

Last Two Weeks in Turkey...

1-15 October 2023

2 October 2023

METU administration bans the head of the Alumni Association from entering the campus until 2090

METU Alumni Association Chairman Baki Arslan was banned from entering the METU campus until 2090.

Announcing the ban on its Twitter account, the Alumni Association stated that their Chairman of the Board of Directors was banned from entering the campus by saying that he was "banned until 2090", that no justification was given for the ban, and that their written requests for information and explanation remained unanswered.

The association reminded that different members of the board of directors were banned from entering the campus at different times and stated that they will initiate a legal process.

ODTÜ Mezunlar Derneği (Twitter)- https://x.com/odtu_md/status/1708726054653686195?s=20

Anka Ajansı- <https://twitter.com/ankahabera/status/1709543418467143959>

Gazete Duvar- <https://www.gazeteduvar.com.tr/odtu-mezunlar-dernegi-baskaninin-kampuse-girisi-2090a-kadar-yasaklandi-haber-1640436>

4 October 2023

Radio & Television Supreme Council issued Halk TV with five programme suspensions and fines

At its regular weekly meeting, the Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK) took two different monitoring reports on Halk TV on its agenda and made a decision.

The first report on the table belonged to journalist Ayşenur Arslan, who was detained yesterday and released after her statement. In her programme on Halk TV, Ayşenur Arslan said about the bomb attack in front of the Ministry of Interior in Ankara: "Maybe that person did not know that he had a bomb on him. One cannot come and die without doing anything. If you ask me, it goes against everything; he blew himself up out of nowhere. Instead of opening a car in Ankara and starting it with hot ignition, why did he kill someone in Kayseri and say 'I'm coming heey. Bombs on our backs, pistols at our waist... what is this...?' RTÜK found these remarks "contrary to broadcasting principles".

RTÜK imposed an upper limit fine and five programme suspensions on Halk TV for violating the provision of Law No. 6112 stating that "Broadcasting services cannot present terrorist acts, perpetrators and victims in such a way as to create results that serve the aims of terrorism".

RTÜK also decided on the expert report on Halk TV's "News Desk" programme. The programme's guest, director and actor Ezel Akay's comments on the Ministry of Culture and Tourism's withdrawal of support from the 60th Golden Orange Film Festival due to the inclusion of the film "Kanun Hükümü" in the competition selection in the documentary category were deemed a "violation of the law." The Board described Akay's comments as "baseless statements that accuse and incriminate the State of the Republic of Turkey" and imposed an

administrative fine of 3 percent on the broadcaster Halk TV for "violating the broadcasting principles stated in the law."

Gazete Duvar - <https://www.gazeteduvar.com.tr/rukten-halk-tvye-5-kez-program-durdurma-ve-para-cezasi-haber-1640813>

Anadolu Ajansı - <https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/gundem/rukten-halk-tvye-5-kez-program-durdurma-ve-ust-sinirdan-idari-para-cezasi>

5 October 2023

Private security guards detained university students protesting food fee hikes

The protest of Ege University and Dokuz Eylül University (DEU) students against the 200 per cent price hike in university cafeterias continues on its third day.

The Rector Counsellor of DEU, who had made an appointment with the students today to meet with them and listen to their demands, did not turn up for his appointment. The students went to the cafeteria and continued their protest. The employees of the company from which the university procures private security services detained eight of the protesting students, even though they had no legal authority to do so, and handed them over to the police outside the university campus. It is learned that detained students Rozana Urkun, Sena Zabite Tekin, Selen Dendeş, Emir Ata Can, Zafer Aydın, Hejar Al and Eylül Lara Sarper were taken to security department.

Evrensel- <https://www.evrensel.net/haber/500461/yemekhane-zamlarini-protesto-eden-ogrenciler-gozaltina-alindi>

Mezopotamya Haber Ajansı- <http://mezopotamyaajansi35.com/tum-haberler/content/view/220445>

Cumhuriyet- <https://www.cumhuriyet.com.tr/turkiye/yemek-zamlarini-protesto-eden-ogrencilere-mudahale-8-gozalti-2126810>

Munzur University suspends professor who shared Öcalan's statement

Prof. Dr. Ali Kemal Özcan, a lecturer at Munzur University's Faculty of Literature, Department of Sociology, was summoned to testify at the Tunceli Police Headquarters following a denunciation against him for "praising the leader of a terrorist organisation." Özcan was suspended from his position at the university and judicial and administrative proceedings were initiated against him.

Özcan, who has also written books about Öcalan, came to the agenda in the local elections in 2019 when he shared "Öcalan's public announcement" on pro-government broadcasting channels before the elections, which were repeated only in Istanbul and only in the mayoralty part of the municipality with the pressure of the government and the decision of the Supreme Electoral Council.

Rûdaw- <https://www.rudaw.net/turkish/middleeast/turkey/0510202313>

Tele 1- <https://tele1.com.tr/ocalanin-aciklamasini-paylasan-akademisyen-ali-kemal-ozcan-gorevden-alindi-926290/>

DW Türkçe- <https://www.dw.com/tr/%C3%B6calan%C4%B1n-mektubunu-okuyan-profes%C3%B6re-soru%C5%9Fturma/video-67023496>

6 October 2023

Şırnak Governorate banned public gatherings and activities for 10 days across the province

Among the activities banned by the governorate from 6 October until midnight on 15 October across the entire province, including the city centre and districts, are open-door meetings and demonstrations, mass welcoming and farewell ceremonies, press statements, sit-ins, rallies, tent pitching, petition campaigns, opening stands, mass funerals and visits to cemeteries and commemorations, All kinds of actions and activities such as festivals, concerts, entertainment, play representation, demonstrations and similar activities, all kinds of audio and visual activities that can be carried out with sound broadcasting devices, flying lanterns-balloons, drone-paramotor and all kinds of similar aerial activities, and all kinds of flyers, stickers, brochures and similar distribution, hanging banners and banners and similar activities, except for the commercial activities of private legal entities with commercial identity.

Events deemed appropriate by the governorship and district governorship authorities, programmes to be organised by public institutions and organisations, official holidays, official commemoration days, official ceremonies and celebrations and programmes to be held by these institutions according to their traditions and customs, congresses to be held by trade unions and political parties according to their statutes, sports activities are excluded from the ban.

The Governorate had imposed a 10-day ban with the same scope and nature between 16 September and 25 September.

Şırnak Valiliği- <http://www.sirmak.gov.tr/yasaklama-karari-06102023> | <http://www.sirmak.gov.tr/yasaklama-karari-16092023>

Cumhuriyet- <https://www.cumhuriyet.com.tr/turkiye/sirmak-valiligi-duyurdu-10-gunluk-eylem-yasagi-karari-alindi-2127222>

Yeni Şafak- <https://www.yenisafak.com/gundem/vanda-gosteri-yuruyusu-ve-acik-hava-toplantilarina-dort-gun-yasak-4565511>

12 Punto- <https://12punto.com.tr/gundem/valilik-duyurdu-sirmakta-10-gunluk-eylem-yasagi-667>

7 October 2023

Ankara Governorate did not allow the 13th Women's March and concert

130 women from 63 countries will participate in the 13th meeting of the international feminist movement World March of Women (WMW) in Ankara on Sunday, 8 October.

Organised since 1998 with women from 63 countries in five continents around the world, the World March of Women's biennial international meeting was moved to Turkey in 2022 when Yıldız Temürtürkan was elected as the international coordinator.

In the official response of the Governorate to the application for permission, which is required by law for these activities to be organised outdoors, it was stated that it was not deemed appropriate to organise the relevant activities outdoors, and that the situation would be re-evaluated in case of an application to be organised indoors.

Karar - <https://www.karar.com/sehir-haberleri/ankara-valiliginden-dunya-kadin-yuruyusu-yasagi-1793990>

Yeşil Gazete - <https://yesilgazete.org/ankarada-yapilmasi-planlanan-dunya-kadin-yuruyusu-valilik-karariyla-yasaklandi>

Susma 24 - <https://susma24.com/ankara-valiligi-dunya-kadin-yuruyusu-ve-konserlerini-yasakladi>

9 October 2023

Kağıthane District Governorate imposed a one-day ban on press statements and all related activities regarding the Tarlabası Association case

Kağıthane District Governorate banned the press statement that was planned to be held in front of the courthouse in connection with the hearing of the "dissolution of the association" case, one of the two separate lawsuits filed against the Tarlabası Community Support Association, at Istanbul 18th Civil Court of First Instance.

The District Governorate issued the ban decision as follows: "In reference to the social media account named 'Tarlabası Community Centre' (@TarlabasiTM) and the calls related to the event in question on different social media platforms and in different channels, it is possible that individuals/groups may carry out; "waiting and sit-in protests, press statements, gatherings, meetings, meetings, setting up stands, etc. all kinds of actions and activities" around Istanbul Palace of Justice [...] and in all open areas throughout Kağıthane District are banned for 1 (one) day as of 09/10/2023".

For 17 years, Tarlabası Community Centre has been carrying out social support and solidarity activities for the neighbourhood in Tarlabası neighbourhood, which is located in the historical/urban centre of Istanbul, where poor people and immigrants from different ethnic-cultural backgrounds lived in the 90s, and has been working to create safe spaces for children and women. In June 2021, following a smear campaign that started with the targeting of an event on "How to protect LGBTI+ students against the family and school clampdown?" in the media, two separate lawsuits filed to close down the association are being carried out in violation of the right to a fair trial and procedures.

Kağıthane Kaymakamlığı - <http://www.kagithane.gov.tr/yasaklanma-karari>

Gazete Duvar - <https://www.gazeteduvar.com.tr/tarlabasi-toplum-merkezi-davasi-8-ocaka-ertelendi-kaymakamliktan-bir-gunluk-aciklama-yasagi-haber-1641423>

10 October 2023

Investigation against women protesting against harassing specialised sergeants in Van

An investigation was opened against the executives of STAR Women's Association who protested the harassment of women by specialised sergeants in Van. Eight women are charged with "inciting the public to hatred and hostility" due to the banner "Organised struggle of women against the harassment and rape of women in uniform will win."

Eight women, including STAR Women's Association executives Sevgi Özdiñç, Serap Güvenç, Rojbin Bor, Zeynep Demir, one of the association's lawyers, People's Democratic Party (HDP) Van Provincial Co-Chair Handan Karakoyun and TJA activist Aynur Tarhan, went to the Provincial Security Directorate and testified.

Mezopotamya Haber Ajansı - <http://mezopotamyaajansi35.com/KADIN/content/view/221022>

Jin News - <https://jinpanel.com/GUNCEL/content/view/219153>

11 October 2023

Private security intervention against Peoples' Choir and Bajar concert

According to the statement made by the Peoples' Bridge Association on its official social media account, artists were intervened in the closing event of the Refugee Film Festival, which was organised by the association for the third time this year.

Peoples' Choir and Bajar took the stage at the closing event held at Izmir Ahmet Adnan Saygun Art Centre. However, according to the statement of the association, towards the end of the Bajar concert, the audience started to dance the halay and the director of the centre, Emel Akçay Özer, called Nuray Pehlivan, the president of the association, and asked her to stop the concert immediately. At the end of the concert, private security guards forcibly removed the artists from the centre on the grounds that the audience was dancing.

Halkların Köprüsü (Twitter)- https://x.com/halk_koprusu/status/1711423608113836519?s=20

Sanat Özgürlüğünü İzleme Platformu- <https://www.reportare.com/soz/haber/bajar-konserine-ozel-guvenlik-mudahalesi>

Siyasi Haber- <https://siyasihaber9.org/izmir-belediyesi-festivalde-halayi-yasaklamak-istedi>

Events banned for four days in Dersim, one day in Antep and three days in Bingöl

The governorate in Dersim announced a four-day ban on meetings and demonstrations across the city.

In the written statement made by the governorate, the following statements were used:

"In order to ensure national security, public order, protection of public security and public health, prevention of crime, protection of fundamental rights and freedoms and the rights and freedoms of others, protection of general public order, general traffic and passenger safety, prevention of violent incidents, prevention of their spread and prevention of any kind of negativity that may occur (...)) press releases, meetings and demonstrations, rallies, open-air meetings, protests, sit-ins, commemorations, hunger strikes, opening stands, petitions, concerts, festivals, distributing leaflets, flyers, distributing brochures, opening banners, posters, lighting and carrying torches, conferences, cinevision shows, etc. It has been decided that all actions and activities will be subject to the permission of the local administrative authority for 4 days from 00.01 on 12 October until 23.59 on 15 October."

Following this announcement, the governorships of Gaziantep and Bingöl also announced bans in their provinces on the same grounds.

The ban in Antep will be in effect from 08.00 on 12 October until 08.00 on 13 October and in Bingöl from 00.01 on 12 October until 23.59 on 14 October.

Tunceli Valiliği- <http://www.tunceli.gov.tr/kurumlar/tunceli.gov.tr/Duyurular/2023/Ekim/duyuru.pdf>

Bingöl Valiliği (Twitter)- <https://x.com/bingolvaliligi/status/1712180866896592967?s=20>

Gaziantep Valiliği (Twitter)- <https://x.com/gantepvaliligi/status/1712147993489506810?s=20>

Six detained in protest by workers at Limak Holding construction site

Construction workers working at the construction site of the Finance Central Bank of Limak Holding protested on the grounds that they could not get their rights, but the workers were detained by the police.

The protest of the workers organised by Construction Workers' Union (İnşaat İş) and Revolutionary Building, Construction and Road Union (Dev Yapı İş) was attacked by the private security guards at the construction site. The workers were then detained by the police who came to the site. Among those detained are 6 construction workers, Dev Yapı İş General Secretary Nihat Demir and İnşaat İş General Secretary Yunus Özgür.

Cumhuriyet- <https://www.cumhuriyet.com.tr/ekonomi/limak-insaatinda-hak-mucadelesi-gozaltilar-var-2128921>

Sol Haber- <https://haber.sol.org.tr/haber/limak-insaatinda-hak-mucadelesi-6-isci-gozaltina-alindi-385452>

12 October 2023

Adana Governorate bans Çukurova Rock Festival due to "alcohol use" and security concerns

The 6th Çukurova Rock Festival to be held in Adana between 12-15 October 2023 was cancelled by the Adana governorship.

Hours before the start of the festival, which was announced to feature artists such as Selda Bağcan, Manuş Baba, Ceza, Pentagram, Gazapizm, Uzi, Heijan and Debublüman, the cancellation decision of the governorship was notified in writing to the organisation company Milyon Yapım.

Among the grounds for the ban of the Çukurova Rock Festival was that "there were kiosks selling alcohol around the event area and that it would lead to the occurrence of alcohol-related crimes such as sexual assault, injury and theft".

In the statement made by Milyon Yapım, it was stated that they could not get any result from their negotiations with the governorship and that they resorted to legal action.

In the evening, Adana Administrative Court issued a stay of execution on the Adana Governorate's decision to ban the Çukurova Rock Festival. The festival opened its doors in the evening on 12 October.

Diken- <https://www.diken.com.tr/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/belge-576x1024.jpg>

Sanat Özgürlüğünü İzleme Platformu- <https://www.reportare.com/soz/cukurova-rock-festivali-yasaklandi-gerekce-alkol-kullanimi-ve-guvenlik/>

<https://www.reportare.com/soz/adana-valiliginin-cukurova-rock-festivalini-yasaklama-kararina-durdurma/>

Law enforcement officers prevented press statements and protests calling on Turkey to stop air strikes on Syria with brute force and detentions

The bombardments of Turkey in Northern and Eastern Syria were protested in many cities. The police prevented the protests and press statements by using violence and detained many people.

The protests and press statements were organised by Democratic Regions Party (DBP), Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) and Green Left Party in Diyarbakır, Dersim, Van, Mardin, Urfa, Adana, Mersin, Batman, Ağrı, Muş, Kars and Iğdır.

The police did not allow the press statement to be organised at Rojava Park in Diyarbakır, so a sit-in protest was held. The police also prevented journalists from taking video footage with shields.

HDP Provincial Co-Chairs Nazlı Çelik and Ferhat Yıldız, Peri Co-Mayor Orhan Çelebi, EMEP Dersim Provincial Chair Ergün Tekin, Çağdaş Bagaç, Ender Şimşek, Ali Bozkurt and Hıdır Yıldız were detained in Dersim.

In Urfa, 15 people including Green Left Party Youth Assembly members Livan Orman, Senem Eriş, Sadullah Bircan and Mizgin Çiftçi were detained.

In Van, the police prevented those who wanted to go out of DBP Van Provincial Organisation for a press statement. The police also prevented journalists who wanted to take news footage. Gazete Duvar Van Representative Kadir Cesur was subjected to police violence.

Artı Gerçek- <https://artigercek.com/guncel/rojavyaya-saldirilar-bircok-kentte-protesto-edildi-268652h>

Gazete Duvar- <https://www.gazeteduvar.com.tr/vanda-basin-aciklamasina-mudahale-gazete-duvar-temsilcisi-darp-edildi-haber-1642002>

13 October 2023

Mardin Governorate imposes a seven-day ban on all events

Governorate of Mardin banned all events such as distributing leaflets, hanging banners, meetings, press releases and demonstrations for seven days. The ban will be in effect from today until 24:00 on Thursday, 19 October.

A march was planned to be organised in Mardin today to protest Turkey's cross-border operations.

In the Governorate's statement, the actions and events that are not covered by the ban are listed as "official holidays, official commemoration days, official ceremonies and celebrations, programmes to be held according to traditions and customs, sports activities, events that can be held within the scope of programmes for scientific, commercial and economic purposes, and those permitted upon application to the Governorate."

In the justification section of the statement, it was claimed that the press statements had turned into "illegal actions."

The banned events were listed as follows:

"All meetings and demonstration marches, press releases, open and closed meetings, sports halls, wedding halls, cultural centres, protests, mass welcoming and farewell ceremonies, rallies, tents, mass funeral ceremonies and cemetery visits, sit-ins, opening stands, hunger strikes, festivals, commemorations, hanging banners, placards and posters, distributing flyers and leaflets, opening signature tables. torch lighting and carrying, conferences, panels, seminars, bazaars, fundraising activities, concerts, entertainment, play representation, demonstrations and all similar types of actions and events, all kinds of audio and visual activities that can be done with sound broadcasting devices, all kinds of aerial activities such as wishing lanterns, balloons, drones and paramotors, and commercial activities of private legal entities with commercial identity; distribution of flyers, stickers, brochures, hanging posters and banners and similar activities."

Mardin Valiliği: <http://www.mardin.gov.tr/13102023-yasaklama-karari>

Cumhuriyet- <https://www.cumhuriyet.com.tr/turkiye/mardin-valiigi-duyurdu-kentte-7-gunluk-eylem-yasagi-karari-2129687>

Oktoberfest Ban from Eskişehir Governorate: Public Order and Security

Eskişehir Governorate banned the Oktoberfest to be held in Botanik Park on 14-15 October.

Adana Governorate banned the Çukurova Rock Festival yesterday (12 October), but the ban was cancelled by the Adana Administrative Court in the evening after the organisation company applied for legal remedies.

Anadolu Fest, which was planned to be held at the end of May in Eskişehir in 2022 during the reign of Governor Erol Ayyıldız, was not allowed on similar grounds and the festival was cancelled.

This ban was the beginning of the festival bans that started in the summer of 2022 and continued throughout 2023. A festival was also banned under the new governor of Eskişehir, Hüseyin Aksoy.

Following the announcement that the festival would be held, a joint statement was made by the branch presidents of Eğitim Bir-Sen and Innovative Union on 10 October, calling on "the governorship to take office for the cancellation of the festival."

The governorate listed the following reasons in its banning decision:

"Ensuring that our citizens can fully and safely exercise their rights and freedoms arising from international conventions on fundamental rights and freedoms, the Constitution of the Republic of Turkey and the laws, ensuring peace, public order and public security in our province, preventing crime, protecting fundamental rights and freedoms, the rights and freedoms of others and general public order..."

Eskişehir Valiliği- <http://www.eskisehir.gov.tr/yasaklama-karari23>

Sanat Özgürlüğünü İzleme Platformu- <https://www.reportare.com/soz/haber/eskisehir-valiliginden-octoberfest-yasagi/>

In the police operation against the cemevi, doors were broken, many people were detained

Pir Sultan Abdal Cultural Association (PSAKD) Sarıyer Branch/ Zeynep Yıldırım Cemevi in Armutlu neighbourhood of Sarıyer in İstanbul was raided by the police at around 6.00 in the morning and its doors were broken down. Cemevi manager Dursun Çiçek and many people were detained. Çiçek was released afterwards.

It is reported that the police seized some documents from PSAKD Sarıyer Branch/Zeynep Yıldırım Cemevi.

Pirha- <https://pirha.org/psakd-zeynep-yildirim-cemevine-polis-operasyonu-kapilari-kirdilar-gozaltilar-var-398017.html/13/10/2023/>

Muhelif- <https://www.muhalif.com.tr/haber/pir-sultan-abdal-kultur-derneğine-polis-baskini-gozaltilar-var-175875>

14 October 2023

Five people were detained in handcuffs during a police and special operation organised in a shelter for earthquake victims in Hatay

Police raided the containers in Defne and Samandağ districts in the morning.

At 6.00 a.m., police and special operations raided an area consisting of containers and tents set up by earthquake victims with their own efforts in Çekmece neighbourhood of Defne district of Hatay. Five people were detained during the raid. The earthquake survivors who stayed in the area stated that container doors were broken and they were handcuffed behind their backs. Human Rights Association (IHD) Hatay Branch Executive Board Member Salman Altınöz is among those detained.

During the raids, belongings inside the containers were scattered and container doors were damaged.

AFAD Director made a statement to Gazete Duvar reporter Burcu Özkaya Günaydın and said, "The state expropriated this area. People live here unsafe and unprotected. The state will build a workplace here."

Emsal Atakan, the mother of Ahmet Atakan, who lost his life during the Gezi protests, said: "People saw the police on their heads in the morning. The owner was neither informed nor notified, and we were not called. How many people are the owners here, we also have shares here. No one has any information. They simply usurped this place," he said.

In Samandağ district, the police raided Eğitim Sen Samandağ Branch and some containers and detained some people.

Gazete Duvar- <https://www.gazeteduvar.com.tr/hatayda-konteynerlere-polis-baskini-ihd-yoneticisi-de-gozaltina-alindi-haber-1642272>

Evrensel- <https://www.evrensel.net/haber/501154/hatayda-konteynerlere-polis-baskini>

Yeni Yaşam- <https://yeniyasamgazetesi5.com/hatayda-konteynerlere-baskin-cok-sayida-kisiye-gozalti/>

Police prevented the sit-in protest of Saturday Mothers in Galatasaray Square for the 967th week with detentions

Despite the notification of the Constitutional Court's (AYM) ruling on the violation of rights to the Beyoğlu District Governorate, the Saturday Mothers' gathering at Galatasaray Square was prevented by the police for the 967th week.

The Constitutional Court had ruled on violation of rights in two separate cases following the criminal complaints filed by Maside Ocak, one of the Saturday Mothers, and human rights defender Sebla Arcan.

Despite these two Constitutional Court decisions, rights defenders were prevented from holding a press statement in Galatasaray by police violence. 24 Saturday Mothers and rights defenders were detained during the demonstration on 14 October Saturday.

Detained are Eren Keskin, Leman Yurtsever, Hanife Yıldız, Maside Ocak, Besna Tosun, Ali Newroz Tosun, Hasan Karakoç, Mikail Kırbayır, Ali Ocak, Oya Ersoy, Gülseren Yoleri, Hünkar Yurtsever, Doğan Özkan, Ayşegül Devicioğlu, İsmail Yücel, Aydın Aydoğan, Hatice Onaran, Güldam Özdemir, Salim Derelioğlu, Cüneyt Yılmaz, Nazım Dikbaş, Mustafa Emin Büyükcoşkun, Sevim Sancaktar and Sevilay Aydemir were released in the evening.

Cumartesi Anneleri (Twitter)- <https://x.com/CmrtesiAnneleri/status/1713208174348546277?s=20>

Sol Haber- <https://haber.sol.org.tr/haber/cumartesi-anneleri-aym-kararlarina-ragmen-27nci-kez-gozaltina-alindi-385536>

Evrensel- <https://www.evrensel.net/haber/501207/cumartesi-anneleri-eyleminde-gozaltina-alinanlar-serbest>

Diyarbakır Governorate cancels concerts at Sur Culture Road Festival

All concerts and performances in the 2nd Sur Culture Road Festival, which was planned to be held on 14-22 October 2023 in cooperation with the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism and Diyarbakır Metropolitan Municipality, have been cancelled.

In the post made on the official Twitter account of the Diyarbakır Governorate, it was stated, "All concerts and performances planned to be held within the scope of the Sur Culture Road Festival have been cancelled. We submit for the information of all our people."

It is learned that programmes other than concerts and shows will continue in the festival.

Those who filled the area for Simge Sağın's concert learned about the cancellation a while before the concert started. The festival had also planned concerts for Oğuzhan Koç, Alişan, Merve Özbey, Fatma Turgut, Murat Dalkılıç, Derya Uluğ, Ferhat Göçer and Bengü. Aslı Hünel and Uğur Aslan were also scheduled to perform at Sezai Karakoç Congress and Culture Centre.

Some NGOs and political parties in Diyarbakır had demanded the cancellation of the festival due to the thousands of people who have lost their lives so far in the attacks and clashes between Israel and Hamas that started on 7 October.

Diyarbakır Valiliği (Twitter)- <https://x.com/dbakirvalilik/status/1713214361596993987?s=20>

Tigris Haber- <https://www.tigrishaber.com/son-dakika-sur-kultur-yolu-festivali-iptal-edildi-93644h.htm>

Trial Monitoring notes:

Sibel Tekin Trial (3 October 2023)

Sibel Tekin, who was put on trial at Ankara 26th Assize Court on the allegation that she "conducted reconnaissance on the instructions of an illegal organisation" and "illegal organisation membership" while filming for a documentary titled "Life Beginning in Darkness", was detained on 16 December 2022 and arrested on 17 December on suspicion of "illegal organisation membership". Tekin was released on 30 January 2023 with a ban on leaving the country and judicial control measures.

On 23 February 2023, Tekin's judicial control condition was lifted in the first hearing. In the second hearing on 8 June 2023, the ban on leaving the country was lifted and it was decided that Tekin's footage taken for the documentary would be examined by an expert.

At the third hearing on 3 October 2023, Sibel Tekin's lawyers stated that their client had not committed a crime and demanded her acquittal. The prosecutor decided to wait for the results of the examination of the digital materials in the case file by the police and to hold the next hearing on 5 December 2023 before giving his final opinion on the merits.

Boğaziçi University Students, #BundanSonrasıBizde Trial (11 October 2023)

At the 10th hearing of the lawsuit filed against 52 Boğaziçi University students who called for a gathering on 1 February 2021 with the slogan #BundanSonrasıBizde in solidarity with two of their friends who were arrested for protesting the appointment of a rector to the university by presidential decree, held on 11 October 2023 at the Istanbul 49th Criminal Court of First Instance, all students were "individually acquitted". The case of one student who died during the trial was dropped.

A lawsuit was filed against the students, who were detained in Etiler and Bebek neighbourhoods and released afterwards, for violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations.

Ömer Işık and Others Trial (12 October 2023)

On 12 October 2023, in the seventh hearing of the trial held at Van 2nd High Criminal Court, against nine members and executives of civil society organisations, including Ömer Işık, a former chairperson of the Van branch of IHD, who were charged with being "members of a terrorist organisation" for their activities as observers within the framework of the resolution process announced by the government in 2013-2015, two people were sentenced to 7 years and 6 months and Ömer Işık and others to 6 years and 3 months imprisonment, with the possibility of appeal.