-263875h>

BIANET - online news portal <https://bianet.org/haber/odtu-mezuniyetinde-lgbti-bayragi-acan-ogrencilere-ikinci-sorusturma-283638>

No release for ill prisoner Hulki Güneş despite the sentences lifted

Prisoner Hulki Güneş, currently held in İzmir Aliağa Şakran No. 4 T Type Prison, has been eligible for a conditional release for more than a year, yet is being denied parole due to the "disciplinary" punishments he was given earlier. Hulki Güneş was arrested in connection with [an armed] clash that resulted in the killing of a soldier in the Gimgim (Varto) district of Muş in 1992. Following the trial held by Diyarbakır State Security Court No.1, he was sentenced to life imprisonment on charges of "disrupting the unity and integrity of the state".

Güneş contracted Ankylosing Spondylitis and lung disease as a result of the torture he was subjected to while in custody. He is included in the list of ill prisoners by the Human Rights Association (HRA).

Evrensel daily - <https://www.evrensel.net/haber/498197/hasta-tutuklu-hulki-gunes-kaldirilan-cezalara-raqmen-tahliye-edilmez>

Özgür Politika daily - <https://www.ozgurpolitika.com/haber/cezalar-kaldirildi-tutsaklik-suruyor-180905>

4 September 2023

Torture in Muş



Muhammed Erol was detained in a raid on his house in the Sungu village of central Muş, and tortured at the Provincial Gendarmerie Command. His lawyer Tarık Güneş said that they will file a criminal complaint after receiving an assault incident report.

Erol was initially detained during the raid organised upon a notice alleging he was growing hemp, and later taken to Muş Provincial Central Gendarmerie Command. Erol was tortured at the gendarmerie

premises, suffering fractures in many parts of his body. Gendarmerie officers claimed that Erol resisted to detention and pulled a knife on them. After giving his statement to the prosecutor's office, Erol was referred to the Muş Magistrate's Court with a request for arrest on charges of "resisting to prevent the public officer from performing his duty". Rejecting the prosecutor's request for arrest, the Muş Magistrate's Court released Erol on judicial control measures, imposing a travel ban.

Gazete Duvar - <https://www.gazeteduvar.com.tr/musta-jandarmadan-iskence-sabaha-kadar-darp-ettiler-haber-1636119>

Rûdaw - <https://www.rudaw.net/turkish/middleeast/turkey/0409202312>

Artı Gerçek - <https://artigercek.com/quncel/musta-karakolda-iskenceye-suc-duyurusu-askerler-beni-soguk-suyla-avilip-tekrar-264221h>

Trial of the Journalist Detained While Covering News



Mesopotamia News Agency reporter Ergin Çağlar was detained while covering the "Gemlik March" held in Bursa in June 2022. A lawsuit was filed against him on charges of "breaching the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations". The trial continued with a hearing on 4 September at the Istanbul 58th Criminal Court of First Instance.

While reading out the indictment, the presiding judge expressed his surprise by saying, "Is this really what we have to deal with?". Çağlar responded, "We [as journalists] have followed many demonstrations. I was

also quite surprised that this turned into a lawsuit." Repeating his earlier statements at the police questioning, Çağlar noted that he was at the march as a journalist, not an activist, and that he was detained despite showing his press card both in the spot and at the police station.

After his defence statement, the judge said to Çağlar, "You could have even been there as an activist too. Moreover, since you have been barred from performing your professional duties and taken into custody, you have the right to claim damages and file a criminal complaint against the police officers involved", reminding him

of his fundamental rights. The Court issued a decision of non-jurisdiction, and transfer of the case-file to Bursa 29th Criminal Court of First Instance.

Gazete Duvar - <https://www.gazeteduvar.com.tr/eylem-takip-eden-gazeteciye-acilan-davanin-hakimi-vezler-ugrasiyorum-haber-1636054>

6 September 2023

Media watchdog RTUK's Support for the Anti-LGBTI+ Rally

The Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTUK) approved the commissioning of a public service ad promoting the "Stop LGBT propaganda" rally to be organized by the Istanbul Family Foundation in Istanbul on 17 September 2023.

A video of similar nature had been previously broadcasted as a public service ad before the rally in 2022, upon which Kaos GL Association had filed a lawsuit against RTUK.

SES Equality, Justice, Women Platform - <https://esitlikadaletkadin.org/rtuk-lgbti-karsiti-kamu-spotuna-onay-verdi/>

7 September 2023

Two journalists banned from travelling abroad upon Constitutional Court member's complaint

Two journalists have been banned from traveling abroad upon the complaint filed by the Constitutional Court (TCC) member İrfan Fidan in connection with a news story. The Press Trade Union under the Confederation of Revolutionary Trade Unions of Turkey (DISK Basın-İs) announced the decision on social media.

In their social media post, DISK Basın-İs noted, "Our Chairperson Faruk Eren and Journalist Furkan Karabay have been banned from travelling abroad upon the complaint of the TCC member İrfan Fidan due to a news story published in Gerçek Gündem. We shall fully defend our profession against any attempts to invent a 'crime' out of journalism."

DISK Basın-İs – Twitter - https://x.com/Disk_Basin_is/status/1699438452310147088?s=20

MLSA - <https://www.mlsaturkey.com/tr/irfan-fidanin-sikayetyle-gazeteci-eren-ve-karabaya-hedef-goesterme-davasi>

8 September 2023

Musician taken into custody

Musician Kadir Çat was taken into custody after performing at a concert organised by the Green Left Party Şanlıurfa Youth Assembly.

Çat was taken to Şanlıurfa Provincial Police Department on charges of making "terrorist propaganda" by means of a song he sang at a wedding hall in Şanlıurfa's Haliliye district. Released after a health assessment, Çat noted

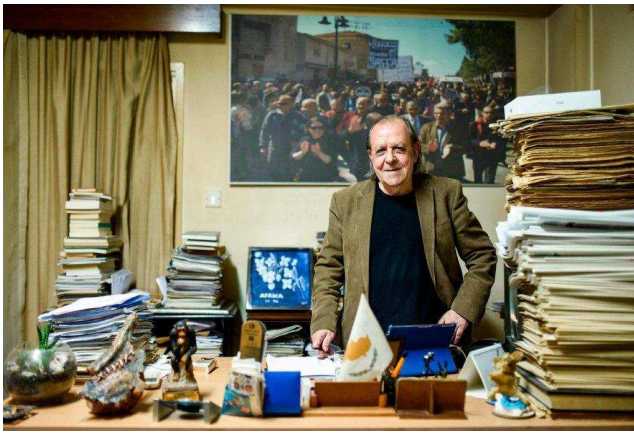
that he had been taken into custody in 2020 in Urfa and in 2023 in Aydın as well for performing the very same song, and he was acquitted of the charges in both lawsuits.

Rudaw - <https://www.rudaw.net/turkish/middleeast/turkey/080920234>

Susma24 - <https://susma24.com/gozaltina-alinan-muzisyen-kadir-cat-serbest-birakildi/>

9 September 2023

Prison sentence for journalist at the trial in absentia



Şener Levent, Editor-in-Chief of Avrupa Gazetesi, published daily in Cyprus, was sentenced to 11 months and 20 days in prison on charges of "insulting the President (Turkish Criminal Code Art. 299)" as part of the trial held in absentia in Turkey due to his article titled "Kurds and us".

While the court made its decision on 10 March 2023, Levent was only notified in August. In a column he wrote on 9 September, Levent announced and criticized the court decision without disclosing the name or information of the court that issued the ruling.

Previously, Levent had faced lawsuits filed both in Cyprus and Turkey in connection with a cartoon he published in the newspaper Afrika (the previous name of Avrupa Gazetesi) on 8 December 2017. Levent was acquitted of all charges in the trial held in Cyprus. Yet, as part of the trial held by Ankara 63rd Criminal Court of First Instance, he was sentenced to 1 year in prison, and the sentence was commuted to a judicial fine of TRY 9,000. Due to the cartoon published in the newspaper, Afrika newspaper employees were subjected to a lynching attempt. (<https://tinyurl.com/2dm4vyu5>)

BIANET - <https://bianet.org/haber/kibrisli-gazeteciye-turkiye-de-cumhurbaskanina-hakaret-cezasi-283925>

Detentions at a film screening



The screening of the film Pardon, organised by the Communist Party of Turkey (TKP) Kocaeli Freedom Neighbourhood House in Muhlis Akarsu Park in İnönü District of Gebze, was prevented by the police. 13 TKP members were taken into custody.

As the organisers started screening of the 2005 film Pardon, written by Ferhan Şensoy and directed by Mert Baykal, riot police teams came to the area, halted the screening, and detained 13 people. The film told the story of three friends who were [wrongfully] detained due to a misunderstanding.

Platform for Monitoring Artistic Freedom - <https://www.reportare.com/soz/haber/pardon-filmi-gosterimine-qozalti/>

Diken - <https://www.diken.com.tr/pardon-filmi-gosterimine-qozalti/>

12 September 2023

15-day access ban to 14 zones in Şırnak

Şırnak Governor's Office announced that 14 sites have been designated "special security zones", alongside a 15-day access ban to these zones.

According to the statement, the access ban decision was taken "to ensure national security, to protect public order and public safety, to prevent crime, to protect fundamental rights and freedoms, the rights and freedoms of others and general public order, to prevent violent incidents and to prevent any negative situation that may occur."

Şırnak Governor's Office – <http://www.sirnak.gov.tr/yasaklama-karari-12092023>

Cumhuriyet Daily - <https://www.cumhuriyet.com.tr/turkiye/sirnakta-14-bolge-gecici-ozel-guvenlik-bolgesi-ilan-edildi-2118738>

Gazete Duvar - <https://www.gazeteduvar.com.tr/sirnakta-14-bolgeye-girisler-yasaklandi-haber-1637370>

Lawsuit against BEKSAV Cinema Collective for screening the movie "Pride"

As part of the Pride Month 2023, the Cinema Collective under the Foundation for Science Education, Aesthetics, Culture and Art Research (BEKSAV) had planned to organise the screening of the movie "Pride" on 7 June 2023 in Istanbul's Kadıkoy district. The screening was banned by the Kadıkoy District Governor's Office, and eight people were taken into custody during the screening. They are now faced with a lawsuit filed against them.

KAOS-GL - <https://kaosgl.org/haber/birlikte-bir-film-izlamak-istedigimiz-icin-yargilamak-isteyiz>

13 September 2023

Governor's Office bans FEDAS workers' solidarity concert



Firat Electricity Distribution Company (FEDAS) workers wanted to organise a solidarity concert in Dersim Seyit Rıza square to mark the 35th day of their strike action. As the concert was banned by the Governor's Office, Energy Trade Union (Enerji Sen) chairperson Süleyman Keskin made a press statement in the square. Following the statement, the workers who continue their resistance in the square, joined by the musicians who were supposed to perform at the concert as well as the

citizens gathered for the statement, sang the folk song "Miner" in memory of their fellow miners who lost their lives in the workplace homicide in Zonguldak.

As a subsidiary of Kazancı Holding joint stock company, FEDAS has been the electricity distributor in the provinces of Elazığ, Malatya, Bingöl and Dersim since 31 December 2010.

Evrensel Daily - <https://www.evrensel.net/haber/498878/fedas-iscilerini-dayanisma-konseri-engellendi-isciler-tepki-gosterdi>

Request to close down We Will Stop Femicide Platform rejected



A lawsuit was filed against the We Will Stop Femicide Platform with a request of dissolution of the association on grounds that it "seeks to tear apart the family and society". The proceedings were completed on 13 September 2023. Istanbul 13th Civil Court of First Instance dismissed the case.

BBC Turkish <https://www.bbc.com/turkce/articles/czv728zr109o>

14 September 2023

Journalists still under pre-trial detention



Mesopotamia News Agency reporters Abdurrahman Gök and Mehmet Şah Oruç were taken into custody five months ago and placed in pre-trial detention. Their trial started only 14 September 2023, five months after their initial detention.

Arrested on 27 April 2023, journalist Gok is faced with a 20-year imprisonment request on charges of "membership in an illegal organisation (Turkish Criminal Code Art. 314/2)" and "making propaganda for an illegal organisation (Turkish Civil Code Art 7/2)".

During the hearing held at the Diyarbakır 5th High Criminal Court, Gok made the following statement: "I took photographs of Kemal Kurkut, who was killed by the police during Nowroz [celebrations] in 2017. After I published the photos, five separate lawsuits have been filed against me. The pressure mounted when a lawsuit was also filed against police officers [involved], after the release of my photos. I believe the real motive behind this case is my photographs of Kemal Kurkut."

Abdurrahman Gök has been under pressure since he photographed the moment Kemal Kurkut was killed during the 2017 Nowroz celebrations in Diyarbakır. His photographs helped refute the statement by Diyarbakır Governor's Office claiming that "Kurkut was shot because he was a suicide bomber". Following the incident, Gok's house was raided on 20 April 2017. A lawsuit was filed against him on charges of "membership in a terrorist organisation" and "making terrorist propaganda". Subsequently, Diyarbakır 5th High Criminal Court sentenced Gok to 1 year, 6 months and 22 days in prison on charges of "making [terrorist] propaganda".

Gok was also taken into custody along with many journalists on 9 October 2018 as part of the "KCK Operations" [police operation against pro-Kurdish activists on the grounds of alleged links to the outlawed "Union of Communities in Kurdistan"] carried out in Diyarbakır. It was claimed that Gok was "carrying out activities under the press committee of KCK". While Gok was released on judicial control measures on 12 October 2018, the

indictment relating to his case was finalised two years after his release. He was charged with "membership in an armed terrorist organisation" and "making propaganda for the terrorist organisation through the press". The prosecutor's office requested prison sentences for Gok ranging from 9 years, 4 months and 15 days to 28 years, 1 month and 15 days. The trial is still ongoing.

In response to the statement of Umit Akbiyik, who was made an open witness in the case after benefiting from effective remorse, Gok said, "He claims that I work for PEL production. I have never worked there. I was arrested based on his false statements." The trial will continue with a hearing on 5 December 2023.

BIANET - <https://bianet.org/haber/tutuklu-gazeteci-abdurrahman-gok-e-tahliye-yok-283978>

Meanwhile, Mehmet Şah Oruç, another reporter of Mesopotamia News Agency, arrested on 25 April 2023 after being taken into custody alongside 10 journalists in Diyarbakır, was also faced with a lawsuit. His first hearing was also held on the same day at Bitlis 2nd High Criminal Court. Oruç joined the hearing from Diyarbakır High Security Prison no.1 via Audio and Video System (SEGBİS) together with his lawyer Resul Temur. Oruç stated that he did not know the informant Ümit Akbiyik. The court decided to continue Oruç's detention and postponed the hearing to 31 October 2023.

BIANET - <https://bianet.org/haber/tutuklu-gazeteci-mehmet-sah-oruc-da-tahliye-edilmedi-284026>

Sivas Massacre case dropped due to statute of limitations

The Sivas Massacre case, with three fugitive defendants on trial, was dropped by the court due to statute of limitations.

The criminal proceedings have been ongoing for the fugitive defendants Murat Sonkur, Eren Ceylan and Murat Karakaş, who were charged with burning to death 33 people [intellectuals] in the Madımak Hotel in Sivas on 2 July 1993. The last hearing of the case was held at Ankara 1st High Criminal Court.



The first court judgment relating to Sivas Massacres was issued in 1994. While the court sentenced 87 defendants to prison terms ranging from two to 15 years, it also ordered penalty reduction on basis of "unjust provocation". Yet, the Court of Cassation's 9th Criminal Chamber overturned this judgment. After the Court of Cassation's reversal, the defendants Eren Ceylan, Murat Karataş and Murat Sonkur could no longer be located. The three fugitive defendants were put on trial [in absentia] by Ankara 1st High Criminal Court.

During the last hearing of the trial, lawyer Şenal Sarıhan stated, "There are thousands of evidence in the case-file about these fugitive witnesses. Let's communicate with the German government once again regarding the extradition of the three defendants. These people were taken abroad in an organised manner. These were done in a prearranged and organised manner. [...] Regardless, we ask the panel of judges to weigh it in their conscience first."

Öztürk Türkdoğan, one of the lawyers in the case, noted that there was no obstacle before the extradition of the fugitive defendants. Meanwhile, lawyer Ayça Çağlar underlined that the particular circumstances of the crime committed make it an imperative to assess it in the scope of crime against humanity, hence ruling out the application of the statute of limitations. Following the submission of lawyer statements, the court rejected all requests and held that the opinions expressed in the letter written to Germany did not constitute a bias.

Later, the prosecutor presented his opinion on the merits of the case, stated that 30-year statute of limitations had expired, that the defendants being fugitive could not stop the lapse of time, and therefore requested the abatement of the case. Those watching the trial reacted to the prosecutor. The court decided to drop the case due to the statute of limitations.

BBC Turkish - <https://www.bbc.com/turkce/articles/c1r522p9e4eo>

Hürriyet Daily - <https://www.hurriyet.com.tr/gundem/sivas-katliami-davasi-zaman-asimina-ugradi-42330648>

Trial Monitoring notes:

Lawsuit against Fırat Akdeniz (6 September 2023, Diyarbakır)

On 17 July 2017, a group of people including Fırat Akdeniz, former president of the Diyarbakır chapter of the Human Rights Association exercised their right to sit-in protest against the layoff and purges [of civil servants] on the basis of the Statutory Decree No.672. More than 30 individuals taking part in the sit-in protest were sued for breaching the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations. The fifth hearing of the trial was held on 6 September at Diyarbakır 10th Criminal Court of First Instance. Due to the replacement of the prosecutor, the next hearing date was adjourned until 29 September 2023 in order to give time to the new prosecutor to review the case-file and prepare an opinion.

Lawsuit against the Press Statement on the 6th Anniversary of Suruç Massacre (12 September 2023, Izmir)

On 20 July 2021, various civic initiatives gathered to commemorate the people massacred by ISIS in Suruç in the 6th anniversary of the massacre, and made a press statement under the banner "Justice for Suruç, Justice for All". 10 individuals who took part in the press statement were detained with torture and ill-treatment, and a lawsuit was filed against them on charges of breaching the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations. During the 6th hearing of the trial held at the Izmir 10th Criminal Court of First Instance on 12 September, the statements of the defendants were completed. In order for the prosecutor to prepare his opinion on the merits of the case, the next hearing has been scheduled to 12 December 2023.

Lawsuit #1 Against Eren Keskin (13 September 2023, Istanbul)

Eren Keskin, chairperson of the Human Rights Association, was filed against a lawsuit on charges of "making terrorist propaganda" and "breaching the law on meetings and demonstrations", on the pretext of her 2015 social media posts. This lawsuit was later joined with another lawsuit against a group of lawyers including Eren Keskin as well as members of Association of Lawyers for Freedom (ÖHD) and Progressive Lawyers' Association (ÇHD) on charges of making a press statement in front of the courthouse. As part of this trial, 31st hearing was held

on 13 September 2023 at the Istanbul 13th High Criminal Court. The next hearing has been scheduled to 8 November 2023 in order to give time for the prosecutor to prepare an opinion on the merits of the case.

Lawsuit Against SES and Van-Hakkari Chamber of Physicians (15 September 2023, Van)

In February 2022, a group, including president of Van-Hakkari Chamber of Physicians as well as the co-chairs of the Trade Union of Public Employees in Health and Social Services Sector (SES), had gathered to make a press statement. As the group refused to disperse despite the warnings, they were charged with breaching the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations. As part of the trial, the fourth hearing was held on 15 September at Van 1st Criminal Court of First Instance. The trial has been adjourned until 8 March 2024 to address the deficiencies in the case-file.

Lawsuit against Fatma Yıldızhan (15 September 2023, Diyarbakır)

On 16 March 2022, 24 rights defenders were taken into custody and later 11 of them were arrested on terror charges including Fatma Yıldızhan, who was kept in pre-trial detention for 3 months. The lawsuit filed against Fatma Yıldızhan with the Diyarbakır 10th High Criminal Court was discontinued later on 21 October 2022, and a retrial process started. During the first hearing of the retrial held on 15 September 2023, the court ruled for acquittal "in accordance with Article 223/2-e of the Turkish Code of Criminal Procedure, on grounds that it has not been proven that the charged crime had been committed by the accused".