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Press for Freedom

Özgürlük için Basın

# Violations of Freedom of Press and Expression March - December 2014

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## Press for Freedom Project

The ***“Press for Freedom Project”*** is implemented by the Journalists Association as part of the European Union’s *“Civil Society Facility Turkey Program.”*

The project aims to create a new platform for the freedom of expression and the press, to increase the capacity of media personnel engaged in decision making and the civil society and in this way, to form a more dynamic civil society that can participate in public debate regarding democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

The Project aims to hold a mirror to the current situation; provide various forms of practical information to young people training in communication and the social sphere as well as young journalists, and to widen and strengthen the current network.

Within the scope of the project a “Freedom of Expression and Press Ethics National Standing Committee” committed to the basic values of the European Union has been established, comprising journalists, lawyers, NGO representatives and academics, prioritizing issues such as the independence of the press, human rights, social participation, freedom of expression and democratization. Furthermore, local committees have been established in the seven geographical regions.

The Project will try document violations of press freedom and freedom of expression in Turkey in reports issued on a monthly and annual basis. Toll free line of the Project is 0800 314 00 30. Complainants of rights violations may contact the Project Office through office telephones or leave their messages on [www.pressforfreedom.org](http://www.pressforfreedom.org) website.

In the scope of the project, trainings are being provided in six main categories; vocational ethics; freedom of press and expression; printed, electronic and audio-visual media and threats encountered; social media; social security; and time management.

The Project started on Jan. 1, 2014 and will be terminated on Jan. 1 2016.

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## Preface

In modern democratic societies, the participation of the people in the administration and the constitutionally protected right to information can only function with the freedom of press and expression. It is unfortunate that Turkey appears low in world rankings regarding the freedom of press and expression. This situation openly illustrates that urgent improvements are necessary in our country, however; unfortunately developments indicate that the situation is getting worse.

The **“Press for Freedom Project”** implemented by the Journalists Association is supported by the European Union Turkey Delegation under the “*Civil Society Facility Turkey Program.”* The project aims to create a new platform for the freedom of expression and the press, to increase the capacity of media personnel engaged in decision making and the civil society and in this way, to form a more dynamic civil society that can participate in public debate regarding democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

The freedom of expression and a free press are crucial for a modern, participative and pluralist democracy. The right to information is a basic guarantee of democratic regimes, allowing the people, who will shape the future of the country through their votes, with the opportunity to make informed decisions. The restriction of the freedom of expression and the press, preventing journalists from doing their duties freely through political or capital pressures, depriving newspaper s, websites, news portals and other platforms to the right of criticism or to our colleagues who refuse to view events from the point of a certain political alignment, are among the most important issues experienced today.

Laws, decrees and accreditation obstacles preventing the implementation of the freedom of expression and press, one of the pillars of modern democracies, make it impossible for the journalist, charged with conveying news in a rapid and accurate fashion to the people, to carry out her duty, thus violating the right to information of the people.

New laws that are brought to the agenda suddenly, in the heavily polarized climate, which have not been sufficiently scrutinized in terms of effects on democracy, human rights and the freedom of expression and press, have the potential to transform into further pressure upon the Turkish press. It is apparent that laws that restrict the freedom of expression and press, preventing the people from access to rapid, accurate and reliable information, will not benefit any parties in the long term. Remembering that journalists have the mandate of inspection on behalf of the people and that the press is sometimes jokingly referred to as the fourth power, intellectuals and columnists using their right to criticism in opposition newspaper s, television channels and Internet media must be “tolerated.”

The hard facts are that Turkey is high up in world rankings for the number of journalists imprisoned according to international organizations, that 21 journalists are serving time in Turkish prisons today and most alarmingly, that journalists are forced into auto-censorship due to their anxieties related to job security, safety and social pressures. Does the fact that the media is polarized into factions described as “followers,” “devotees,” “central media” and others, not mean that the journalist, whose basic duty is to provide reliable and impartial news, has not been compromised?

While journalists carry out their duty to provide free, unbiased, and most importantly accurate and timely news to the public, they should not be subject to the blacklisting and accusations of politics and politicians, or left to the mercy of the media bosses. One of the greatest issues in the Turkish press today is de-unionization and even pressure on journalists to work outside of a union. Without extending assistance to journalists, who are open to all kinds of threats while lacking job security, vocational support and constantly thinking about their rent, their children's school fees and their debts, we cannot assist the press.

The “Press for Freedom Project“ aims to hold a mirror to the current situation, provide various forms of practical information to young people training in communication and the social sphere as well as young journalists, and to widen and strengthen our current network.

Moreover, in the scope of the project a “Freedom of Expression and Press Ethics National Standing Committee” committed to the basic values of the European Union has been established, comprising journalists, lawyers, NGO representatives and academics, prioritizing issues such as the independence of the press, human rights, social participation, freedom of expression and democratization. Furthermore, local committees have been established in the seven geographical regions. The lawyers sitting on the committee are also ready to provide legal council free of charge in urgent situations regarding violations. Those subject to violation may also call 0800 314 00 30 toll free, apply to the violation notice page on our website, [www.pressforfreedom.org](http://www.pressforfreedom.org), or call our Association to apply and consult with the “Press for Freedom Project Office.”

With the leadership of our esteemed colleague Professor Dr. Korkmaz Alemdar and consisting of former Ankara Bar Association President Tuncay Alemdaroğlu, journalists Muharrem Sarıkaya, Ali Şimşek and Sibel Utku Bila, the Ankara-based “Freedom of Expression and Press Ethics National Standing Committee” and the “Press for Freedom“ comprising of Project Coordinator Yusuf Kanlı, Visibility and Communications Director Seva Erten Ülman, Project Assistant Merve Kartal, interns Cankut Enis, Kemal Akoğlu, Okan Ulusan, Gökhan Vural, Burcu Kaymak, Ecem Boğatemur and Zeynep Tuğçe Yılmaz and advisors, will be preparing monthly and annual reports throughout the project, summarizing the current situation regarding the freedom of expression and the press in Turkey. The reports are based on data gathered by our team through “open sources” as well as through media scanning or from the precious data provided by the Media Monitoring Centre (MTM). Here we would like to express our appreciation to the MTM for its invaluable contributions. This report is the 2014 annual report, prepared in Turkish -- and translated into English by a translation office -- at the conclusion of the first year.

In the scope of the project, trainings were provided in six main categories; vocational ethics; freedom of press and expression; printed, electronic and audio-visual media and threats encountered; social media; social security; and time management. The trainings in Ankara as the center, Izmir, Konya, Trabzon and Erzurum have been completed, while the Bursa trainings will be carried out on the 7 February 2015. The training program for Antalya and Gaziantep will be announced shortly.

Furthermore, working breakfasts/lunches, press workshops, seminars and conferences are being held with local and national journalists in Ankara from time to time, in order to discuss the reports from the seven regions and receive feedback.

**Regarding the Trainings**

The training program started in March 2014 in Ankara, in cooperation with the PM Academy, while trainees consisted of local or national level journalists applying to our project office or local committees, undergraduate, graduate and doctoral students from the social sciences departments of universities and representatives of NGO's active in the area of the media. The training dates and application forms were published on the project website at [www.pressforfreedom.org](http://www.pressforfreedom.org). The trainings were provided free of charge and all participants to all trainings received a certificate at the end of the program for “Basic Journalism Training.”

The headings and summaries of these training programs are as follows:

**Journalism Vocational Ethics:** Ethics are among the most important aspects of a philosophy of life covering correct behavior and lifestyle. Press ethics covers the principles of behavior in the journalism profession. During the trainings, the subjects covered were the scope of ethics, theories regarding ethics; issues experienced in the area; the responsibilities of journalists towards readers; news sources; people as the subject of news; issues regarding market functions; issues experienced by journalists in wars and conflicts; ethical behavior that is compulsory for televised news; ethical principles for public relations; advertisements and virtual arena ethics as well as ethic principles for a global world.

**Freedom of Expression and Press:** The freedom of expression should not be perceived as a “luxury” of Western democracies. Undoubtedly, the freedom of the press is the most important aspect of democracy. The freedom of expression in democracies, free access to news and the independence of the media are all important rights.

The interaction between democracy and the media and the free and correct reporting of news by the press are extremely significant for democracies to function properly. The free and accurate reporting of news by the press to the public allows the public to make informed decisions. The free media is the backbone of a free society. In democratic societies, censorship and pressure put on the media are unacceptable.

In this framework, the following topics were presented in the trainings:

a) The global picture, boundaries, the conflict and negotiation between media ownership structures and press ethics and the ideal form of the relationship between press and politics;

b) The media in the Republican era and the efforts in the Turkish press to combat censorship.

**Social Media and New Media Structures Training:** The topics covered included: the effects of social media and new media structures on politics and democracy; the importance of social media in organization; the form in which social movements use the Internet; the use, importance and effects of the use of virtual tools such as Blogger, Facebook Twitter and LinkedIn; and state control on the Internet.

**Social Security Training:** Social security is one of the greatest challenges facing the Turkish media. The trainings aimed to inform the participants regarding new developments and changes in the legislation. It is regrettable that a significant part of the Turkish media employees are not under the scope of the Press Labor Law or the Labor Law. Many practical issues in Journalism in our country are caused by the failure of journalists lacking job security to do their duty sufficiently.

**The Threats Faced by Printed, Electronic and Audio-Visual Media in Turkey:** An analysis of the degree to which the freedom of expression and press can be implemented in practice in a country, the form and methods of implementation give us the outline of the political system and atmosphere in that country. For this reason, the understanding of the freedom of expression and press of the government administering the country are more important than written rules in the implementation of those freedoms.

In this training, the role of the political atmosphere in the implementation of the freedom of expression and press, the authorities, responsibilities and duties of journalists in reaching and publishing news, stances taken against pressures, the right of the citizen to information, practices leading to auto-censorship, current media structures and similar developments were discussed with the participants.

**Time Management*:***Time management is a skill that should be mastered by journalists and media managers. Journalists must show great efforts to keep up with times; deadlines and lime limited facilities such as train, plane and bus schedules. This issue may be physically and mentally difficult for media employees, meaning that their mastery is highly significant.

The mastery of free journalists, not affiliated to any ideology, party or interest group, over their profession is for the good of not only journalism and politics, but for the whole country and its democracy. Therefore, assisting journalisms trying to provide for the right of the public to receive information, pursuing news despite all the issues they might face, to carry out their duties sufficiently is for the benefit of the public, politicians, and of course the government.

With the monthly and annual reports prepared for the “Press for Freedom“ project, regarding the freedom of expression and press, we have attempted to closely monitor the situation and present this information to the public. The big picture displayed by monthly or annual reports, such as the one you are reading now, consisting of data regarding the freedom of expression and press over a longer term, may not be positive. However, not talking about issues or seeking solution for them is a greater evil for the profession in general. Our aim is to initiate a new discussion, not to provide a subject for speeches by the government or political opposition and to contribute to efforts to provide citizens with a free communication environment and precautions necessary for journalists to have a safe working environment.

Nazmi Bilgin Yusuf Kanlı

President Project Coordinator

Journalists Association Press for Freedom

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# Violations of Freedom of Press and Expression March - December 2014

## Introduction

Issues regarding the freedom of thought, expression and the press in Turkey increased after the Gezi Park protests beginning in May 2013. The unrest began when the Taksim Gezi Park, allocated to the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality on condition that all would benefit, was planned for development with the construction of a replica of the historical Artillery Barracks despite court orders. After harsh police intervention to the protests against the trees being cut down, the events escalated into anti-government demonstrations in a number of cities and abroad. After the Prime Minister announced that the protests were being manipulated from abroad, police violence increased, leading to the deaths of eight people (Abdullah Cömert, Ethem Sarısülük, Mehmet Ayvalıtaş, Mustafa Sarı, İrfan Tuna, Ali İsmail Korkmaz, Ahmet Atakan, Berkin Elvan), mainly due to the disproportionate use of force.[[1]](#footnote-1)

While the Gezi events remained fresh, on the 17 December 2013, the custody and search orders issued by the Republican Prosecutor and various courts upon a number of complaints were widely discussed. In an operation organized by the Istanbul Police Department, Organized Crime and Financial Crime Bureau, businessmen, bureaucrats, a bank manager, public officials at various levels and four ministers of the cabinet as well as three children of ministers were implicated, while [[2]](#footnote-2)claims were widely covered in the press.

Of the four ministers implicated, three of their children, various businessmen and one bank manager were taken into custody. These people were charged with “bribery, abuse of authority, unlawful tendering and smuggling.”[[3]](#footnote-3)

This event was evaluated by Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan as an attempted coup d’état against the government and the liquidation of the “parallel” structure, the Fethullah Gülen/Service Movement was initiated. Simultaneously, telephone recordings, some being legal through court order while others were being illegally bugged, regarding the family of the Prime Minister and Ministers, children and friends of Ministers, bureaucrats and journalists appeared on social media. The government reassigned a number of security personnel implementing the search orders and terminated others.[[4]](#footnote-4) 166 judges and prosecutors, including the prosecutor in charge of the investigation and the Istanbul Republican Head Prosecutor authorizing the operation, were reassigned by the High Council of Judges and Prosecutors (HSYK).[[5]](#footnote-5)

These developments had an effect on later developments, such as the local elections, presidential elections and the Soma mining disaster. The opposition focused on the corruption and the Kurdish reconciliation effort, while the prime minister sought the effect of the “parallel structure“, continuing his heavy criticism of the opposition. Pressure placed upon the press and journalists reporting on the development increased; practices assessed as censorship and the policing of social media continued.

Two developments regarding freedoms are significant: The Radio and Television Supreme Council continuously punished anti-government broadcasts. It is apparent that during election times, the mandate on behalf of the Supreme Electoral Council to monitor broadcasts was taken as authority to punish only dissident broadcasting organizations. The bias in public broadcasting companies such as Turkish Radio and Television Corporation (TRT) was only noticed after the end of the elections. The second is that courts fell into a habit of provide rights to controvert and rebut against publication organizations criticizing the government very easily. It can be seen that courts have frequently accepted rebuttal publication requests against articles criticizing the government without researching if the article in question contains erroneous information on not, leading to a censorship effect.

One of the most significant events of the period was the local election. Even though the elections concluded with the victory of the government, many areas experienced power cuts during the ballot count, leading to criticism. The Minister of Energy and Natural Resources explained the following day that the power cuts were caused by “cats that entered the power transformers.”[[6]](#footnote-6)

After the local elections, the prime minister continued to criticize the “parallel structure“. The government responded harshly to criticism regarding decisions and implementation. One of the affected parties was the president of the Constitutional Court. On the anniversary of the establishment of the court, TBMM Speaker of the House Cemil Çiçek said that the judiciary was faced with a “serious and strong accusation” regarding the “parallel structure” or “gang” and that the judiciary would not be able to shake this accusation off, adding that the style of rhetoric used was not “becoming of the judiciary.”[[7]](#footnote-7) Minister of Justice Bekir Bozdağ said that the “judiciary was plagued with political polemics.”[[8]](#footnote-8) The Constitutional Court was also criticized for reversing the verdict for the ban of websites as the decision was made without considering “the application routes that should have been used.”

President of the Turkish Union of Bar Associations Metin Feyzioğlu angered the prime minister at the anniversary of the Council of State with his statement on the container town established after the Van earthquake; the prime minister said that Feyzioğlu was engaged in politics, in a “disrespectful” and “impertinent” way. Shrugging off President Abdullah Gül's attempts to make him sit down, Erdoğan said, “Everyone should know their place. After this I will not take part in any event where these people will be speaking”[[9]](#footnote-9). Erdoğan made hand gestures to President Gül, Chief of Staff General Necdet Özel and ministers, making them leave the ceremonial hall. Erdoğan's attitude continued after being elected as president. After failing to prevent the president of the Union of Bar Associations president’s speech at the opening of the judicial year, the president did not take part in the ceremony at the Supreme Court. The president of the Supreme Court then complained about interventions into the judiciary, revealing the unrest between the high courts and the government.

The death of 301 miners in a mining disaster in Soma caused tensions to run high. Some relatives of the miners blamed the government and the government-employer relations for the disaster, angering the government. The events were branded with the prime minister's speech in Soma assessing the disaster as a regular accident, claims that he punched a person protesting him and his words to another “if you protest the prime minister of Turkey you will get slapped”[[10]](#footnote-10). The attack of a prime ministry advisor on a protestor increased criticism of the government.

The press was negatively affected by these developments. Journalists were prevented from duty and were often subject to violence. They were prevented from participating in meetings and even from approaching the scene of events. The Prime Minister and President's serious criticism towards the press led to mistreatment by public officials, including local administrators. The accreditation practice spread to all public organizations and the rights of part of the media to reach news and inform readers were violated. The media blackouts easily passed down by courts was a serious obstacle in front of the freedom of information. Many journalists lost their jobs, while government pressure and increasing auto-censorship limited reporting and commentary. While journalists were subject to pressure, some media outlets were affected by claims of relations with the “parallel structure“. Although some lost their jobs and claimed that their rights were violated in custody, the fact that they had supported similar practices by the government in the past and openly applauded the arrest of journalists in the Ergenekon case created debate and controversy in the media.

Apart from the printed and visual press, the government made serious efforts to police the social media, widely used from the Gezi Park protests onwards. Methods were developed to rapidly implement restrictive decisions on the Internet, regarding the use of Facebook, YouTube and Twitter. While the Constitutional Court blocked the first attempt, the government was not discouraged and continued to search for alternatives. Using social media became an issue. Fazıl Say, announcing his views on Twitter, former AKP Elazığ MP Fevzi İşbaşaran and journalist and presenter Sedef Kabaş were investigated, taken into custody or convicted.

The many responses from Turkey and abroad to the restrictions on freedom did nothing to sway the government's determination. The fact that Turkey receded further in global press freedom indexes was not taken seriously by the administration.

Conditions and developments experienced in Turkey gave the impression that different circles were being treated differently. While protests against the unitary nature of the Turkish state were met with a blind eye for the good of the “reconciliation” policy and anti-secularist demonstrations were ignored, even the smallest request for rights or protest against the government was met with unreasonable violence from the police. More seriously, the prime minister met positively the death of a mourner at funeral in the courtyard of at a cemevi in Istanbul who was hit by a police bullet at the police intervened in a protest. The way to ease this double standard is not to intervene with violent force in all demonstrations, but to approach requests for rights or protests with tolerance, within the borders of respect for freedom of expression.

The government passed a new law package through parliament under the title “Eradication of Terror and Strengthening of Social Cohesion,” consisting of 6 articles and abolishing any punishment for public officials who enter into negotiations with the PKK. The National Intelligence Organization (MİT) was issued extraordinary authority within the country as well.

The disproportionate implementation of legislation was felt in other areas too. While unlicensed buildings were knocked down, the prime ministry service building construction continued in a natural reserve in Ankara, the Atatürk Forest Farm, despite a number of court orders to the contrary. Prime Minister Erdoğan and Ankara Mayor Melih Gökçek both ignored the court orders, attracting attention.

Although the TBMM voted in a closed session to initiate an investigation against the four resigned ministers implicated in the corruption claims, Zafer Çağlayan, Egemen Bağış, Muammer Güler and General, the investigation was intentionally slowed down and made news as documents were hidden from commission members. Evaluating the events as framing by the “parallel structure“, the government saw fit to slow down the proceedings, leading to criticism. The most important development was the decision of the Istanbul Republican Head Prosecutor for no further action to be taken against the suspects of the bribery and corruption investigation.

The Constitutional Court's decision regarding the Sledgehammer case, that the witness testimony and digital evidence had violated rights was a significant development in the hearings, claimed to be anti-government. The Supreme Court had previously ignored the application of the defendants and approved the court's verdict. With the decision of the Constitutional Court, 128 soldiers, including 115 officers and 13 generals and admirals gained the right to return to duty with the Turkish Armed Forces.[[11]](#footnote-11) Within the scope of the same case, Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) MP and retired Lieutenant General Engin Alan, who was imprisoned before the general elections, benefitted from the “violation of rights” decision of the Constitutional Court and was released from prison. Alan was sworn in at the TBMM three years late and started his career as an MP.[[12]](#footnote-12) Apart from Engin Alan, 5 BDP MP's were released from prison in the early part of 2014 by Constitutional Court verdict and started duty.[[13]](#footnote-13)

One of the most significant developments of the period was the presidential election. Of the three candidates, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan won. Continuing to act as prime minister during the election period and refusing to resign until the result was published in the *Official Gazette*, Erdoğan ignored the principle of impartiality, while it was claimed that Erdoğan was not acting according to the constitution, but to the promise he had made to voters that he would be “a different president.”

After President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan started duty, he continued to take a close interest in the party and the government and it was observed that he had planned and carried out the election of Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu as prime minister. His priorities did not change either: Combating the “parallel structure“, eradicating the extensions reported to exist in the bureaucracy, police and judiciary and media, maintaining the “reconciliation” policy, suppressing all opposition to these priorities through the police, judiciary, Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK) and Presidency of Telecommunication and Communication (TİB) and when precautions were insufficient, to seek new legislation. The omnibus law including ambiguous terminology such as “reasonable suspicion” and regulations regarding internal security came to light in this regard. The National Security Council defined the “parallel structure” as a threat.

The government was observed to implement these policies in a determined fashion. The pressure on the judiciary became constant. The announcement of the President of the Constitutional Court in response to HaberTürk columnist Muharrem Sarıkaya's question regarding the abolishment of the 10% election threshold, stating that applications were to be discussed by the Individual Application General Board to determine validity[[14]](#footnote-14) was condemned harshly by ruling party lawyers; statements that if the ruling was reversed, “this would not be accepted”[[15]](#footnote-15) were perceived as an attempt to suppress the decision. The intervention to the judiciary prompted a comment by the Supreme Court of Cassation President Ali Alkan, asking how much more the government was going to meddle with the higher courts.[[16]](#footnote-16) It is apparent, however, that the government is determined to bring whatever legislation necessary to break the power of the “parallel structure.”

## Legal Background of the Report:

This document is the annual report for 2014 of the “Press for Freedom“ project implemented by the Journalists Association with the support of the European Union.

The “Press for Freedom“ project, that will run for two years and produce annual reports as well as monthly reports to display violations of the freedom of expression and press, has two main aims:

• To report issues and reasons regarding the freedom of expression and press in Turkey and the implementation of communication ethics;

• To report on the real situation of barriers in front of the right of citizens to information and news.

In the activities to be performed, two main targets have been identified:

• To establish a communication environment in which citizens can reach complete, reliable and comprehensible news and information.

• To contribute to precautions to allow journalists a safe working environment.

All data appearing in the body of the report are referenced in the footnotes.

The legal foundations of the reporting are the international conventions ratified duly in Turkey and published in the Official Gazette and the Constitution of the Republic of Turkey. Article 90 of the Constitution states that “International agreements duly put into effect have the force of law. No appeal to the Constitutional Court shall be made with regard to these agreements, on the grounds that they are unconstitutional. In the case of a conflict between international agreements, duly put into effect, concerning fundamental rights and freedoms and the laws due to differences in provisions on the same matter, the provisions of international agreements shall prevail,” meaning that the international agreements will be considered valid in legislation arrangements.

The positive and negative developments regarding mass communication (printed-visual-Internet) instruments in terms of freedom of expression and press, events, news, official and private announcements have been assessed according to the provisions of international agreements and the Constitution related to the freedom of expression and press, and included in the report.

### 1 - International Conventions

Turkey has accepted to comply with the universal principles of freedom with the many conventions that have been ratified. Two legal texts have been ratified and adopted with the force of law as per article 90 of the Constitution:

#### The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)

* Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers (article 19).
* Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association. No one may be compelled to belong to an association (article 20).

#### The European Convention on Human Rights (1950)

* Everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence. There shall be no interference by a public authority with the exercise of this right except such as is in accordance with the law and is necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security, public safety or the economic wellbeing of the country, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others. (article 8).
* Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief, in worship, teaching, practice and observance. Freedom to manifest one’s religion or beliefs shall be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of public safety, for the protection of public order, health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others (article 9).
* Everyone has the right to freedom of expression. This right shall include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers. This Article shall not prevent States from requiring the licensing of broadcasting, television or cinema enterprises (article 10).

Furthermore, conventions and decisions of the United Nations, European Union and the European Court of Human Rights also concern Turkey and must be complied with.

### 

### 2- Domestic Legislation

##### The Constitution of the Republic of Turkey

* Everyone has the freedom of communication. Privacy of communication is fundamental (article 22).
* Everyone has the freedom of thought and opinion. No one shall be compelled to reveal his/her thoughts and opinions for any reason or purpose; nor shall anyone be blamed or accused because of his/her thoughts and opinions (article 25).
* Everyone has the right to express and disseminate his/her thoughts and opinions by speech, in writing or in pictures or through other media, individually or collectively. This freedom includes the liberty of receiving or imparting information or ideas without interference by official authorities. This provision shall not preclude subjecting transmission by radio, television, cinema, or similar means to a system of licensing (article 26).
* The press is free, and shall not be censored. The establishment of a printing house shall not be subject to prior permission or the deposit of a financial guarantee. The State shall take the necessary measures to ensure freedom of the press and information (article 28).
* Publication of periodicals or non-periodicals shall not be subject to prior authorization or the deposit of a financial guarantee. Submission of the information and documents specified by law to the competent authority designated by law is sufficient to publish a periodical. If these information and documents are found to contravene the laws, the competent authority shall apply to the court for suspension of publication. The principles regarding the publication, the conditions of publication and the financial resources of periodicals, and the profession of journalism shall be regulated by law. The law shall not impose any political, economic, financial, and technical conditions obstructing or making difficult the free dissemination of news, thoughts, or opinions. Periodicals shall have equal access to the means and facilities of the State, other public corporate bodies, and their agencies (article 29).
* A printing house and its annexes, duly established as a press enterprise under law, and press equipment shall not be seized, confiscated, or barred from operation on the grounds of having been used in a crime (article 30).
* Individuals and political parties have the right to use mass media and means of communication other than the press owned by public corporations. The conditions and procedures for such use shall be regulated by law. The law shall not impose restrictions preventing the public from receiving information or accessing ideas and opinions through these media, or preventing public opinion from being freely formed, on the grounds other than national security, public order, or the protection of public morals and health (article 31).
* The right of rectification and reply shall be accorded only in cases where personal reputation and honor is injured or in case of publications of unfounded allegation and shall be regulated by law. If a rectification or reply is not published, the judge decides, within seven days of appeal by the individual involved, whether or not this publication is required (article 32).
* Everyone has the right to form associations, or become a member of an association, or withdraw from membership without prior permission. No one shall be compelled to become or remain a member of an association (article 33).
* Everyone has the right to hold unarmed and peaceful meetings and demonstration marches without prior permission (article 34).

##### Press Law

* The press is free. This freedom includes the right to acquire and disseminate information, and to criticize, interpret and create works (article 3).
* Any individual who mutilates a legally printed publication with the aim of preventing its publication, distribution or sale shall be sentenced to serve a prison term of a maximum of one year as well as pay a major fine ranging from 1 billion to 5 billion TL, providing that the act does not constitute a more serious crime. Any individual who blocks the printing, publication, distribution or sale of periodicals and non-periodicals, though they comply with the conditions of the law, by resorting to force or threats shall be sentenced to serve a prison term of a maximum of two years and to pay a major fine ranging from 2 billion to 10 billion TL, providing that this act does not constitute a more serious crime (article 22).
* Individuals who distribute periodicals are obliged to distribute them in return for a certain amount of money, which shall not exceed the price of the distribution determined according to the circulation, the number of pages, and the sale price of other publications also distributed by them (article 23).
* Individuals who re-publish news, articles or photographs previously printed in a periodical without disclosing their source shall be sentenced to pay a major fine ranging from 5 billion to 10 billion TL (article 24).
* The state prosecutor may confiscate three copies for examination at most of all printed matter. If inconvenience results from delays in the examination, police may confiscate the printed matter (article 25).

##### The Law on Regulation of Publications on the Internet and Combating Crimes Committed by Means of Such Publicatıons:

This law came into force on 02.05.2007 and the scope and aim of the law were defined under article 1 as follows: “The aim and scope of this Law is to regulate the principles and practice of the responsibilities and liabilities of service providers, storage providers, access providers and collective usage service providers and of combating certain online crimes through storage and access providers.” Based on this definition, the law has a direct effect on the implementation of the freedom of expression and press. The Law was amended on five occasions on 05.11.2008, 12.07.2013, 26.02.2014 and 10.09.2014 (cancelled by the Constitutional Court) with a principle amendment on 06.02.2014. The law states that final decisions regarding blocking sites can be made by judges and courts, while in cases where the delay in making the decision can be hazardous, Republican Prosecutors may also make decisions to block sites. Furthermore, the provision of limited authority to block access with the law to the “Presidency of Telecommunication and Communication” (TİB) in a limited fashion led to controversy and was seen as a barrier before communication. The greatest issue encountered in the implementation of the law was the sensitive balance between personal rights and freedoms and the rights of other related to communication, information, the right to expression and other freedoms. The measures stipulated in the law to ensure this balance are significant. However, the failure of the TİB president, the primary implementing party, to use his authority to facilitate this balance is also significant.

##### The Law on the Establishment of Radio and Television Enterprises and Broadcasting Services

* The purpose of this Law is to regulate and supervise radio, television and on demand media services; to ensure the freedoms of expression and communication; to determine the procedures and rules in relation to the administrative, financial and technical structures and obligations of media service providers and the establishment, organization, duties, competences and responsibilities of the Radio and Television Supreme Council (article 1).

##### Press Labor Law no. 5953 - Labor Law

Article 1 of the law states; “the provisions of this law will apply persons employed in newspaper and periodicals published in Turkey in all types of intellectual and artistic positions, with the exception of those defined as 'workers' under the Labor Law, and their employers. Persons working for wage in intellectual and artistic positions in the scope of this law are referred to as journalists.”

Article 2 of the law states; “The provisions of this law will not apply to officers and employees within the scope of the definition presented under article 1, but employed by the state, provincial administrations or municipalities and those employed by state economic ventures and companies in which these ventures hold more than half of the shares.”

The law also regulates the rights and obligations of employers and employees; however, the ambiguity in the position of those employed by organizations active in electronic media, as a result of the widespread usage of communication, reporting and expression on the Internet, is a much-debated issue.

##### Other Legislation

The Turkish Penal Code (TCK), Anti-Terror Law (TMK) and Criminal Proceedings Law (CMK) include provisions that have implications in terms of the press and the freedom of expression and press. The scope of the TMK was widened, with many crimes defined under the TCK being included in the TMK with sentences increase by 50%; this is considered as a serious barrier in front of the freedom of expression and press as the courts have decided that crimes committed in the press may be considered as falling under the scope of the TMK. Anxieties have increased after the last amendment of the CMK, allowing suspect's person, house, place of business and vehicle to be searched and confiscated in the case that criminal evidence is found, with the article “strong suspicion based on solid evidence” being reverted to the previous text “reasonable suspicion,” leading to fears that the authorities of security forces to search and confiscate will increased and the provision of international conventions and article 34 of the Constitution “Everyone has the right to hold unarmed and peaceful meetings and demonstration marches without prior permission” will cease to function in practice.

## Chronology of Violations of Freedom of Press and Expression

## Interventions to Freedom of Expression

5 March 2014

* There were examples where those who expressed their reactions individually were subjected to oppression. For example, İbrahim Alıcı who displayed a banner reading “There's a Thief” during the Osmaniye demonstration on the 3 of March stated that he was beaten and threatened in a van by the security staff. [[17]](#footnote-17)

11 March 2014

* The police intervened with force to the demonstrators staged following the death of Berkin Elvan. [[18]](#footnote-18) The demonstrations directed at the Prime Minister Erdoğan and the government, because of the corruption claims were systematically intercepted and the members of the objecting groups were taken into custody before Erdoğan's election rally on grounds of “planning a demonstration.” People were taken into custody and suffered injuries during the activities organized on the occasion of 8 of March Women's Day and Newroz.[[19]](#footnote-19)

12 March 2014

* The police, encircling a large area in Ankara Kızılay used excessive amounts of tear gas. The police violently responded to the demonstrators in İstanbul, from Taksim Square along İstiklal Street and also in Kadıköy. Teargas were thrown into the faculty buildings in the Cebeci Campus of Ankara University. On the 13 of March, the groups comprising mostly of high school students that wanted to gather at Ankara Güvenpark, were subject to force for the entire day and around 30 high school students were taken into custody in İzmir.[[20]](#footnote-20)

17 March 2014

* A person selling empty shoeboxes was taken into custody prior to Erdoğan's Aydın rally on the 17 of March.[[21]](#footnote-21)

10 April 2014

* The Riot Squad teams intervened with force to the workers at the Greif factory in Hadımköy, who had been stalling production and protesting for approximately 2 months due to not being able to come to terms with the employer regarding the collective agreement, and 91 people were taken into custody.[[22]](#footnote-22)

13 April 2014

* Investigations were opened for two teachers entering the philosophy and history lectures at the 75’inci Yıl Cumhuriyet High School in Antalya on ranging from *'talking about [politics](http://siyaset.milliyet.com.tr/" \t "_blank) during the lecture and supporting the Gezi protests to political content* to the students'. Turgut Özakman's *Şu Çılgın Türkler* and *Diriliş*, and Attila İlhan's *Gazi Paşa* were also among the books that were the subject of the investigation.[[23]](#footnote-23)

21 April 2014

* The police did not allow the members of the May Day 2014 Committee comprising of DİSK, KESK, TMMOB and TTB and their supporters to issue a press statement and intervened with force.[[24]](#footnote-24)

1 May 2014

* The journalists experienced difficulties during the May Day demonstrations held in İstanbul. The governorship imposed a condition for a yellow press card and at some places for governorship permit for the journalists to be able to roam freely. Nine journalists targeted by the police were injured; T24 announced that its editor Deniz Zerin was taken into custody during the night as he was going to his office.[[25]](#footnote-25)
* The police responded with teargas to the groups gathering near the Abbasağa Park at İstanbul Beşiktaş.[[26]](#footnote-26)
* The May Day Committee comprising of DİSK, KESK, TMMOB and TTB wanted to issue a press statement at the stairs of Gezi Park. The police did not allow the press statement and the riot squad teams intervened to the group.[[27]](#footnote-27)
* The police took heavy security measures at İstiklal Street for the May Day Labor and Solidarity Day. The police blocked the side streets connecting to İstiklal Street with barriers. A group of approximately 20 people that gathered in the side streets protested the police and wanted to enter İstiklal Street. The police issued a “disperse” warning to the group shouting, “Everywhere is Taksim, everywhere is resistance” slogans at the entrance of the Fish Bazaar. When the group did not disperse the police, responded to the group with pressurized water from the TOMA and fired plastic bullets. The demonstrators escaped to the side streets.[[28]](#footnote-28)
* The Ankara office of Progressive Lawyers Association (ÇHD) announced that Ethem Sarısülük's brothers İkrar Sarısülük and Cem Sarısülük were taken into custody. The police once more harshly responded to the group gathering at the entrance of Barbaros Boulevard in Beşiktaş Lawyer Mehmet Ümit Erdem said that 11 injured people were being held in custody at Taksim Police Station and they were not allowed to meet.[[29]](#footnote-29)
* The police responded to the groups attempting to enter Taksim Square. People gathering at the side streets of Şişli Halaskargazi Street attacked the police with rocks and iron ball bearings. The police responded to the groups by shooting plastic bullets and using the water cannons of the TOMAs. The police responded to the “Anticapitalist Muslims” who wanted to walk to Taksim after performing the prayer in Fatih. [[30]](#footnote-30)

14 May 2014

* The police responded with teargas to the group that wanted to protest the Soma Disaster in Ankara’s Kızılay.[[31]](#footnote-31)
* Demonstrators gathered in İstanbul in order to protest the mining accident in Soma. The police responded to the demonstrators at the Galatasaray Square.[[32]](#footnote-32)
* Protest marches were organized in some cities because of the mining accident in Soma. The police intervened to the protests and took 5 people into custody.[[33]](#footnote-33)
* Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan went to Soma after the mining accident and following a press statement; he addressed the citizens waiting for him at the exit of the Soma Municipality. A young man was heard shouting protesting slogans approximately 100 meters away. The Prime Minister Tayyip Erdoğan's bodyguards intervened and took the youth into custody. When another youth who saw this reacted to the policemen, the group, which was approximately 200 meters away from the municipality, also joined in the protests. When some of the citizens reacted to the harsh response of the police, the scale of the incident increased.[[34]](#footnote-34)
* Prime Minister Erdoğan, who had finished his speech and got into his car stopped near the demonstrators and got out of the car. However at the same time some people started shouting “Prime Minister resign” and “Government resign.” With that, Prime Minister Erdoğan's close bodyguards and the Special Operations Police intervened to the demonstrators and the journalists who were taking pictures. Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan’s bodyguards assaulted some of the journalists. A short-lived commotion occurred due to the police not allowing the group to march. Meanwhile some of the demonstrators were seen setting off fireworks aimed at the policemen. And the police responded to the demonstrators with tear gas.[[35]](#footnote-35)

15 May 2014

* The police responded to the people staging a demonstration in İzmir, in response to the calling of KESK, DİSK, TMMOB and TTB. [[36]](#footnote-36)

16 May 2014

* The police used Riot Control Vehicle (TOMA) teargas and plastic bullets to respond to the citizens in Ankara who wanted to stage a protest against the developments in the wake of the mining accident, which happened in Soma.[[37]](#footnote-37)

19 May 2014

* It is claimed that the teachers and students who participated in the march and the one day strike organized by KESK, DİSK, TMMOB and TTB on 15 of May in commemoration of those who lost their lives in the mining accident in Soma, were blacklisted.[[38]](#footnote-38)
* In Mersin, unidentified people attacked high school students who wanted to protest the Soma mining accident with meat cleavers and clubs. The attackers managed to run away. Three students were injured.[[39]](#footnote-39)

21 May 2014

* A total of 291 years of jail sentences are being asked for Fecri Ataseven and Hasan Umut Baran, who stayed in prison for four months and eleven days, and 5 other people who were prosecuted without arrest after being taken into custody during the Gezi Protests in Antalya.[[40]](#footnote-40)

1 June 2014

* A citizen who displayed a banner reading “There's a Thief!” at the AKP rally at Mahmudiye (Eskişehir) was taken into custody following the “take this one” order issued by Melih Gökçek, who was at the rally area at the time.[[41]](#footnote-41)

2 June 2014

* It was revealed that following a criminal complaint made to the Chief Republican Prosecutor's Office in Ankara by a staff member employed at the Presidency of Telecommunication and Communication (TİB), the TİB president Ahmet Cemalettin Çelik and a group who introduced themselves as police officers interrogated TİB personnel, accusing them of spying and made them recite the Fatiha Sura.[[42]](#footnote-42)
* In the lawsuit where Ayşe Deniz Karacagil, also known as “red scarfed girl,” Murat Sezgin, Mustafa Cihan Yılmaz, Ali Karakuş and Leyla Nuyan were prosecuted on the grounds of participating the Gezi Protests in Antalya, jail sentences ranging between 11-98 years were requested for the suspects.[[43]](#footnote-43)

4 June 2014

* The prosecution formed a committee of 8 people for the wiretapping claims. The expert witnesses started examining TİB's database of 10 years.[[44]](#footnote-44)

6 June 2014

* MHP Kocaeli MP Lütfü Türkkan said that numerous media members, with the exception of a few, were applauders of the government.[[45]](#footnote-45)
* A lawsuit was opened against *Samanyolu TV* for saying *“The Prime Minister insulted the Anatolian woman who attended the rally”* when recounting the Prime Minister's words towards the Fethullah Gülen supporters whom he described as “Gülen Community sisters.”[[46]](#footnote-46)
* Can Dündar, a columnist for the Cumhuriyet newspaper, was absolved of any wrongdoing in the case opened against him by the Prime Minister for writing “Erdoğan shall be prosecuted” in an article. [[47]](#footnote-47)

8 June 2014

* The police responded to the Lice protests organized by Peoples’ Democracy Party (HDP) and Peace and Democracy Party (BDP) at Bağcılar Square.[[48]](#footnote-48)

9 June 2014

* The CNN reporter Iwan Watson announced that he had decided to leave Turkey after being taken into custody on the anniversary of the Gezi protests and being accused of espionage by the Prime Minister Erdoğan.[[49]](#footnote-49)

10 June 2014

* According to the Bugün newspaper, the lawyers of the Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan litigated for the removal of the news related with MHP leader Devlet Bahçeli's speech during his party's group meeting where, he responded to the voice recordings from the newspaper 's website.[[50]](#footnote-50)

12 June 2014

* MHP Deputy Chairman Semih Yalçın accused journalist Cüneyt Özdemir, the producer of the “5N 1K” TV show of treating MHP as an enemy. Yalçın said “We are closely following his struggle to condemn MHP in the public consciousness. We are strongly protesting his TV show which is providing bullets to the weapon of treason and we are warning him.”[[51]](#footnote-51)
* Mehmet Düzenli, who was convicted to three months and three days of prison time because of the cartoon about Adnan (Oktar) Hoca, stated that he did not want the sentencing to be postponed to be able to draw freely and he had the freedom to express that Adnan Oktar, who claimed that he was the “Mahdi (Messiah),” was lying.[[52]](#footnote-52)

14 June 2014

* The people who were demonstrating for Berkin Elvan in Çanakkale were issued 'traffic tickets' by the Provincial Police Department, Traffic Registration and Supervision Branch Office, on the grounds that they were blocking the traffic on the road. The judge cancelled the traffic fines and stated that the public order had not been disturbed and that events “disturbing the public order would not be of this nature.”[[53]](#footnote-53)

15 June 2014

* Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan asked the hostage situation in Mousul, instigated by the IS terror organization not to be “tampered with” too much. Regarding the subject, the Prime Minister said “Please, I ask you kindly to follow this process not by provoking it, but by not writing, drawing and not talking too much” to the journalists.[[54]](#footnote-54)
* An administrative investigation was opened against the students occupying the Faculty of Communications at Kocaeli University in order to Protest the incidents at Lice. The rectorate accused 24 students with damaging the university.[[55]](#footnote-55) Eğitim-Sen protested the university administration.[[56]](#footnote-56)

16 June 2014

* Journalist Soner Yalçın of the *Sözcü* newspaper, who was a guest at the “Kral Çıplak” TV show being broadcasted on *Ulusal Kanal* said “Fortunately it is shutting down” regarding the termination of the paper publication of *Radikal* newspaper and accused *Radikal* of “trampling on the principles of journalism.”[[57]](#footnote-57)

17 June 2014

* It was reported that Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK) decided for a publication ban on all kinds of printed and visual press and the Internet regarding the hostage situation, until the investigation came to an end, following the decree of Ankara 9 High Criminal Court, in order to provide the security of the Turkish citizens in the Mousul Consulate and kept in an unknown place by the IS terror organization.[[58]](#footnote-58)

18 June 2014

* Accreditation was not provided for *Ulusal Kanal,* which wanted to keep track of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's rally in Vienna.[[59]](#footnote-59)

19 June 2014

* Pursuant to the downsizing policy decision taken by the management in CNN Türk, 14 people working in the news center, sports and program centers of the TV channel were let go. It is stated that the layoffs will continue in other units and the number of employees will be reduced.[[60]](#footnote-60)
* Kaos GL, LGBTI News Turkey and IGLHRC presented the Universal Periodic Review Report (EPI - Universal Periodic Review) to the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council. In the report, breaches towards the human rights of the LGBTs (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) in Turkey such as hate murders, intervention to the freedom of expression, right to congregate and demonstrate, and discrimination in employment were detailed.[[61]](#footnote-61)

21 June 2014

* A woman named DT., who insulted IMC TV reporter Michelle Demishevich saying “Are you a man or a woman? Filthy devshirmeh (convert)” was imposed a punitive fee of 2,000 TL for the crime of “deliberately injury.” The case was considered significant within the context of “terms such as hate speech, trans phobia, gender identity and LGBT being placed on record by the judge.”[[62]](#footnote-62)

23 June 2014

* The journalists Yusuf Eker and Ahmet Ermiş, who went to the Kavaklı District of Silivri in order to report the drowning of a girl as news, was attacked by the family and relatives of the child who drowned.[[63]](#footnote-63) The İstanbul Local Journalists Association condemned the attack on the journalists.[[64]](#footnote-64)

25 June 2014

* Şükrü Üçüncü from the Haber61.new news website and Ali Tiritoğlu from Karadeniz'in Sesi newspaper were attacked in Trabzon while shooting footage of an incident. The Trabzon Journalists Association condemned the incident.[[65]](#footnote-65)
* Justice and Development Party İstanbul MP, Ex-Minister of European Union and Chief Negotiator Egemen Bağış, who attended a panel on “Violence in and through Media” at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, asserted that he was the victim of “militant journalism” regarding the claims made about him prior to the 30 March Local Elections. [[66]](#footnote-66)

28 June 2014

* The Ministry of Finance started a financial investigation regarding the Taraf newspaper. A tax fine of 5.5 million TL was issued to the newspaper, which was under investigation for a period of 14 months in 2011. The Undersecretariat of the Treasury restarted an inspection on the newspaper on the grounds of an “insufficient investigation.” The Turkish Journalists Association stated that the government wanted to intimidate the opposition press through these kinds of methods.[[67]](#footnote-67)

29 June 2014

* The LGBTI Pride March was blocked by the police. As the demonstrators gathered at Taksim started marching on the İstiklal Street, TOMA-assisted riot squad police did not allow them to enter Taksim Square.[[68]](#footnote-68)

30 June 2014

* *Cumhuriyet* wrote that “the contents of 14 *Twitter* accounts with a total of more than 1 million followers in Turkey were blocked, and this means performing censorship on approximately 1 million people.”[[69]](#footnote-69)
* The prosecution of 29 people which were under investigation with the claim that they had organized an unauthorized demonstration after the 17 December operation and insulted Prime Minister Erdoğan during this march started in Aydın.[[70]](#footnote-70)

2 July 2014

* Sledgehammer case convict and former Naval Forces commander Özden Örnek filed a criminal complaint against AKP’s Hüseyin Çelik on grounds that he said “Sledgehammer is a coup, pure and simple.”[[71]](#footnote-71)

3 July 2014

* A lawsuit was opened against the members of Turkish Youth Association (TGB) who were demonstrating in protest of the mining disaster in the Soma county of Manisa, in which 301 workers lost their lives. In the indictment, the teenagers chanting “Soma is not a work accident, it is murder” was counted as crime. A total of up to 15 years of jail sentence is being asked for five TGB members.[[72]](#footnote-72)

7 July 2014

* The court adjudged for the arrest of the defendant police officer Ahmet Şahbaz in the case related with Ethem Sarısülük who lost his life after being shot by a bullet fired from a police officer's weapon in Kızılay during the Gezi Park protest support demonstrations in Ankara.[[73]](#footnote-73)

11 July 2014

* The court invalidated some of the 356 TL of fines given to the people who were marching to protest Prime Minister Erdoğan who had come to the city for a rally prior to 30 March elections and closed the road to traffic in Eskişehir.[[74]](#footnote-74)

14 July 2014

* The third hearing of the case in which eight suspects, four of which are police officers were on trial in relation with the killing of Ali İsmail Korkmaz, who lost his life during the Gezi Park protests in Eskişehir was carried out.[[75]](#footnote-75)
* Protests were organized in İstanbul and Ankara following Israel's lengthy operation against Gaza. Initially demonstrators gathered in front of the Israeli consulate in Levent, İstanbul. The police forces taking heavy measures responded to the protestors with TOMAs and tear gas.[[76]](#footnote-76) In Ankara demonstrations, police did not use force against the protestors. The police decision not to intervene prevented tensions from rising.[[77]](#footnote-77)

16 July 2014

* While 23 of the 24 children under the age of 18 who were charged with “damaging State and private property”, “resisting to prevent from performing duty” and “opposing the 2911 numbered Meeting and Demonstration Marches Law” for participating in the Gezi demonstrations in İzmir on 20 June last year and were on trial without arrest, for whom jail sentences between 16 months and 15 years were requested, were found not guilty, it was decided for the disclosure of the verdict regarding one child was to be postponed.[[78]](#footnote-78) (In the justification of the decision which was disclosed on 27.7.2014; “It was stated that “any citizen is allowed to organize a meeting or demonstration without prior authorization in accordance with the ECHR judicial opinion and the Constitution” and it was stated that the Gezi protests “are a right not a crime.”[[79]](#footnote-79))

19 July 2014

* Dostlar Theater, which was not allowed to benefit from the allowance provided to private theaters by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism in the 2013-2014 season, on grounds that they supported the Gezi protests, resorted to legal action and the court ruled that they should be allowed to benefit from this allowance.[[80]](#footnote-80)

20 July 2014

* A group protesting Israel's ground attack on Gaza attacked the Mediterranean sculpture, by the famous sculptor İlhan Koman, located near Israel's İstanbul Consulate General in Levent.[[81]](#footnote-81)

24 July 2014

* Edirne residents started a petition for the damaged Mediterranean Sculpture of their fellow townsman İlhan Koman, to be brought to Edirne.[[82]](#footnote-82)

1 August 2014

* Kepez District National Education Directorate commission did not give permission to the “Rumuz Goncagül” play, which was to be staged in a high school in Antalya, on the grounds that the “smalltalk broker” expression in the play meant “pimp.” As for the teacher who said “you are censors” to one of the commission members, he was given “rank suspension” penalty and assigned to another school.[[83]](#footnote-83)

3 August 2014

* MHP Chairperson Devlet Bahçeli complained that TRT did not allocate equal screen time to the Presidential candidates in the Çay district of Afyonkarahisar. TRT news channel which was broadcasting the speech live stopped the broadcast after this statement.[[84]](#footnote-84)

4 August 2014

* Following the sahur operation carried out against the police officers conducting the graft investigations in İstanbul, a list of the people who were going to be taken into custody in the second operation was published on the *Twitter* account “GizliArşiv.” Following the list's publication in a newspaper, the lawyers of the chiefs of police who had been announced to be taken into custody filed a criminal complaint.[[85]](#footnote-85)

5 August 2014

* The second wave of the “Gülen Community” operation inside the police department started this morning. It was stated that the operation was carried out in 14 cities, which were İstanbul, Van, Hakkari, Mardin, Ankara, Batman, Diyarbakır, Şırnak, Bingöl, Bitlis, Ağrı, Iğdır, Kahramanmaraş and Şanlıurfa. 33 people were taken into custody as part of the operation.[[86]](#footnote-86)

13 August 2014

* Incidents occurred in Silvan district of Diyarbakır during the torch march organized by the members of the Democratic Regions Party who wanted to protest ISIS. The police responded with teargas and water cannons during the commotion, which started with the demonstrators throwing rocks at the police who were trying to disperse the group.[[87]](#footnote-87)
* The Atheism Association is filing a lawsuit against Nihat Hatipoğlu, a theologian academic and a TV producer preparing program on religious subjects for saying “The greatest father of the atheists is the Satan, thus Satan is cleaner then the atheists.” The Atheism Association, asserting that the statements made by Hatipoğlu in his TV program on a national TV channel are “full of spite and hatred” accused Hatipoğlu of “trying to marginalize” them.[[88]](#footnote-88)

15 August 2014

* When asked if he would attend the Judicial Year Opening Ceremony at the “AK Party 13 Foundation Anniversary Reception” organized at the AKP Headquarters, 12 President Erdoğan said he wouldn't attend if the President of the Turkish Bar Association was to make a speech at the ceremony. He said, “If the Court of Cassation (Supreme Court) invites the Bar President and asks him to make a speech I will not attend. The President does not have to attend and hear the Bar President. Even then, if the President of the Supreme Court of Cassation will speak there I will gladly listen to the President of the Supreme Court, I will listen because he's the Head of the Supreme Court.” [[89]](#footnote-89)
* The President of the Turkish Bar Association Metin Feyzioğlu said “This statement has disappointed everyone who expected the office of the President to be impartial” in response to Prime Minister Erdoğan's “If the President of the Turkish Bar Association is attending then I will not attend the opening ceremony” statement.[[90]](#footnote-90)

16 August 2014

* Adnan Oktar opened a lawsuit against the cartoonist Mehmet Düzenli who had previously been sentenced to three months and three days due to cartoons he had drawn of Adnan Oktar, and whose prison time had ended, using the same cartoons as a grounds for the new lawsuit. Düzenli said, “*My previous cartoons are present on my web site. They were published in Cumhuriyet, Aydınlık and Antalya newspaper s. They probably irritated him when they were published in national newspaper s, so he filed a complaint against me. He had my website named Ahşap Karikatür Ustası shut down*.”[[91]](#footnote-91)

19 August 2014

* Up to 5 years of in jail was requested for Kudret Kaçar (42) who tweeted “Announcement to those who have guns. Tayyip is coming to Bursa“. A lawsuit was opened against Kaçar who was arrested on the grounds of calling for assassination of Erdoğan on *Twitter* and released three days later with a request for 5 years of jail sentence.[[92]](#footnote-92)

21 August 2014

* A media monitoring report covering January-April 2014 was published within the scope of Monitoring Hate Speech in Media study conducted by the Hrant Dink Foundation established in memory of the slain Editor in Chief of Agos newspaper Hrant Dink who was murdered on 19 January 2014. According to the report which observed that hate speech increased in printed press, the groups that were targeted most were the Armenians, Jews and Christians and also there was an increase in hate speech in local press as well as national press.[[93]](#footnote-93)

24 August 2014

* The letters written by the prisoners of Kocaeli First F Type Prison were censored on the grounds that they said “thief” in reference of the people mentioned in the 17 December corruption and bribery operation.[[94]](#footnote-94)

27 August 2014

* 44 police officers, including the prior Intelligence Officer Section Chief Ali Fuat Yılmazer, former İstanbul Anti-terror Branch Head Yurt Atayün, prior Intelligence Section Chief Erol Demirhan and former Anti-terror Branch Head Ömer Köse, who were arrested during the police operations appealed to the violations while in custody and the arrests and personally applied to *the Constitutional Court*.[[95]](#footnote-95)

31 August 2014

* In the “Most Authentic Question of the Minorities” article published in Akşam newspaper on 3 August 2014 by Etyen Mahçupyan, it was stated *“their looking down on Muslims has a role in the indecisive attitude of the minorities against the state and the society.”* The Jewish Community in Turkey commented the remark in question as *“provocative slander”* in its statement regarding this article.[[96]](#footnote-96)

3 September 2014

* Fenerbahçe Left Wing Supporters Group member Mehmet Sencer Az applied to the Advertising Self-Regulatory Board with a request for Passolig adverts to be discontinued. Sencer gave “the portrayal of the fans who do not yet possess Passolig cards as people that are prone to violence, fanatic and with noncompliant tendencies” as a justification to his request. After examining Sencer's application, the Advertising Self-Regulatory Board decided for the discontinuation of Passolig advertisements due to the violation of the article regarding “respect to personal rights.”[[97]](#footnote-97)
* The defendant police officer Ahmet Şahbaz was sentenced to seven years nine months and 10 days of jail time in the case related with the killing of Ethem Sarısülük during the Gezi Park protests.[[98]](#footnote-98)

4 September 2014

* The website of *STV* Haber, Samanyolu Haber, which is a part of the Gülen Community, cut the headline of Hürriyet newspaper in its photo gallery displaying the first pages of the newspaper s. The news given in the headline of Hürriyet newspaper regarding Valerie Trierweiler, the ex-girlfriend of French President François Hollande, was censored by Samanyolu on the grounds that it was too “obscene”[[99]](#footnote-99)

4 September 2014

* Bank Asya filed two separate lawsuits against the authorities of the regulatory institutions Banking Regulation and Supervision Agency (BDDK) and Capital Markets Board (SPK), claiming that they had neglected their duties and did not respond as required to the agencies, newspapers, television channels and Websites which they claimed published news that damaged the bank's interests and reputation. Bank Asya stated that it would also file lawsuits against the Sabah newspaper and the semi-official Anatolian Agency as well.[[100]](#footnote-100)

8 September 2014

* A lawsuit was opened against 35 members of the “Çarşı” group, the Supporter Group of Beşiktaş Gymnastics Club, with the claim that they “attempted to overthrow the government” during the “Gezi Park” protests.[[101]](#footnote-101)
* The Magistrates’ Court in Eskişehir considered Serkan Doğan's comment “I have nothing to say in response to such rudeness. He must not be a human being” which he wrote under lawyer T.B's picture on *Facebook* as an insult. It decided for Serkan Doğan who wrote the comment to be punished with 3 months of jail time. [[102]](#footnote-102)

9 September 2014

* The trial of Filiz Akıncı who was claimed to have insulted the then Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan when leaving İzmir Gündoğdu rally grounds with a “hand gesture” from the balcony of her home began with a request for up to two years in jail. [[103]](#footnote-103)

10 September 2014

* In Edremit the police responded to the march from Van to Ankara of over seven thousand Turkish Labor Agency (İŞKUR) workers who had been laid off and whose contracts had been terminated. Six workers were injured and one worker was taken into custody during the police response.[[104]](#footnote-104)

12 September 2014

* The İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality, which had caused controversy, with the removal of FEM and ANAFEN private teaching institutions' signboards, censored Fatih College's advertisements. The boards with Fatih College's adverts were covered with black canvas during the night. Fatih College made a statement saying, “We are claiming our rights against all these unlawfulness within the framework of the laws of Republic of Turkey.”[[105]](#footnote-105)

16 September 2014

* **The Ankara Chief Republican Prosecutor's Office Press Bureau decided that “for no prosecution action” regarding the insult aimed at AA through Twitter. The Ankara Magistrates’ Court, examining the comment aimed at AA on Twitter, decreed that it would be considered as being directed at the representatives and authorities of the institution and thus constitutes an “insult crime.”[[106]](#footnote-106)**
* The Kurdish elementary school which was opened in Diyarbakır and the door of which was sealed on the same day by the Governorship, started education following the removal of the seal by the Provincial Head of Democratic Regions Party (DBP) Zübeyde Zümrüt, and the people accompanying her. Following this incident, police arrived at the school in order to evacuate it and responded to the group that included women and children with teargas and water cannons.[[107]](#footnote-107)

22 September 2014

* In Van, the police responded with teargas to a group that wanted to march to AKP Provincial Headquarters Building in order to protest the attacks of Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) gangs against the Kobane settlement of the Northern Syria Kurdish region Rojava, with the claim that *“AKP supported ISIS.”*[[108]](#footnote-108)

****23 September 2014****

* **The Republican Prosecutors Office filed a lawsuit against the writer Abdurrahman Erol Özkoray, on the grounds that in his book titled “Gezi Fenomeni” (The Gezi Phenomenon) on the Gezi protests, he insulted Recep Tayip Erdoğan during the period of his Prime Ministry.**[[109]](#footnote-109)

****28 September 2014****

* In İzmir, the police responded with teargas and TOMAs to the group, which wanted to march in support of Kobane, which was under attack by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria. [[110]](#footnote-110)

****30 September 2014****

* **The documentary named “*Until the Face of the Earth is the Face of Love*” directed by Reyan Tuvi, which depicted the Gezi protests and which had won an award in Documentarist and was shown at the İstanbul Film Festival and Adana Golden Cocoon Film Festival, was removed from the competition program by the Festival Committee on the grounds that it “contained expressions and content contrary to Turkish Penal Code (TCK) articles 125 and 129.” The festival’s preliminary jury accepted the mentioned documentary to the documentary contest. The preliminary jury responded by stating “We characterize a documentary movie being evaluated according to TCK and removed from the list as censorship, regardless of the movie's contents”**[[111]](#footnote-111)
* **The defendant of the Sledgehammer Case, Retired General Çetin Doğan, testified to the public prosecutor as a “plaintiff” within the scope of the investigation related with the “conspiracy in Sledgehammer” claims. Doğan, stating that he had filed a complaint against all the suspects, including journalist Mehmet Baransu and the previous Head of Anti-Terror Branch Yurt Atayün said “I press charges against all suspects who caused me to be jailed pending trial by framing the Sledgehammer conspiracy with fake digital data and committed the crimes of slander and constraint of freedom and falsification within the scope of a criminal organization activities.”**[[112]](#footnote-112)

2 October 2014

* Security forces responded with water cannons and teargas to the events that started when the demonstrators were not allowed to march during the *“Support Kobane demonstrations”* in Diyarbakır, Yüksekova, Tunceli and Van cities with the invitation of the Democratic Regions Party (DBP) Provincial organizations.[[113]](#footnote-113)
* During the events, which continued until late hours in Yüksekova, the demonstrators threw Molotov cocktails into three schools and set the buildings on fire.[[114]](#footnote-114)
* The workers of Torunlar A.Ş., which became controversial due to the disaster in Mecidiyeköy in which 10 workers lost their lives, who were *“laid off and couldn't claim their dues”* were taken into custody by the police at the Shopping Mall where they were demonstrating.[[115]](#footnote-115)

5 October 2014

* Deputy Prime Minister Bülent Arınç used the expression *“pathetic, with corrupted chastity, lacking manners”*in reference to artist Leman Sam who wrote “For me ISIL and a person who holds his knife against the throat of an innocent animal feel the same” on *Twitter*.[[116]](#footnote-116)

8 October 2014

* A curfew was imposed in Diyarbakır due to the events that broke out during the demonstrations protesting the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant's attacks on Kobane.[[117]](#footnote-117)
* The National Documentary Film Competition was cancelled after the documentary titled “Until the Face of the Earth is the Face of Love” about the Gezi protests, which had been qualified to compete in Golden Orange Film Festival, was removed from the competition program by the festival committee. The decision to cancel was taken after the producers and directors of 13 of the 15 documentaries in the program reacted to the censorship and withdrew from the competition.[[118]](#footnote-118)

9 October 2014

* The police responded to the demonstrations held at the Middle East Technical University and Ankara University to support Kobane and some academic personnel on duty at the Ankara University were taken into custody.[[119]](#footnote-119)
* Leman Sam, who had *tweeted* “For me ISIL and a person who holds his knife against the throat of an innocent animal feel the same, ISIL does not surprise me” on the micro blog site *Twitter* was accused of *“insulting the sacrificial ritual and being an enemy of religion”* by *Twitter* users and she responded with *“You are dishonest and ignorant”* to those who had reacted to her. Sam's contract which was made for Gaziantep concert was cancelled.[[120]](#footnote-120)
* Approximately 50 women who were members of the group called *“Women's Initiative Against War,”* wanted to demonstrate at the Atatürk Airport International Flights Departures Floor, in order to protest the ISIL blockade at Kobane, were taken into custody.[[121]](#footnote-121)

15 October 2014

* The military attacked the group on a “resistance watch” at Mehser village of Suruç with armored vehicles and gas bombs. During the intervention where a large number of teargas was used, Democratic Regions Party (DBP) Party Executive Member Semra Demir was injured when a gas bomb hit her on the head. Demir received treatment in intensive care for 10 days.[[122]](#footnote-122)

17 October 2014

* In the lawsuit opened by the citizen who was injured during the Gezi protests from a gas canister that struck his eye, it was asserted that “The citizen was injured due to his own fault” in the correspondence sent from the Ministry of Internal Affairs legal office to the Ankara 10 Administrative Court.[[123]](#footnote-123)
* A group made a press statement at the Ege University campus in İzmir, in order to show their reaction against the recent attacks against the Atatürk busts and the flag of Turkey. A fight broke out between the groups after the press statement when students with opposing views intervened. Police intervention prevented tensions from running too high.[[124]](#footnote-124)

20 October 2014

* Three students, who were members of the Turkish Communist Party, and against whom President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan had filed a lawsuit on the grounds that *“they had attached stickers reading thief Tayyip, fascist Tayyip on billboard photographs,”* were sentenced to one year and 15 days in prison when the court judged that “Thief Tayyip” inscription as an “insult,” however the announcement of the sentence was postponed and the student were released on the condition that they serve the sentence in case “they repeat the same offence.”[[125]](#footnote-125)
* The Ministry of Culture approved the annual program of the Presidential Symphony Orchestra by removing two weeks consisting of Fazıl Say’s works. Say's “İstanbul Symphony”, “Water Piano Concerto” and “The Child on the Dolphin's Back-Hermiyas” were removed from the program.[[126]](#footnote-126)

21 October 2014

* President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan described Berkin Elvan, who had lost his life after being in intensive care for a long time as a result of being struck on the head with a gas canister during the Gezi protests as “a pawn of the terrorist organization” in the speech he gave at the 2 International Ombudsman meeting. Erdoğan signaled that bans can be introduced on social media, using Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant's active use of *Twitter* and the Internet as an excuse.[[127]](#footnote-127)
* Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu explained the details of the internal security package that created a controversial debate in the public. The regulation stipulates that Molotov cocktails can be considered as deadly weapons, masked protestors be sentenced; an increase of the sentences to be given to those participating in demonstrations with weapons and a sentence between 2.5-4 years be given; authorization of the police for bodily and vehicle searches; the custody duration of the police be 24 hours *under the supervision of the deputy governor and the superior officer*, *and this duration be extendable to 48 hours with prosecutor’s decree*; that demonstrators could be made to pay for the damages caused during the demonstrations; that hate speech and call to violence in virtual media may be considered a crime; and the establishment of a Law-enforcement Supervision Commission for the supervision of the conduct of the police.[[128]](#footnote-128)

23 October 2014

* A riot squad intervened to a group reacting to the continuing construction works and the uprooting of trees despite the court's injunction to stop activities in relation with the construction of a mosque in the green area adjacent to the Validebağ Grove in Üsküdar, Istanbul; five people were assaulted and taken into custody.[[129]](#footnote-129)
* The Atheism Association filed a criminal complaint against İzmir Provincial Director of National Education Vefa Bardakçı who was claimed to have said *“he would do away with communist and atheist teachers.”* The association made a statement saying, “*Being an atheist is a personal choice and having the belief of his choice is each individual's right. It does not have any aspect that will not comply with certain professions. Distinguishing people who are performing an honorable profession such as teaching, according to their religious or political opinions is a crime according to our laws and it is separatism.”*[[130]](#footnote-130)

24 October 2014

* As of the beginning of October, fights in which sticks and meat cleavers were used broke out at the Faculty of Arts and Sciences of İstanbul University between the students who had gathered to protest ISIL attacks on Kobane and opposing groups. Riot squads responded to the incidents, which occurred on 9th, 13 and 24 October and took a number of students into custody.[[131]](#footnote-131)

31 October 2014

* *Sabah* newspaper had recently accused the Head of the Institute of Public Hospitals with cronyism and upon the refusal of the ministry to make a statement, the head of the Institute of Public Hospitals was forced to resign from office. The newspaper lastly voiced a new claim in the Ministry of Health with “the biggest haul of the parallel structure“ headline. The Minister of Health Mehmet Müezzinoğlu, on the other hand, denied the newspaper 's claim that certain bureaucrats formed a secret partnership with the Basel pharmaceutical company and made a haul of 2.5 billion dollars and said, “*There's nothing to say. It is a newscast created at the desk.*”[[132]](#footnote-132)

5 November 2014

* In Ankara, the police responded with teargas to the group that gathered to protest Israel's attacks at the Masjid Al-Aqsa and closed the road to traffic.[[133]](#footnote-133)
* The administration of Istanbul Technical University (ITU) Faculty of Architecture opened an investigation against Ceyda Sungur, who became a symbol for the Gezi Protests among the general public as “the Woman in Red”, due to an e-mail she sent regarding the research associates positions. Sungur argued that the investigation revealed the extent of the pressure applied on the assistants and stated, *“What is significant here is that, rather than the content and legality of the sent e-mail, even the communication between the assistants, who do not have job security, is kept under control. These circumstances are unacceptable for an academic environment which is expected to be questioning, critical and productive.”* [[134]](#footnote-134)

7 November 2014

* Tension rose between the police and demonstrators reacting to the construction planned to be carried out at the Validebağ Grove in Istanbul. The police responded to the demonstrators with plastic bullets.[[135]](#footnote-135)
* In Kadıköy, Istanbul, police responded with water cannons and teargas to the group which attempted to organize a demonstration march for Kader Ortakkaya who was claimed to have been shot dead while trying to cross the border to Syria.[[136]](#footnote-136)
* In Ankara, the police responded with water cannons to the group that wanted to protest the foundation anniversary of the Council of Higher Education (YÖK) and the members of the press who were following the march.[[137]](#footnote-137)

8 November 2014

* Lawsuits were opened against 10 people demonstrating in support of Kobane on the ferry from Beşiktaş to Kadıköy for *“Hijacking or withholding transportation vehicles”* and *“Opposing meeting and demonstration marches law”* charges, with a request for jail sentences between three years and six months to eight years.[[138]](#footnote-138)
* In Ankara, the police did not give permission to the group, which had gathered to protest the government, to march, and responded with water cannons to the demonstrators who refused to disperse.[[139]](#footnote-139)

12 November 2014

* According to the newscast of Evrensel, Turan Ababey, the owner of the Karşı newspaper that was closed-down, assaulted and threatened Burak Öz, a former employee of the newspaper who was employed at the Turkish Journalists Association at TÜYAP. It was stated that the newspaper 's employees started resisting in April on the grounds that they couldn't receive their accrued salaries from Ababey’s company since the newspaper was closed down, and Ababey's behavior was caused by the reciprocal insults in the short messages sent.[[140]](#footnote-140)
* During the incidents that broke out on 3 May 2010 at the Environmental Impact Assessment meeting regarding the thermic power plant which Anadolu Corporate Group wanted to establish in the Yaykıl Village of Gerze, three citizens were given eight months and 10 days of jail sentences on the grounds that they had *“Resisted the police to obstruct them from performing their duty”* The jail sentence was converted into a fine, which could be appealed.[[141]](#footnote-141)
* During the demonstrations related to the cutting of trees to make way for the mosque at the Validebağ Grove in Istanbul, Cumhuriyet reporter Kayhan Ayhan and Ulusal Kanal reporter Deniz Çağlayan were injured when targeted by pressurized water cannon, which the police allegedly sprayed on purpose. Following this, regarding the incident the Turkish Journalists Union General Secretary Mustafa Kuleli said, “*Preventing a journalist from performing his duty and physically intervening is a violation of the freedom of press.”* Kuleli requested from the government and the authorities that the people responsible for this do not go unpunished.[[142]](#footnote-142)
* Speaking in Brussels while visiting to establish communications regarding Turkey's EU membership process, European Union Minister and Chief Negotiator Volkan Bozkır said that a new package which will expand the freedom of expression was being prepared within the scope of democratization and that a subcommittee that would function under the umbrella of Reform Action Group was being established within this framework. Furthermore, Bozkır voiced that the committee would start its work within one week and they planned to disclose the package related with freedom of expression in January.[[143]](#footnote-143)

17 November 2014

* During the speech he gave at the Turkish Grand National Parliament Planning and Budget Commission, the Minister of Culture and Tourism Ömer Çelik argued that Fazıl Say was using “*manipulation*.” Minister Çelik also remarked *“is it oppression to ask for Kneecap Fazıl plays to be staged?”* regarding the “censorship” attempts at the State Theatres and private theatres, and said “*he would never allow for sexual violence in the plays.”*[[144]](#footnote-144)

20 November 2014

* Members of the Health and Social Service Labor Union who staged a protest in front of TBMM opened a banner reading *“We want budget for health.”* In the statement made on behalf of the group it was stated that they, as the health workers, wanted recognition in the Ministry of Health budget and reports, which were to be discussed at Planning and Budget Commission at TBMM, and that they wanted to enter the commission. The group wanted to stage a sit-in, however police squads pointed out that a sit-in protest would not be permitted and the group should disperse. The riot squad teams responded with teargas and shields to the group, which did not disperse despite the warning. 10 of the protestors were taken into custody.[[145]](#footnote-145)

22 November 2014

* Dr. Emrah Altındiş, who asked a question about *“Gezi protests and human rights violations”* to former President Abdullah Gül giving a speech at a conference at the Harvard University claimed that *“he was subjected to a big conspiracy and suffered oppression”* because of his question. Altındiş, who remarked that although he missed Turkey very much he delayed his return because of possible oppression, also said that he was afraid of getting arrested if he returned to Turkey.[[146]](#footnote-146)
* Following Republican People’s Party (CHP) Chairperson Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu's claim that *“MİT will carry out an operation against CHP,”* CHP TBMM Group Presidency issued a circular so that the MPs wouldn't speak to the media *“without permission.”*[[147]](#footnote-147)

23 November 2014

* A group consisting of CHP Youth Branches members who gathered at the Taksim Gezi Park in order to make a press statement was stopped by police. Police dispersed the crowd using teargas.[[148]](#footnote-148)

24 November 2014

* Following the presentation of the internal security reform package, which included regulations in the authorities of the gendarmerie and the police, to the Speakership of Parliament; CHP Party Speaker Haluk Koç said that the Interior Security Package law granted excessive authorities to the police and almost anyone's private life could be interfered with through *“reasonable suspicion”* charges. [[149]](#footnote-149)
* A female attendee who wanted to ask a question to the Minister of Family and Social Policies, Ayşenur İslam, as she was giving her speech at the Women and Justice Summit was forcefully silenced by the guards who stopped her speaking and she was taken outside. [[150]](#footnote-150)

27 November 2014

* The residents of the Dikmen Valley revolting against Ankara Metropolitan Municipality Mayor Melih Gökçek's putting the valley up for sale marched to the hall where the tender was being held, chanting *“We call those who attack our right to live with dignity to account, we challenge you.”* The police waiting at the entrance of the municipality building attacked the citizens with tear gas. Seven people were taken into custody as a result of the police intervention. The representatives of the Bureau of Housing Rights told that they knew very well about Melih Gökçek's enmity towards the Dikmen Valley and how to conduct the struggle against him. The residents of the valley stating “they wouldn't buy into the tactics used in revenue projects” announced that they would continue defending their life spaces and ended their protests. [[151]](#footnote-151)

28 November 2014

* Two teachers at the Tekirdağ Safiye Osman Çeliker Middle School were punished with withholding promotion for reading the Yeniçağ and Sözcü newspaper s. The teachers applied to Administrative court for the cancellation of the penalty. According to the news report of the Yeniçağ newspaper , Eğitim-Sen President Doğan said *“Our other colleagues also read the newspapers brought by our friend. The Provincial Directorate of National Education made newspaper headlines by praising a political party as justification for the penalty”* in relation with the two teachers who were penalized.[[152]](#footnote-152)

30 November 2014

* The police responded with teargas to the group consisting of members of the “Student Collectives” who wanted to demonstrate and protest in front of the Presidential Palace in Ankara. 22 people were taken into custody during the commotion that broke out. Concurrently, approximately 200 people belonging to the same group protested Council of Higher Education (YÖK) President Yekta Saraç and the practice of university fees in front of the YÖK building and issued a press statement. Riot squads responded with teargas and water cannons during the commotion that broke out between the police and the group that had started to disperse after the press statement.[[153]](#footnote-153)

2 December 2014

* At the decision stage of the application made by Cem Foundation to the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) after their request for exemption from electricity bills which is provided to mosques, churches, synagogues was refused by the Turkish courts, the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) judged that Turkey was “discriminating” against cemevis.[[154]](#footnote-154)

3 December 2014

* During the artists' and various NGO members' protest march to show their response to the evacuation of Antalya Artists Association (ANSAN), a melee broke out when the verbal argument between some of the protestors and the police grew.[[155]](#footnote-155)
* After Premier Erdoğan's words directed at a police chief before the local elections at the Şanlıurfa rally, the prosecution office opened an investigation following the complaints of 15 police officers claiming that Deputy Police Chief İbrahim E, who was commissioned at the Kozan District Police Department, insulted Erdoğan during a conversation with his police friends and said *“Do not vote for this at the elections.”*
* Following the incident, Deputy Police Chief İbrahim E. was sent to Pozantı District Police Department for 6 months on temporary duty and later returned to Kozan Police Department and to his office. İbrahim E., whose trial began at Kozan 1 Criminal Court of First Instance said, *“these police colleagues of mine are slandering me”* and denied the charges. The trial was postponed to April 2015.[[156]](#footnote-156)
* It was determined that the phones of 160 people, including eminent businessmen, journalists and former senior officers were wiretapped using their IMEI numbers “on the grounds of being a member of a terror and organized crime organization” It was stated that the wiretaps, most of which were carried out between 2008-2009 following court decisions taken with code names were performed by the [İstanbul](http://www.hurriyet.com.tr/index/istanbul" \t "_blank" \o "İstanbul) Police Department within the framework of “informative wiretapping” [[157]](#footnote-157)

8 December 2014

* Former AKP MP Feyzi İşbaşaran was taken into custody by the Beyoğlu Public Security Branch on the grounds that he insulted President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan on *Twitter*. He encountered the protests of a group of AKP supporters and was attacked by 2 people. It was decided that former MP Feyzi İşbaşaran be arrested for the crime of “explicitly insulting the president.”[[158]](#footnote-158)

10 December 2014

* At the Dicle University Faculty of Theology the police responded to the commotion that broke out between a group of students who opened a stand within the scope of Holy Birth Week activities and another group of students who wanted the stand to be removed and took four students into custody.[[159]](#footnote-159)
* The defendant B.M. who was being prosecuted without arrest on charges of *“insulting public officer due to his office”* with the claim that he insulted President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan through the social media site *Facebook* during the period he was Prime Minister was imposed a punitive fee of 6 080 TL.[[160]](#footnote-160)
* Former AKP MP Feyzi İşbaşaran who was arrested by the İstanbul 5th Magistrates Court and put into Üsküdar Paşakapısı Prison on the claim that he insulted President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan on Twitter objected to the arrest warrant through his lawyer. [[161]](#footnote-161)

12 December 2014

* In Mersin, four youths who were Dev-Lis members who chained themselves to the iron railings of a school to protest Ottoman Turkish lectures and continued their protests, ignoring the warnings issued by the police were taken into custody.[[162]](#footnote-162)

16 December 2014

* The first hearing of the case where 35 people including some members of “Çarşı,” the supporter group of the Beşiktaş soccer team, were on trial in relation with the Gezi protests, with the claim that they “used violence and force to attempt to abolish the government of Turkish Republic or partially or completely prevent it from performing its duties” was carried out. As the bans for leaving the country placed on 27 defendants were removed, it was decided for them to be exempt from hearings and the hearing be postponed to 2 April 2015.[[163]](#footnote-163)
* 17-year-old Abdülkadir Çakmak was shot and killed during the conflicts that broke out between the police and the demonstrators in Diyarbakır. While the Police Department claimed that Çakmak had opened fire on the police, his family argued that the person who can be seen shooting in the images distributed by the police was not their son.[[164]](#footnote-164)

17 December 2014

* The police intervened to the Genç Sen members who chained themselves in front of the Social Security Institution, Mersin Provincial Directorate across from the Mersin Metropolitan Municipality in order to support nearly 2000 workers who had been laid off from Mersin Metropolitan Municipality. 20 people were taken into custody.[[165]](#footnote-165)

19 December 2014

* Karamanoğlu Mehmetbey University, Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences Public Administration Department Head Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elifhan Köse, was sentenced to 11 months of prison time by the 4th Civil Court of First Instance on the grounds that during the demonstration where [Berkin Elvan's](http://www.milliyet.com.tr/berkin-elvan/" \t "_blank) death was being protested, she shouted “There's a thief” slogans in reference to the then Prime Minister Recep [Tayyip Erdoğan](http://www.milliyet.com.tr/tayyip-erdogan/" \t "_blank) and “insulted” and it was decided for *“adjournment of the verdict.”*[[166]](#footnote-166)
* Four university students protesting in front of the Eskişehir Courthouse and demanding cardiac patient Abdullah Kalay, who was under arrest at Kocaeli Prison, be released, were taken into custody.[[167]](#footnote-167)

20 December 2014

* In Ankara, members of Eğitim-İş attempted to march from Tandoğan to Kızılay on the occasion of the “Secular Education and Respect for Labor” march they initiated in Yatağan district of Muğla. The police responded to the group with teargas and TOMAs. More than 100 union members, including the union leader, were taken into custody.[[168]](#footnote-168)
* Thespian Nedim Saban announced that all scenes where Betül Kızılok Bavli, who played the role of the “whore” in the *Cibali Karakolu* staged at İstanbul State Theaters, appeared in were censored in their entirety and removed from the play and that she was laid off. Saban said *“They told Bavli 'If you want you can stay in the theatre and be a dancer. This is above censorship, it is being more royalist than the king.”*[[169]](#footnote-169)

21 December 2014

* 10-year-old Yusuf İdem was heavily injured by a gas canister that hit his head during the police response to the unauthorized demonstration in the İdil district of Şırnak.[[170]](#footnote-170)

22 December 2014

* In response to the censorship accusations regarding the Cibali Karakolu play, The General Art Director of State Theaters, Erhan Yazıcıoğlu stated that the removal of scenes were not due to censorship but the extension of the play and said *“It is true, I removed not one but three scenes. I also removed two songs. I did this because of the audience's complaints that the play was excessively long.”*[[171]](#footnote-171)

23 December 2014

* In the claim for damages lawsuit opened by Çankaya Municipality worker Muharrem Dalsüren, who lost one of his eyes due to the gas canister shot by the police during the Gezi protests in Ankara, the Ministry of Internal Affairs' reply stated that “the police attack which caused the loss of the eye was legal.” The ministry stated “On the day of the incident, our administration did not act beyond performing the duty imposed on it by the laws.” Dalsüren had been hit by a gas canister shot from a “scorpion” on Ankara Ziya Gökalp Street on 3 June and he had lost one of his eyes.[[172]](#footnote-172)
* Thespian Nedim Saban announced on Twitter that the actor who had mentioned a “shoe box” as required by his role in the “Pied Piper” play was laid off from the theatre by State Theatres General Art Director Erhan Yazıcıoğlu. The actor, who had played the mayor in the same play which was staged at İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality State Theaters Kâğıthane Sadabat Stage one year ago had used an expression resembling “money in the shoe box” and after the play an investigation had been opened due to some of the viewers' sending e-mails to the State Theatres and showing their reaction.[[173]](#footnote-173)

25 December 2014

* In İzmir, in the case opened against five high school students who had resisted the police officers attempting to remove the tents they had set up to support the Gezi Park protests were sentenced to three months and ten days of jail time on the grounds that *“they had participated in an illegal meeting and demonstration march.”*[[174]](#footnote-174)
* In Konya, the 16 year old high school student M.E.A, who allegedly insulted President Erdoğan during a speech he gave during the “Mustafa Fehmi Kubilay” memorial ceremony, was arrested at the court he was taken to. The arrested high school student M.E.A said, “I made the statement in question. I did not have any intention of insulting” in the deposition he gave to the Chief Public Prosecutor's Office. Three students who arrived in front of the Ministry of Justice in order to protest M.E.A's arrest and opened a banner reading “Where we come from, a thief is called a thief” were taken into custody on the same charges.[[175]](#footnote-175)
* In Kahramanmaraş, the police used teargas and water cannons to suppress the fight that broke out between groups, following the beating of Sütçü İmam University, Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences student Yüksel Tekin. After examining the camera recordings, the police took 67 students into custody who were identified as being involved in the fight. At Çukurova University, the police responded to the fight that broke out between the students who were marching on the occasion of the anniversary of the Uludere (Roboski) incident where 34 citizens lost their lives and the students with opposing views and took 100 more students into custody. At Bingöl University, on the other hand, the police responded with teargas and water cannons to the group that attempted to march after the press statement issued by HDP Provincial Presidency in order to protest the custodies in the events that broke out between two groups at the university. 3 students were taken into custody at the incidents.[[176]](#footnote-176)
* At the Gazi University, Faculty of Communication, a fight broke out between female students of the “student collective member” who wanted to issue a press statement and the male students who were allegedly right-wingers. It was stated that the female students had gathered to protest the beating of two female students one week ago in the Emek campus of the University and to issue a press statement. It was asserted that some male students who wanted to prevent the protests of the group shouted, “*This is Gazi, there's no exit from here*,” “*Communist dogs, what does the homeland expect from you*” slogans. Upon a short lived commotion between the two groups the riot squad teams set up a barricade between the groups and responded with teargas to the “student collective member” group, which continued their protests.[[177]](#footnote-177)
* Adnan Oktar, also known as Adnan Hoca, filed a lawsuit in request of an injunction for the withdrawal from the market of Sabahattin Önkibar's book titled “İşte İslam'ın ve Türklüğün Katilleri” (Here are the Murderers of Islam and Turkishness) with the claim that “it is of a quality that provokes a segment of the society against another” and “it makes the people mentioned as the murderers of İslam and Turkishness the target of the marginal groups.” The court judged for the rejection of the request on the grounds that the motion for injunction would be an intervention on freedom of expression-press. Oktar, who appealed to the decision, filed a claim for compensation for 10 thousand TL against Önkibar and Kaynak Yayınları, asserting the same justifications. İstanbul Anatolian 29 Civil Court of First Instance refused Oktar's request in its decision dated 4 December 2014.[[178]](#footnote-178)

26 December 2014

* 16-year-old high school student M.E.A, who was arrested for insulting President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in the speech he gave at the memorial ceremony organized for “Mustafa Fehmi Kubilay” in Konya was released upon objection.[[179]](#footnote-179)
* The building of the Journalists and Writers Foundation (GYV), the Honorary President of which was Fethullah Gülen, is being evacuated. GYV Vide President Erkam Tufan Aytav stated, *“A notification was made a few days ago. They notified us that the contract related with the usage of the building at Eyüp was unilaterally cancelled. They gave a few days for evacuation. We applied to the Administrative Court. However before the application can be concluded they are coming with the police today and evacuating the building.”*[[180]](#footnote-180)

28 December 2014

* In the statement it issued due to the conflicts between opposing groups in Erzincan, the Erzincan Governorship announced that all meetings under the name of demonstration marches, political signature campaigns, stand openings and all other meetings that are under the scope of the Meeting and Demonstration Marches Law no. 2911 are prohibited between the 28 December 2014 and 12 January 2015.[[181]](#footnote-181)

29 December 2014

* In the statement she made, HDP Co-General Deputy President Meral Danış Beştaş said that 2495 people were taken into custody and 700 people were arrested following the 6th-8 October events and one third of these were children. Beştaş stated that during the operations carried out in numerous cities, children were captured and arrested at the authorities they were dispatched to, and asserted that the children that were taken into custody and arrested were subjected to oppression and force from the moment of their capture and said “these are proven through doctor reports.”[[182]](#footnote-182)

30 December 2014

* Following the New Year celebrations' being described as “illegitimate manners and behavior” in the Friday prayer prepared by the Presidency of Religious Affairs, some provincial and district directors of national education warned the school directors against celebrating the new year at schools. In the correspondence sent to the schools in the district, which was undersigned by Bakırköy District Director of National Education Emrullah Aydın, it was “kindly asked” that no activities be performed related with the end of the year, and said “*I kindly request you to take necessary action for preventing any organizations that could push the students to undesirable behavior and any entertainment, raffles, or games of chance which could negatively impact the lectures as of the end of the year.”* Bartın Directorate of National Education Yaşar Demir sent an SMS to the school directors and used the expression *“I thank you for not letting Christmas and new year's eve, which are Christianity propaganda, to occupy the subconscious of the children in a country that is 99% Muslim.”*[[183]](#footnote-183)
* The speech of Mersin Metropolitan Municipality former council member for CHP Nuri Özdemir, who had allegedly criticized the then Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan with harsh words at the party meeting held prior to the 30 March local elections, was recorded by a camera of the Security Branch Office who watched the meeting, and was sent to the prosecution office. The public prosecutor who watched the recordings filed a lawsuit against Nuri Özdemir at the 20th Criminal Court of First Instance for insulting Erdoğan. The court sentenced Nuri Özdemir to 11 months and 20 days of jail time. The court decided for the adjournment of the execution of the sentence and subjection of a probation period of 5 years and that the adjourned sentence be executed in the event that the defendant commits any crime within the probation period.[[184]](#footnote-184)
* According to a claim which CHP İstanbul deputy Aykut Erdoğdu announced on *Twitter*, police squads raided CHP Zeytinburnu District Building. CHP General Secretary Gürsel Tekin described what happened as “Terrifying” in the statement he gave to Hürriyet newspaper . Tekin explained that the police raided the building because of a banner that the CHP members hung due to 17-25 December events and said “*Can't the people express their personal opinions? Dear Mr. Davutoğlu, dear Minister of Internal Affairs, please pull yourselves together. This is not a nest of terror, it's CHP. You will know your place”*[[185]](#footnote-185)
* Journalist-Television Reporter Sedef Kabaş was taken into custody because of the “*do not forget the name of the judge who gave a verdict of non-prosecution for the 17 December investigation*” *tweet* she sent from her home in relation with the 17-25 December corruption operation. Kabaş, who was taken to Gayrettepe Public Security Branch Office, said that a search was conducted at her house and she was taken into custody for “pointing to people who have served in the fight against terror as targets” claims. Kabaş was released after a while without “administrative control” conditions being required by the Criminal Court of Peace she was sent to with a request for “Threat claim and administrative control.” Kabaş said *“Our esteemed judge took my statement and afterwards evaluated my tweet within the scope of freedom of expression”* CHP İstanbul MP Şafak Pavey stated that she came to the Police Department in order to support freedom of expression by Sedef Kabaş and said *“I am here to support freedom of expression, but when we talked inside Sedef Kabaş made a statement like this: 'I wonder where Reza Sarraf* (Zarrab) *is planning to spend his new years’ eve holiday while I'm giving my statement here?' It is really not possible to comprehend her being sent to the prosecution office in relation with such an inadequate and baseless threat. We will of course follow this entire incident by Sedef Kabaş to support freedom of expression.”*[[186]](#footnote-186)
* Regarding the disciplinary investigation initiated against Zekeriya Öz, Celal Kara, Muammer Akkaş andMehmet Yüzgeç who were carrying out the 17 and 25 December investigation in which the children of ministers and Reza Zarrab were taken into custody and which resulted in resignation of 4 ministers, the High Council of Judges and Prosecutors 2nd Chamber suspended 4 public prosecutors from office in the meeting it conducted, on the grounds that they “damaged the influence and dignity of judiciary power, did not execute the investigations in accordance with the law of criminal procedure, did not behave as the law requires.”[[187]](#footnote-187)

## Suppression of Communication Tools and Communication Professionals

1 March 2014

* The photo reporters Ümit Bektaş (*Reuters*), Necati Savaş (*Cumhuriyet*),[[188]](#footnote-188) Evrim Aydın (*AA*) and Recep Yılmaz (*BirGün*) who were observing the anti-government demonstrations in Ankara were battered by the police using batons. TGS Ankara Branch [[189]](#footnote-189) and Press Council condemned the incident.[[190]](#footnote-190)

2 March 2014

* After the Kayserispor-Erciyesspor game played in Kayseri, the supporters attacked TV Kayseri Sports reporter Kenan Burhan and hospitalized him.[[191]](#footnote-191)

4 March 2014

* In an electronic mail tagged as “important” and claimed to have been sent to media institutions by AKP Antalya Kepez District Organization Media Director Hamit Aydın said, “If you don't place emphasis on and publish AK Party Kepez District news your subscription will be cancelled.” AK Party Kepez District Chairmanship later denied the claims.[[192]](#footnote-192)

5 March 2014

* Akşam newspaper fired journalist Sibel Oral on the grounds of the *tweet* she published. In her statement, Oral said “In the unofficial explanation made to me I was told that the *tweet* I sent regarding Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan made the senior management uncomfortable and they did not want to work with me anymore and I was laid off with the senior management's decision.”[[193]](#footnote-193)
* Evrensel reporter Mithat Fabian Sözmen was attacked by a masked person in front of his house at İstanbul Samatya where he arrived after ending his night shift. Sözmen's head required ten stitches one on his left arm.[[194]](#footnote-194) The TGC Managing Board pointed out that the attacks towards journalists were increasing and requested the assailants be found as soon as possible. Sözmen, who filed a criminal complaint to the prosecution office on the 7 March, said that the AKP was encouraged these attacks directed at journalists through their statements.[[195]](#footnote-195)

8 March 2014

* *Beyaz TV* reporter Gencay Ünal, who was observing the press statement of the public bus drivers, was battered by CHP supporters.[[196]](#footnote-196)

10 March 2014

* 20 people who were allegedly pro-AKP raided the 10. Köy newspaper being published in Hatay and seized and prevented distribution of the newspaper s. The newspaper had been published with a headline that criticized AKP Hatay Metropolitan Municipality Mayor Candidate Sadullah Ergin and Prime Minister Erdoğan.[[197]](#footnote-197)

11 March 2014

* In İstanbul, the police dispersed the demonstration organized at Taksim upon the death of 14 year old Berkin Elvan who had been in a coma for a long time due to a gas canister shot by the police hitting him on the head, tried to prevent the press from taking images, responded violently to the IMV TV reporter. [[198]](#footnote-198) A TOMA crushed the foot of DİHA reporter Yağız Kesen, and demonstrators fought during the argument that broke out during the demonstration.[[199]](#footnote-199)
* During the demonstrations held in Ankara, journalist Çınar Özer suffered the riot squad police hitting his camera, advancing on him, pushing him around with their shields and verbal insults. The police also insulted BirGün reporter Recep Yılmaz while he was taking photographs.[[200]](#footnote-200)
* TGS Ankara Branch Supervision Board Member Meltem Aslan was assaulted by the police she encountered in a side street as she was going to her home in the evening. The riot squad police insulted Aslan even though she displayed her press card.[[201]](#footnote-201)

12 March 2014

* Hürriyet photo reporter Selahattin Sönmez and reporter Mert Gökhan Koç were attacked by the police using plastic bullets, teargas and water cannons at the Ankara Kennedy Street.[[202]](#footnote-202)

13 March 2014

* NTV reporters Göktan Bedük and Savaş Daldal, observing the funeral of Burak Can Karamanoğlu who was killed in İstanbul Okmeydanı were attacked during the live broadcast by a group of people attending the funeral.[[203]](#footnote-203)
* It was claimed that the police used excessive force against the photo reporters and cameramen who were taking images at the memorial meeting organized for Elvan in İzmir. The police targeted and blasted pressurized water at the Ulusal TV cameraman Yalçın Odabaşı. The camera belonging to Odabaşı fell on the floor was broken and rendered unusable. Cumhuriyet İzmir Bureau reporter Emre Döker, Yurt İzmir news supervisor reporter Ahmet Çınar, Dokuz Eylül newspaper photo reporter Aydın Çetinkaya and İHA cameraman Veysel Aksoy and Yeni Asır reporter Tansu Edip Gökbudak were exposed to pressurized water and dense gas. HaberTürk reporter Ali Arda Perk was battered by the police during the demonstrations held in Konak. Yeni Asır reporter Ercan Akgün's camera was broken due to police intervention during the protests in Alsancak.[[204]](#footnote-204)
* TGS İzmir Branch condemned police violence directed at journalists. In a statement it was stated that the journalists observing the protests were battered, exposed to gas and pressurized water and their cameras were broken.[[205]](#footnote-205)
* Pressurized water was blasted at DİHA reporter Zuhal Atlan and *Kanal D* reporter Özgen Bilgöl and cameraman Hüseyin Çözen from a TOMA.[[206]](#footnote-206)
* Journalist Rahmi Yıldırım was taken into custody when he verbally responded to the TOMA attacks without discriminating targets.[[207]](#footnote-207)
* Fotomaç reporter Çağdaş Doğan was laid off due to the *Tweets* he posted regarding the death of Berkin Elvan Best FM employee Arzu Çağlan who commemorated Berkin Elvan in her radio program was laid off.[[208]](#footnote-208)

14 March 2014

* In a joint statement Photo Reporters Association and News Cameramen Association said that lately reporters had become the targets of both the police and the demonstrators and the violence had become “unbearable.”[[209]](#footnote-209)
* Progressive Journalists Association (ÇGD) Rize Branch Chief and Nabız newspaper 's owner Gençağa Karafazlı was convicted on the grounds that he established a crime organization together with family members. Karafazlı, who was known for his adversarial journalism said, “I thought I was a journalist, it seems that I was a mafia member” after he was convicted.[[210]](#footnote-210)

15 March 2014

* Chief Editor of Kocaeli Bizim Yaka newspaper Hayrullah Demiray was injured on his leg as a result of an armed assault directed at him.[[211]](#footnote-211)

16 March 2014

* Van Lake Journalists Association condemned the increased attacks directed at journalists in Van. In the statement it was told that a pro-BDP group prevented the NTV team, their camera recordings were confiscated and one reporter was subjected to violence.[[212]](#footnote-212)

17 March 2014

* TGS filed a criminal complaint on behalf of the press employees who had recently been subjected to police attacks in Ankara.[[213]](#footnote-213)
* Cihan News Agency reporter Orhan Yıldırım who arrived at the scene of the accident in which a coach tipped over on the Erzurum-Ağrı land route in order to report the accident was attacked by the bus driver and his assistant.[[214]](#footnote-214)
* Mesut Koska, a chairmanship candidate in the Gaziantep Association of Drivers was attacked by the supporters of the incumbent chairman Ünal Akdoğan. İHA reporter Fatih Sebzeci, DHA reporter Eyüp Burun, Güneş newspaper reporter Uğur Aydıntürk and Haber newspaper reporter Halil Şarklı were also injured during the incident.[[215]](#footnote-215)
* TRT reporter Elif Akkuş was reassigned to technical service because of the *tweets* she posted after Berkin Elvan's death.[[216]](#footnote-216)

22 March 2014

* Medya-İş Union's Chairman Gürsel Eser said that certain media employers were laying off their employees which did not take an anti-government stance, either by forcing them to resign or through mobbing. [[217]](#footnote-217) The following names were recounted as the victims of this practice: Köksal Akpınar *(CHA)*, Şemsettin Özkan *(Zaman)*, Salim Gören *(CHA Network)*, Kübra Kara *(CHA)*, Zeynep Ceylan *(Bugün)*, Leyla İpekçi *(Zaman)*, H. Salih Zengin *(Zaman)* and Osman Turhan *(Zaman)*.[[218]](#footnote-218)

24 March 2014

* Following the Gezi protest's symbol the “Woman in Red” photograph winning the first place in the Press Photographs of the Year Competition of the Association of Turkish Photo Reporters, Vakıfbank withdrew from its position as the main sponsor of the competition. The association disclosed that the bank suffered great damage through this decision, both corporate-wise and financially.[[219]](#footnote-219)

26 March 2014

* Bolu Municipality made a decision to seal the Bolu Gündem and Bolu Havadis newspapers, which were reporting news regarding corruption, on the grounds that they did not have workplace licenses.[[220]](#footnote-220) The managers of the newspapers argued that the decision's purpose was to intimidate and the license applications they had submitted a long time ago were deliberately being delayed.[[221]](#footnote-221) AKP mayor Alaaddin Yılmaz made the following remark regarding the matter: *“I think that this structure, which performed all sorts of provocation until today so that I wouldn't be selected, has again attempted a provocation by denouncing itself.”* The decision to seal was not executed due to the reactions received. However Bolu Havadis was sealed after the elections and the decision was executed.[[222]](#footnote-222)
* Zaman newspaper asserted that the newspapers left at their subscribers' doors were collected by the municipality workers at early hours and published the video of the incident.[[223]](#footnote-223)
* Star newspaper Editor in Chief Doğan Ertuğrul resigned from his newspaper . In his statement Ertuğrul said that the newspaper had lost its democratic line and transformed into media's tool for black propaganda with the “hateful” language the ruling party used against opposing segments.[[224]](#footnote-224)

29 March 2014

* Prime Minister Erdoğan made criminal complaints against Emre Uslu *(Taraf)*, Önder Aytaç, Bülent Keneş *(Today’s Zaman)* and Mehmet Kamış *(Zaman)* An injunction to prevent Uslu and Aytaç from leaving the country was also requested. The petition stated that Önder and Uslu might be engaged in espionage. It was also claimed that Kamış and Keneş had *tweeted* making fun of the Prime Minister when his voice had gone, committing the crime of insulting.[[225]](#footnote-225)
* Participating in Prime Minister Erdoğan's rally at Sarıyer, Istanbul, *Zaman* photo reporter Derviş Genç was taken into custody for taking a picture of press advisor Mustafa Varank in the rally ground. Genç stated that he was taken into custody upon Varank's order and was released five hours later.[[226]](#footnote-226)
* Taking pictures of the commotion during the program of municipal mayor Melih Gökçek in Ankara, *Hürriyet* reporter Mert Gökhan Koç was attacked by three members of the AKP convoy.[[227]](#footnote-227) The assailants beat Koç and stole the memory card of his camera.[[228]](#footnote-228)
* Sabah newspaper Rome representative Yasemin Taşkın was dismissed after her Italian husband interviewed Fethullah Gülen for the *La Republica* newspaper .[[229]](#footnote-229)
* *Yeni Şafak* writer Cem Küçük said in his article “great purge in the media in the new term”[[230]](#footnote-230) that the “parallel gang media” and mainstream media would purge “marginal” dissidents, counting the names of writers who had lost their “legitimacy” and making threats. Küçük wrote another article a few days later, entitled “Doğan Media cannot continue this way!”[[231]](#footnote-231) Targeting the Doğan group with statements such as “mentality hostile to the majority of the people.” *Sabah* writer Rasim Ozan Kütahyalı wrote a similarly hostile article in his own column.[[232]](#footnote-232)

30 March 2014

* Many opposition media organizations experienced cyber attacks on their websites during election times. The attacks started one week before the 30 March local elections and intensified the night of the elections and after. These attacks mainly targeted *Taraf,*[[233]](#footnote-233) *Zaman*[[234]](#footnote-234), *Today’s Zaman*[[235]](#footnote-235) and *Cumhuriyet*[[236]](#footnote-236)*,* Cihan News Agency[[237]](#footnote-237) and the Samanyolu Group. *Sözcü*, *Rotahaber*, *Mehtap TV*, *Küre TV* and *Burç FM*, among other media organizations, reported that their sites were inaccessible at times. *Cumhuriyet* reported that the cyber attacks started after the publication of the Syria meeting recording and claimed that professional hackers had been paid to carry out the attacks.
* On the 30 March election night, the *Cihan News Agency* as the only agency able to convey election results apart from Anadolu Agency (AA), reported intense cyber attacks and disrupted broadcasts.[[238]](#footnote-238) *Cihan* subscribers were affected by this situation and the election data could not be conveyed without cuts. The cyber attacks also targeted the websites of some media organizations subscribing to *Cihan*.
* On the other hand, Anatolian Agency Managing Director Kemal Öztürk said that international hacker groups tried to attack AA but only succeeded in slowing down the broadcast.[[239]](#footnote-239) CHP claimed that AA had manipulated election results and Öztürk's visit to the AKP general headquarters on the election night was questioned.[[240]](#footnote-240)
* Evaluating the differences between reports of *Cihan* and *AA* regarding election results, press organizations said that the degree of polarization in the media is worrying in terms of the right to information of the public.[[241]](#footnote-241)
* An attack was carried out on journalists on duty at the Bursa Mutlular Gaziosmanpaşa Primary School.[[242]](#footnote-242)
* It was claimed that Irfan Aydın, owner of the Üçüncü Göz newspaper based in Orhangazi, Bursa, was attacked by the MHP mayor candidate and his friends.[[243]](#footnote-243)

1 April 2014

* Yurt newspaper columnist Nihat Behram was tried for using the words “torturer” and “rapist” regarding Deputy Director for Anti-Terrorism Sedat Selim Ay in an article. Reading the indictment, the prosecutor asked for a sentence of up to four years for “insults constituting a crime, outside of the boundaries of the freedom of expression and criticism and the freedom of the press.” The trial was postponed until the 27 May.[[244]](#footnote-244)

2 April 2014

* Anatolian Agency announced that all commercial ties with the Taraf newspaper had been severed, due to Taraf's publications before the elections. The decision was criticized by CHP, MHP and BDP spokesmen.[[245]](#footnote-245)
* The Ankara 5th Magistrates Court decided to block URL access to Bianet's article entitled *“Sabah-ATV were bought for 630 million dollars gathered upon Erdoğan's order,”* for violating the personal rights of businessman İbrahim Çeçen. Bianet stated that they would not take down the article and wait for the TİB blocking, and that the verdict would be disputed. The verdict was made for Bianet and 20 content providers.[[246]](#footnote-246)
* The Bolu Havadis weekly newspaper offices were sealed by the municipality for lacking a permit. [[247]](#footnote-247) The owner of the newspaper Mehmet Demirci said that the decision was related to the dissident nature of the publication. [[248]](#footnote-248) The closure decision was taken before the elections but not implemented due to criticism. Municipal officers closed the press that printed Bolu Gündem, Bolu Olay and Bolu Detay newspapers for the same reason, and tried to close the *Bolu Gündem* office on the 8 April. The Sakarya Regional Administrative Court suspended the implementation and the closure did not take place.[[249]](#footnote-249)

3 April 2014

* A case was opened against Taraf newspaper write Emre Uslu for insulting Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, with a prison sentence between 1 year and 4 months and 2 years and 8 months requested.[[250]](#footnote-250)
* The Samanyolu Broadcasting Group claimed that they had revealed an attempted “conspiracy” against them. According to the statement, a person had been caught trying to take files from employees’ computers and replace them with altered one.[[251]](#footnote-251) After the “confessions” of this person were aired in a video, the Samanyolu announced that its website was subject to cyber attacks and website access was restricted.[[252]](#footnote-252)
* TGC, on behalf of Bizim Gazete, opened a case against the blackout on the alleged illegal bugging of the Syria meeting held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.[[253]](#footnote-253)
* It was alleged that Adem Yavuz Arslan and Emrullah Uslu, journalists known for their affinity to the Gülen Community, might have left the country due to their concerns on the developments associated with the parallel structure. It is stated that Arslan is currently in Washington while whereabouts of Uslu still remains unknown.[[254]](#footnote-254) Uslurefuted the claims.[[255]](#footnote-255)

4 April 2014

* Marmaris TV employees were assaulted by the men of AKP mayor candidate Doğan Tugay. In the footage that was released, the team was assaulted while trying to film the meeting held at an open-air venue. The district police chief was reported to have ignored the event. TGC condemned the conduct.[[256]](#footnote-256)
* *Samanyolu Haber* TV general broadcasting director Metin Yıkar announced that RTÜK had issued 45 suspensions to the channel before the elections. Yıkar said that RTÜK punished them for live broadcasting, while the broadcasts of media organizations close to the government were ignored.[[257]](#footnote-257)
* The day the *Twitter* ban was lifted, A Haber broadcasts were suspended 28 times for “violating election restrictions.” The Supreme Electoral Council (YSK) announced the justification for the punishment as questions being asked about the 17 December operation and some meetings being broadcasted in short and longer bits.[[258]](#footnote-258)
* Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, asked by *Zaman* reporter Tuğba Mezararkalı what he thought about recordings leaked to electronic media in which EU Minister and Chief Negotiator Egemen Bağış is alleged to have made fun of the Quran’s Bakara surah (Bakara makara), saying that this was not true, that the claimants were fabricators and slanderers and that journalists should oppose anyone making such claims.[[259]](#footnote-259)
* The TGC, Media Ethics Council, Progressive Journalists Association (ÇGD) condemned Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's of applying “psychological pressure” and “threatening” journalists by accusing them of fabricating news and slandering ministers.[[260]](#footnote-260)
* Vatan newspaper fired Washington representative İlhan Tanır. Tanır said he was fired for *Tweeting* about the corruption claims.[[261]](#footnote-261) Sabah columnist and economist Süleyman Yaşar's column was ended. This decision was claimed to have been caused by Yaşar's refusal to write against the Gülen Community.[[262]](#footnote-262)

5 April 2014

* Anadolu Agency reporter Abdülkadir Nişancı, following the MHP press conference in front of the Bayburt Courthouse regarding the election results, was subject to verbal and physical attacks from alleged party members. TGC condemned this attack.[[263]](#footnote-263)
* Anadolu Agency General Manager Kemal Öztürk replied to criticism of AA saying that he was “biased” but AA was “unbiased.” Öztürk said that AA had made 702 articles regarding the main opposition CHP, attracting the criticism of AKP MP's.[[264]](#footnote-264)

6 April 2014

* A group who came to his office attacked Silvan Mücadele columnist Ferhat Parlak. Parlak said that the attack was carried out by a contractor and affiliates upon the article **“**who will be ashamed of this picture of Silvan?”[[265]](#footnote-265) The article had criticized a contractor who had won the tender for drinking water in a village in Silvan and left the village without completing the works.

7 April 2014

* The Press Council, assuming the term presidency of the Freedom for Journalists Platform (GÖP) made a statement regarding the closed meeting organized by the Prime Minister specially with the managers and editors in chief of *Sabah, Akşam, A Haber, Yeni Şafak, Star, Türkiye, Akşam, Yeni Akit, TGRT Haber TV* and *TV 24*” saying *“a secret meeting between the Prime Minister and a portion of the press is discrimination. We are ashamed to have witnessed the first example of this kind in Turkey*.*”*[[266]](#footnote-266)

8 April 2014

* 50 journalists lost their jobs at the Dünya newspaper . In an announcement made by the Turkish Journalists Union, it was stated that 40 journalists were fired for refusing to sign individual contracts and 10 were laid off due to financial problems.[[267]](#footnote-267)
* The public case against retired colonel Mukbil Gülkokan who writes for a local newspaper in Marmaris, Muğla, for insulting President Abdullah Gül and Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in an article published on the 1 June 2011 was concluded. The court complied with the decision of the Supreme Court of Cassation to reverse the jail sentence for Mukbil Gülkokan and decided for a postponement of three years.[[268]](#footnote-268)

9 April 2014

* An indictment was prepared against Taraf columnist Mehmet Baransu for “slander” against Minister of Interior Affairs Efkan Ala in an article.[[269]](#footnote-269) Baransu had claimed that Efkan Ala was the architect behind the MİT blacklisting.[[270]](#footnote-270)
* The International Committee for the Protection of Journalists (CPJ) wrote a letter to the Prime Minister, saying *“all anti-press practices and legislation in Turkey must be abolished,”* adding their anxieties regarding “the steps taken in recent times by the Turkish state to repress the independent Turkish media.”[[271]](#footnote-271)

10 April 2014

* Ege University rejected the participation of journalist Uğur Dündar to a program at the university on grounds of his “political identity.” Dündar said that he had experienced the same treatment before at Yeditepe University.[[272]](#footnote-272)
* During a police intervention to workers striking for the past two months at the Greif factory in Istanbul, Kızıl Bayrak reporter Mehmet Ali Karabulut was assaulted and taken into custody.[[273]](#footnote-273)
* YSK issues a punishment of the suspension of 17 broadcasts to *A Haber*. The justification for the punishment was broadcasting in three different programs promoting the candidates and activities of a single party. *With this action, the number of punishments issued to A Haber* in April rose to 45.[[274]](#footnote-274)

13 April 2014

* Answering the questions of Beril Eski on BBC Turkish, Prof. Dr. David Harvey said that there was a culture of urban unrest in Turkey, stating, “*a second Gezi may erupt at any time.”* BBC Turkish reporter Selin Girit who shared the interview on her *Twitter* account, became the target of harsh criticism in social media.[[275]](#footnote-275)

14 April 2014

* Bolu Municipality Director of Press and Publications Güner Ateş said the he had been subject to insults and swearing by CHP council member Erhan Beykoz and had received death threats. Bolu Journalists Association President Caner Güngör condemned the event.[[276]](#footnote-276)

17 April 2014

* The Freedom for Journalists Platform (GÖP), consisting of 94 press organizations, made a statement regarding the amendment to the National Intelligence Organization (MİT) law, saying, “apart from the freedom of press and expression, this amendment is an attack on personal rights and freedoms.” The announcement also stated; “MİT will be able to request the sources of news from journalists. The provisions of article 12 of the press law, 'owners, editors in chief and authors of periodicals will not be forced to give testimony regarding their sources, including the provision of information or documents' will not be enforced. When the proposal is passed, the threat of jail sentences will hang over the heads of journalists like the sword of Damocles.[[277]](#footnote-277) This amendment will abolish press freedom and eradicate the right of the public to information.” The GÖP announcement concluded; “we call the government to set aside this antidemocratic practice that has not been seen even in coup times. We do not want censorship and auto-censorship to become institutionalized.”[[278]](#footnote-278)

18 April 2014

* *Milliyet* issued a correction and removed an article from their website regarding the “Kabataş event” as reported at the CHP group meeting by CHP leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu, upon a letter from Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's lawyer, Ahmet Özel.[[279]](#footnote-279)
* Bursaspor vice chairman Rıdvan Şen removed members of the press from the Bursaspor facilities. The Turkish Association of Sports Writers (TSYD), the Anatolian Sports Journalists Association (ASGD) and the Bursa Journalists Association condemned the attack on the press stand at the Galatasaray-Bursaspor game and the removal of the press from the facilities.[[280]](#footnote-280)

27 April 2014

* The Karşı newspaper , which was first published on the 9 February 2014,closed due to the lack of advertising, being ignored by the Directorate General of Press and Information and failure to be sold by outlets.[[281]](#footnote-281) Newspaper owner Turan Ababey spoke against the pressures causing daily circulation to drop from 42,500 to 9,500.[[282]](#footnote-282)

21 April 2014

* At a visit to the Eskişehir Journalists Association, Press Council President Pınar Türenç said that around 40 journalists were still in jail.[[283]](#footnote-283)

22 April 2014

* CHP and MHP responded to the notarized notices send by the lawyers of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan for the removal of opposition leader's speeches from circulation. MHP deputy leader Semih Yalçın said, “this is the effort to legitimize the 'hello Fatih' line.” By using lawyers they are making it seem ordinary.” CHP deputy leader Umut Oran made the following statement: “The discussions of the main opposition have news value all over the world, especially if the subject is claims of corruption supported by evidence.”[[284]](#footnote-284)
* The wiretapping of journalists' phone lines by court order by the Ankara Police Department to identify the aims and sources of articles was found to be alarming in terms of press freedom by the Freedom to Journalists platform.[[285]](#footnote-285)
* The term president of the Freedom for Journalists Platform, the Press Council, called the state of the press in Turkey “lamentable,” saying that the freedom of the press had been severely damaged by pressures and that journalists had been bugged, blacklisted and unfairly prosecuted afterwards.[[286]](#footnote-286)

26 April 2014

* Former Minister for EU Affairs Egemen Bağış sued journalist Mehmet Baransu for the *“Bakara-makara”* statement claimed to belong to Bağış, which was tweeted by Baransu later on leading to controversy on social media before the 30 March local elections.[[287]](#footnote-287) Baransu commented, *“I criticized Egemen Bağış, who was joking around with the Quran. Now he is suing me for 10,000 TL*.”[[288]](#footnote-288)
* Former Minister of Transportation, Maritime Trade and Communication Binali Yıldırım sued journalist Uğur Dündar and the Sözcü newspaper for 200,000 TL for claimed slander in an article.[[289]](#footnote-289)

27 April 2014

* The Sincan 3rd High Criminal Court reversed the decision of the Ankara Head Republican Prosecutor for no further action regarding the complaint against the RTÜK president and deputy president for “the neglect and abuse of duty, causing harm to public interests, corruption and collusive tendering.” An investigation will be opened.[[290]](#footnote-290)

30 April 2014

* Bekir Coşkun was sentenced to 1 year, 2 months and 17 days in prison for an article entitled *“painted stairways”* published in Cumhuriyet on the 4 September 2013. The case opened by some AKP MP's in Manisa for slander had been rejected. In the case opened in Istanbul, the judge decided for a conviction. Coşkun will serve the sentence if the same crime is committed again.[[291]](#footnote-291)
* The Vatan newspaper Ankara Office has been closed.[[292]](#footnote-292) While the closure was announced to be for economic reasons, the newspaper no longer has the opportunity to closely monitor events in the capital.[[293]](#footnote-293) The Demirören Group purchased the Vatan newspaper recently. In our March report we had mentioned that Erdoğan Demirören had cried over the phone due to the harsh backlash from Prime Minister Erdoğan.[[294]](#footnote-294)

1 May 2014

* A number of employees were laid off at the news channel 24, owned by the Star Media Group, which was once again taken over by businessman Ethem Sancak. Reporters Safiye Gören and İbrahim Koçoğlu who were employed at the news center and five from the news programs and graphics departments were terminated.[[295]](#footnote-295)
* During the May Day celebrations in Okmeydanı, Istanbul, fighting broke out between the demonstrators and police as a result of police intervention and Ali Haydar Doğan of the Etkin News Agency suffered a broken arm.[[296]](#footnote-296) In a conflict that broke out between police and demonstrators at the Barbaros hill in Beşiktaş, journalist Barış Yarkadaş was injured during the live broadcast. EPA photo reporter Sedat Suna was injured in the leg in Şişli. Sol newspaper reporter Elif Örnek was injured in the head in a police intervention. Sol newspaper reporter Emin Şentürk was hit by a plastic bullet while observing events. News portal Duruş Haber editor in chief Metin Güneş was injured in the foot. Milliyet newspaper reporter Ozan Güzelce was injured in his right wrist by a gas cartridge fired by police.[[297]](#footnote-297) In the same events, Mücadele Birliği magazine reporter Yusuf Ali Gümüşlü and Yurt newspaper writer Hakan Gülseven were injured.[[298]](#footnote-298)

2 May 2014

* A group attacked Dicle News Agency reporters on duty on the May Day at the Dicle University Campus. The Human Rights Foundation and Free Journalists Association condemned the attack.[[299]](#footnote-299)

3 May 2014

* The Journalists Association (Ankara) made a statement on the occasion of the world press freedom day, emphasizing determination in the struggle for the freedom of press and expression, calling for the eradication of barriers in front of these freedoms and the mistreatment of journalists doing their duty.[[300]](#footnote-300)
* Journalists Association (Ankara) General Secretary Ümit Gürtuna, making a presentation during the Freedom of Press and Expression at the training organized by the Press for Freedom project in Konya, stated that the difficult conditions faced made solidarity compulsory in the Turkish press, but regretted that this solidarity was not always present.[[301]](#footnote-301)
* The President of the Turkish Journalists Association made a statement for the World Press Freedom Day, saying that the government had the press in a vice, and nearly 40 journalists and distributors were under arrest.[[302]](#footnote-302)

4 May 2014

* Dicle News Agency English service editor Nedim Türfent was taken into police custody at a police checkpoint at the entrance to Yüksekova.[[303]](#footnote-303)

5 May 2014

* Former Star newspaper editor in chief Doğan Ertuğrul who resigned from the paper in March in protest of the newspaper 's publishing policy said in an interview with Hazal Özvarış of *T24*, Ertuğrul that *“Star censored a piece about Gül saying the Prime Minister would take offense, a ban on Cem Yılmaz was discussed.”*[[304]](#footnote-304)
* 20 employees of *NTV* and *Kral TV*, primarily cameramen and editors, lost their jobs.[[305]](#footnote-305)

6 May 2014

* Cumhuriyet columnist Can Dündar shared on his *Twitter* account, that Prime Minister Tayyip Erdoğan has filed a complaint about him due to an article.[[306]](#footnote-306)

7 May 2014

* Antalya MP Gürkut Acar and 23 other MP's presented an inquiry regarding the decrease of broadcasting hours of *TBMM TV* and the effect on the rights to information of the public, proposing that a parliamentary investigation be initiated to determine the feasibility of unlimited broadcasting.[[307]](#footnote-307)

8 May 2014

* TGS condemned the victimizing of journalist Ömer Ödemiş on various sites and death threats received due to articles he had published.[[308]](#footnote-308)

9 May 2014

* CHP Antalya MP Gürkut Acar condemned that journalists had been summoned to testify for the violation of secrecy of the investigation regarding 4 former AKP ministers, their children and Bilal Erdoğan.[[309]](#footnote-309)

13 May 2014

* Journalist Murat Çiftçi, who interviewed Gülistan Encü, one of the key names in the “Urfa KCK” case was sentenced to 8 years and 9 months in jail. The execution of the sentence was requested.[[310]](#footnote-310)

14 May 2014

* *Karşı* reporter Halil Burak Öz was taken into custody by prime ministry bodyguards while talking to relatives of those who had died in the Soma disaster.[[311]](#footnote-311)
* During the press conference at Soma, where Erdoğan was visiting after the mining disaster, was angered by the question of the Al Jazeera reporter; “how was such an enterprise, which was doing dangerous work but not ready for such an accident, able to continue work?” responding with “dear friends, as journalists you have no idea how coal mines work in the world. Please do not think that such things don't happen here. These are ordinary events. These are in the nature of this work.”[[312]](#footnote-312)
* Zaman newspaper claimed that after the 17 December, Erdoğan was trying to quiet the media with legal notices and organizations close to the government had frequented the Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance to conclude verdicts against the independent media, later opening compensation cases with high penalties to put pressure on journalists.[[313]](#footnote-313)

15 May 2014

* Gerger Fırat reporter Özgür Boğatekin who was convicted for insulting a police officer who tried to stop him from entering the courtroom as a reporter during a hearing where his father Hacı Boğatekin was being tried for an article published in the newspaper in 2008 entitled “Feto Apo,” was sentenced to 1 year and 7 months in jail, of which 5 months was approved by the Supreme Court.[[314]](#footnote-314)
* Onur Öncü, watching developments in Soma after the mining disaster, was beaten by the police, despite having a press card. *Hayat TV* Izmir cameraman Yiğit Ali Mercan was tried to be taken into police custody. *Agence Le Journal* photo reporter Nazım Serhat Fırat was taken into custody for the photos he took. *Ulusal Kanal* cameraman Serkan Bayraktar was kicked by police while taping footage.[[315]](#footnote-315)
* Sedat Kapanoğlu, administrator of the website “Ekşi Sözlük“, was sentenced to 10 months in jail for *“openly demeaning the religious values of a part of society.”*[[316]](#footnote-316)
* Zaman newspaper legal reporter Büşra Erdal said, “75 cases were opened against me and 650 against the newspaper for the pieces I published on the Ergenekon and Sledgehammer cases. I was summoned to court like a professional defendant for articles that did not even mention my name,” drawing attention to the pressure placed on the press.[[317]](#footnote-317)
* Rıza Özel, President of the Turkish Photo Journalists Association, was wounded by a plastic bullet fired by the police while taking pictures of the protests against the mining disaster in Soma.[[318]](#footnote-318)

16 May 2014

* Vendors selling the Evrensel newspaper were attacked by unknown persons.[[319]](#footnote-319)

17 May 2014

* BBC Turkish editor Murat Nişancıoğlu, regarding claims that the news article regarding a relative of a miner in Soma complaining about AKP was “made up,” announced on *Twitter*; *BBC Turkish stands behind the reporter and article*.”[[320]](#footnote-320)
* Journalists trying to photograph Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan exiting his house in Kısıklı, Üsküdar, were attacked by bodyguards. HaberTürk Prime Ministry reporter Umut Tütüncü, who was reported to be punched in the face, was tried to be taken into custody.[[321]](#footnote-321)
* Dicle News Agency (DİHA) Ankara representative Kenan Kırkaya was wounded in the back with a plastic bullet.[[322]](#footnote-322) Evrensel newspaper reporter Hasan Akbaş was manhandled by police while observing a protest in Ankara.[[323]](#footnote-323)

18 May 2014

* *Hürriyet* columnist Yılmaz Özdil answered to the comments regarding his statement on the miners who died in Soma, in a live broadcast on *Halk TV*. Özdil said that a “lynch campaign” had been started against him and that he was being painted as a target.[[324]](#footnote-324)
* *Ulusal Kanal* reporter Serkan Bayraktar was wounded during the police intervention to the protests in Ankara against the Soma mining disaster.[[325]](#footnote-325),[[326]](#footnote-326)

19 May 2014

* Prime Minister Erdoğan criticized Hürriyet newspaper columnist Yılmaz Özdil over his comments on the miners who died in the accident in Soma.[[327]](#footnote-327),[[328]](#footnote-328)

20 May 2014

* A citizen named Yusuf Şener living in Kırıkkale filed a complaint against Yılmaz Özdil's statement made during a television broadcast *“this accident is normal for those miners, event deserved. Turkey got what she deserved,”* citing *“insults against the deceased miners.”*[[329]](#footnote-329)

21 May 2014

* Akhisar Republican Prosecutor in charge of the Soma accident investigation Bekir Şahiner made a written statement, saying that it would be beneficial if the members of the press around the Soma Courthouse would leave the area.[[330]](#footnote-330)

22 May 2014

* As a result of the investigation opened by the Anatolian Republican Prosecutors Office regarding Taraf newspaper columnist Mehmet Baransu's article published on the 28 November 2013 entitled “the decision to end Gülen was taken in the National Security Council in 2004,” journalist Mehmet Baransu and Taraf newspaper editor in chief Murat Şevki Çoban were charged with 52 years each in jail.[[331]](#footnote-331)
* The Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality announced that posters promoting Nedim Şener's book “Charitable Terrorist! Yasin El Kadı” would not be hung on billboards.[[332]](#footnote-332)
* Mutlu Tönbekici, who had written for the Vatan newspaper for 14 years, was dismissed. Mutlu Tönbekici's article on the 17 May *“T.C: Turkey Hell”* regarding Soma had not been published by the Vatan newspaper . The article, which was published on the newspaper 's website, was removed upon the order of owner Erdoğan Demirören.[[333]](#footnote-333)

23 May 2014

* BBC reporter Rengin Arslan's interview with relatives of miners was criticized by Prime Minister Erdoğan, who said that the BBC had made up the article and also targeted Rengin Arslan. The TGS Women's Commission made a written statement defending Rengin Aslan who was targeted by Prime Minister Erdoğan.[[334]](#footnote-334)

24 May 2014

* The first hearing in the case against journalist and author Erol Özkoray, who was claimed to have insulted Tayyip Erdoğan in his book, “the Gezi Phenomenon” was held on the 22 May.[[335]](#footnote-335)

26 May 2014

* *Artı1* dismissed five employees who had stopped working due to the channel's failure to pay wages.[[336]](#footnote-336)
* The TGC Board of Directors announced that the threats issued by the Prime Minister towards journalists were attacks on the freedom of information of the people.[[337]](#footnote-337)

27 May 2014

* Çayırova newspaper, published in the Çayırova district of Kocaeli, was closed down by municipal officers for an article criticizing the mayor. After claiming that the mayor's diploma and residence address were falsified, the newspaper 's offices were sealed by the municipality for “lacking a workplace license and permit.”[[338]](#footnote-338)

29 May 2014

* After Show TV former partner Erol Aksoy, who had applied to the court claiming that he owned a 3% share in the company requested his rights from the sale of Show TV to the Ciner Group, the Istanbul 4 Administrative Court found the sale of the channel from the Savings Deposit Insurance Fund (TSMF) to the Ciner Group to be unlawful and suspended the implementation.[[339]](#footnote-339)

30 May 2014

* Reporting of the stabbing by Sümeyye S. of a cousin, *Yeni Asır* and *Gazete Flaş* reporter Kazım Yörükce was attacked by the angry husband. Upon Kazım Yörükce's complaint, Fahri S. was taken into custody, while the media organizations condemned the attack.[[340]](#footnote-340)
* *Zaman* representative Kadir Uysaloğlu, who wished to watch the press conference held by Minister of Finance Mehmet Şimşek, was removed from the hall.[[341]](#footnote-341)

31 May 2014

* Police prevented *Ulusal Kanal* Chief of Intelligence Naci Eriş and reporter Deniz Çağlayan from entering the *Ulusal Kanal* building. A sendika.org reporter who police tried to take into custody in Tünel was saved with the intervention of lawyers. Evrensel reporter Erdal İmrekwas accosted by police, beaten and had gas sprayed in his face. Duygu Ayber, of the same newspaper, was attacked by police after having her ID card checked, Sinem Uğurlu was threatened.[[342]](#footnote-342)
* CNN International Istanbul reporter Ivan Watson and his cameraman were taken into custody in the Taksim square during a live broadcast. Watson was asked to present his documents, after which he was released. While under police custody, Watson *Tweeted* “myself and my team were taken into custody during the broadcast. One police officer kicked me from behind.”[[343]](#footnote-343)
* Police took extraordinary precautions in Taksim and surrounding areas due to the anniversary of the Gezi events and searched the Söz magazine office in Süslü Saksı Street, taking 16 people into custody.[[344]](#footnote-344)
* Police intervened to the memorial held in Ankara on the anniversary of the Gezi events. During the events, Italian journalist Piero Castellano was reported to be wounded in the chest with a gas capsule.[[345]](#footnote-345)
* A journalist was taken into custody on the İstiklal Avenue in Istanbul for not having a yellow press card. Riot police attacked journalists with truncheons on the Sakarya Street in Ankara.[[346]](#footnote-346)
* During police intervention in Kızılay, Ankara, *Ulusal Kanal* reporter Aykut Karadağ was sprayed with tear gas. Karadağ fainted as the gas was sprayed from 30 cm away, and was rushed to hospital.[[347]](#footnote-347)

1 June 2014

* Banking watchdog TMSF took over Show TV. TMSF presented the court order that the company was sold without consulting Erol Aksoy, a company partner, as the justification for the take over. The Ciner Media Group stated that the sale had occurred between two companies in the scope of “private law” and that Aksoy was not listed as a partner on TMSF, RTÜK and trade registration documents, requesting the return of the channel.[[348]](#footnote-348)

2 June 2014

* Hürriyet newspaper columnist Yılmaz Özdil's comment regarding the Soma mining disaster, “deserved,” was covered by the *Sky360 TV* news bulletin, whose presenter Korcan Karar was dismissed for saying Özdil should be given the right to respond. Korcan Karar reported that he was terminated five days after stating his opinion.[[349]](#footnote-349)

3 June 2014

* The Aydınlık Festival organized by the Aydınlık newspaper in Ceyhan was not permitted. Ceyhan representative of the newspaper Sacit Ata said that the festival, which had been organized for the past two years at the Haydar Aliyev Park, was cancelled by the Municipal Mayor Alemdar Uğur.[[350]](#footnote-350)
* Journalist Merdan Yanardağ, who was arrested in the Ergenekon case and released upon an Individual Application to the Constitutional Court, resigned from his position as editor in chief of the Yurt newspaper, a position he had held while in jail.[[351]](#footnote-351) Derya Sazak, former editor in chief of the Milliyet newspaper , who was sacked after the Prime Minister made harsh comments about an article entitled “Imrali records,” was Yanardağ's replacement.[[352]](#footnote-352)
* The case opened against former Sol newspaper editor in chief Hafize Kazcı regarding articles published during the Gezi Park protests for “openly inciting the public to break the law and commit crime,” “praising crime and criminal” and “inciting the public to hate and hostility,” started on the 3 June 2014.[[353]](#footnote-353)

4 June 2014

* The Sol newspaper that started to be published on the 1 October 2012 closed down. The publication will continue as a weekly magazine.[[354]](#footnote-354)
* Access to the website ask.fm that is used for questions and answers online, was blocked with an injunction by the Presidency of Telecommunication and Communication on the 2 June 2014. Access was later restored.[[355]](#footnote-355)

6 June 2014

* CHP Secretary General Gürsel Tekin filed a complaint against the president and officers of the TSMF and the administrators of 11 media and publication groups. In his complaint Tekin said that despite a year having passed since the sale of *Akşam and Sky360 TV*, not a cent had been received. Tekin also claimed that these persons had violated the abuse of authority clauses of the European Convention on Human Rights, “violating the Constitutional freedom of expression and publishing, the freedom of the press and general freedoms, and had committed the crime of discrimination.”[[356]](#footnote-356)

8 June 2014

* incicaps.com, described by founders as *“a platform of free thought where daily events could be ridiculed with a sarcastic approach”* was blocked due to the “caps” shared by site users. The Presidency of Telecommunication and Communication blocked access without issuing a warning.[[357]](#footnote-357)

9 June 2014

* TMSF objected to the court order to suspend the implementation of the sale of *Show TV* with the Regional Administrative Court, the next higher court.[[358]](#footnote-358)
* Etyen Mahcupyan moved to Akşam newspaper . Mahcupyan, formerly of Zaman, resigned after his column at *Zaman*, which he had worked for 13 years before the AKP-Gülen community conflict, was reduced to three times a week.[[359]](#footnote-359)

10 June 2014

* It was comprehended that the major share from official proclamations is granted to the pro-government newspaper s. The figures disclosed by the Deputy Prime Minister Bülent Arınç in response to the parliamentary question by CHP deputy Umut Oran are as follows: *Akşam*, 1 million 93 thousand; *Güneş,* 1 million 30 thousand; *HaberTürk*, 1 million 259 thousand; *Milat*, 959 thousand 272; *Milliyet*, 1 million 121 thousand; *Sabah*, 1 million 281 thousand; *Star*, 1 million 116 thousand; *Takvim*, 1 million 111 thousand; *Türkiye*, 1 million 119 thousand; *Yeni Akit*, 961 thousand; *Yeni Şafak*, 1 million 120 thousand TL.[[360]](#footnote-360)
* Deputy Prime Minister (and economy minister) Ali Babacan responsible from state-owned banks abstained from responding the question directed by CHP İstanbul Deputy Sezgin Tanrıkulu concerning “whether one newspaper executive requested two million dollars from Halk Bank” on the grounds that “such state of affairs is considered as banking secret and not directly concerning the bank.”[[361]](#footnote-361)

13 June 2014

* The objection raised by TMSF (Savings Deposit Insurance Fund) to the District Administrative Court against the motion for stay of execution of TMSF deed of consent intended for sales of the shares of *Show TV* to Ciner Group adopted by İstanbul 4 Administrative Court was accepted. The Court ruled out that “Sale process of *Show TV* to Ciner Group is lawful and to the public benefit.” Enforcing the previous court decision instantly, TMSF did not demonstrate the same attitude towards the resolution of the District Administrative Court and abstained from returning the channel immediately.[[362]](#footnote-362)

17 June 2014

* The technical staff employed at *TGRT Haber* Ankara and İstanbul offices filed an application to the Tribunal of Labor on the grounds that their salaries were not paid.[[363]](#footnote-363)

19 June 2014

* Publication of the Sol journal, declared to be published on weekly basis, was completely ceased after the first issue.[[364]](#footnote-364)

22 June 2014

* The justification for the motion for stay of execution adopted by İstanbul District Administrative Court as regards *Show TV* is notified to the parties.[[365]](#footnote-365)

23 June 2014

* 15 personnel, the majority of which was comprised of program editors and cameramen, were dismissed from *CNN Türk*.[[366]](#footnote-366)

1 July 2014

* AKP declared its candidate for presidency as Recep Tayyip Erdoğan during the ceremony held at Ankara Chamber of Commerce Congress Hall. Correspondents from Sözcü, Aydınlık, Yurt, Birgün, and Evrensel newspapers as well as *Halk TV*, Hayat TV and *Ulusal Kanal* were not allowed to the ceremony to which 250 press members attended.[[367]](#footnote-367)
* Ankara 10th High Criminal Court rejected the application filed by CHP Vice chairman Sezgin Tanrıkulu for rescission of media blackout decision concerning the raid on the Mousul Consulate General of Turkey.[[368]](#footnote-368)

2 July 2014

* The Chairman of Democratic Educators Association Naci Tepir said that endeavors for nationalization and attachment of banderole for publication of Risale-i Nur through an article to be incorporated into omnibus law are contrary to the freedom of the press.[[369]](#footnote-369)
* The questions forwarded by journalist Tuğçe Tatari, of the Akşam newspaper, to PKK detainee Murat Türk for her memoire book he wrote on the lives of the organization members were seized by the prison administration. Tuğçe Tatari said that she is making preparations for initiating judicial processes.[[370]](#footnote-370)

4 July 2014

* Adana Public Prosecutor Ahmet Mithat Temel authorized and instructed a search at the homes and worksites of the *Yeni Şafak* employees as well as at the center of the Website that cited the news on “Telephone-Tapping police.”[[371]](#footnote-371)

8 July 2014

* The European Court of Human Rights found the journalists justified concerning the “violation of rights” application filed by Nedim Şener and Ahmet Şık, who served approximately one year in prison.[[372]](#footnote-372)
* Journalist Fehmi Koru was transferred to HaberTürk newspaper. Koru, who acted as columnist at Zaman, Yeni Şafak and Star newspapers, is known for his affinity to Gülen Community and to Abdullah Gül.[[373]](#footnote-373)

10 July 2014

* The attorneys of the Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan filed a criminal complaint against Bülent Keneş, the Chief Editor of Today’s Zaman newspaper , based on the ground attack on personal rights due to his messages on *Twitter*.[[374]](#footnote-374)

11 July 2014

* TGC reviewed the developments concerning the regulation on Internet journalism deliberated in TBMM. The TGC Executive Board, who previously compiled and filed its objections to the TBMM Justice Commission in the form of a report, stated that the text approved by the sub-committee also contains clauses that shall cause injustice and inequality. Arguing that the Websites are under suppression by virtue of the Law no 5651, the Association advocated that it should be sufficient for the news sites to fulfill their liabilities set forth in the press law. The regulation is also in contradiction with the definition on journalist as set forth in Journalists of Turkey Declaration of Rights and Responsibilities.[[375]](#footnote-375)

12 July 2014

* CHP Vice chairman Tanrıkulu alleged that his objection for rescission of media blackout decision concerning the news on the hostages abducted from the Mousul Consulate General was rejected by Ankara 10th High Criminal Court without any justification and filed an individual communication to the Constitutional Court (AYM).[[376]](#footnote-376)

13 July 2014

* CHP İstanbul Provincial Organization protested TRT in front of its studio at Ulus on account of the fact that TRT implemented a discriminative broadcasting policy during presidential elections.[[377]](#footnote-377)

14 July 2014

* RTÜK member Ali Öztunç criticized RTÜK, which considered TRT’s conduct to be impeccable upon an objection raised due to the fact that “TRT gave wider coverage for Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and condone other candidates during the presidential elections process.”[[378]](#footnote-378)
* The objection filed against the prohibition on access to the news that contain the speech made by MHP leader Devlet Bahçeli during the candidate introductory meeting before the last mayoral elections was rejected by the superior court.[[379]](#footnote-379)
* DİSK Basın-İş Union disclosed that 981 press laborers were removed from the job due to various justifications in Turkey during the first half of 2014.[[380]](#footnote-380)

15 July 2014

* The representatives from Günebakış and Kuzey Ekspres newspaper s, local newspapers published in Trabzon, were not allowed to the signature ceremony of Vahid Halilhodjic, the new coach of Trabzonspor.[[381]](#footnote-381)

16 July 2014

* The budget deficit figures were not included to the report wherein the Ministry of Finance usually issues budget implementation outcomes each month. It was alleged that such practice of the Ministry considered as censorship, was made due to high deficit rate.[[382]](#footnote-382)

17 July 2014

* The National Intelligence Agency (MİT), alleged that Emre Uslu, columnist at Taraf newspaper , is the owner of the account called “Fuatavni,” which writes scripts at the social media platform *Twitter* concerning operations on December 17 and December 25 and filed a criminal complaint to the prosecution office with allegation that texts against MİT are written by Emre Uslu.[[383]](#footnote-383)
* Newscaster Jülide Ateş resigned from her post at NTV[[384]](#footnote-384)

19 July 2014

* According to the report by the Nielsen Company, it was discovered that the public share companies such as Türk Telekom, Emlak Konut, Halkbank, Vakıfbank in Turkey are placing their advertisements to pro-government newspapers Sabah, Star, Milliyet, Akşam, Yeni Şafak, Takvim, Türkiye and Akit.[[385]](#footnote-385)

22 July 2014

* MHP Vice chairman Semih Yalçın said MHP Chairperson Devlet Bahçeli’s meeting with journalists to assess the agenda of Turkey was censored by the television channels except for some exemptions.[[386]](#footnote-386)
* Press Release Agency disclosed that the allegations on limitations to the proclamations placed to some papers due to opposition to the government do not reflect the truth and regulation on limitation of proclamations to the newspapers started during the years 1962-1965.[[387]](#footnote-387)

24 July 2014

* Chairman of the Journalists Association Nazmi Bilgin expressed that still dealing with censorship and, even worst, the auto censor at the 106 anniversary of abolishment of censorship from the Turkish press through declaration of Constitutional Monarchy in 24 July 1908 is a source of distress. Further expressing that it is ominous to still have censorship as the fundamental problem at the Turkish press despite 106 years having passed, Bilgin said that “The fact that this day, which should be celebrated as press festival, has become a day in which we still deal with censorship is a clear image of the challenging period that Turkey is currently passing through.”[[388]](#footnote-388)
* Deputy Prime Minister Bülent Arınç expressed that total of 149 media blackout decisions were imposed by the courts as four in 2010, 36 in 2011, 43 in 2012, 42 in 2013 and 24 during the first six months of 2014.[[389]](#footnote-389)
* According to the April - June 2014 Media Observation Report by the Independent Communication Network (Bianet), 23 journalists were detained and put into prison in July. 15 new lawsuits were opened between April -June 2014 due to violation of Turkish Civil Code; 38 individuals were sentenced to total of two months and fifteen days in imprisonment and 277,400 TL in fines due to defamation to the Prime Minister. 54 correspondents were attacked. The fine imposed by the ECHR (European Court on Human Rights) was 160 thousand TL.[[390]](#footnote-390)
* Bianet announced that 186 journalists were removed from their jobs during April-May-June 2014.[[391]](#footnote-391)

25 July 2014

* Feridun Fazıl Özsoy, the Chairman of the Eastern Anatolia Journalists Association expressed that modifications should be made at the press law and said *“the life safety, occupational and work security of the press members must be assured and the income disparity between the employees must be eliminated”* during thefast-breaking meal organized for press members due to 24 July, which is the anniversary of abolishment of censorship.[[392]](#footnote-392)

26 July 2014

* In the report entitled “Journalist with Broken Pens” issued under coordination of CHP deputy Veli Ağbaba, it was alleged that pressure is exerted on the media employees through 11 methods (dismissal, force to resign, force to retirement, mobbing), threats/point as target, preclude reporting of news, refutation, insults, assignment to passive duties, accreditation cancelation and suing lawsuits) and that Anatolia Agency has become the press office of AKP.[[393]](#footnote-393)
* İstanbul Deputy Chief Public Prosecutor Orhan Kapıcı responsible for terror and organized crime, instructed the vacation of the national press room within the courthouse. Non-Governmental Organizations protested against this attempt of the Deputy Chief Public Prosecutor. The Chairman of the Media Ethics Council Halit Esendir reacted to this situation by saying “It is unlawful to desire to remove press members from the courthouse.”[[394]](#footnote-394)

31 July 2014

* AA correspondent Burak Milli reporting from the scene on the burning of an articulated lorry in Hatay was assaulted by the owners of the vehicle.[[395]](#footnote-395)

1 August 2014

* The Association of Human Rights Defenders filed a criminal complaint against Samanyolu TV, *Bugün TV*, Zaman newspaper and Bugün newspaper with allegation that these organizations have influenced the jurisdiction in their publications/broadcasts associated with the operations initiated in regard to the parallel structure within the Police Department.[[396]](#footnote-396)
* The attendance of Gürkan Hacır, journalist, author and television presenter, and Atilla Sertel, Chairman of İzmir Journalists Association and Chairperson of the Journalists Federation of Turkey, to the program entitled “Objektif” presented by Kadir Çelik was vetoed by *Beyaz TV*. Sertel shared what happened in his article published in Odatv.com’ and stated that Ertuğrul Acar, the producer of the show “Objektif,” has notified him about the disagreement with the channel administration.[[397]](#footnote-397)
* It became evident that İstanbul Police Anti-Terror Branch former director Yurt Atayün complained about 36 journalists. Atayün accused the journalists “to point as target to the terrorist organization” at the news reported as regards his removal from office. Making a statement on this subject matter, Atayün said that “The allegations propounded in such news are incorrect; I was not removed from office due to illegal wiretapping allegations.”[[398]](#footnote-398)
* During his presidential election campaign in Malatya, Prime Minister Erdoğan expressed his reaction to *The Economist* correspondent and columnist for Taraf newspaper Amberin Zaman as follows: “Impudent woman… Know your place. They put a pen in your hand, you are writing at a newspaper column. They are putting you on to the television of Doğan Group; there you insult this public, 99% of which is Muslim, without any respect. They seat facing each other, insulting both the voters and insulting the Muslims.” During a television interview Amberin Zaman asked CHP Chairperson Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu “would it not be abnormal to anticipate contrary from a Muslim country” against the expressions of Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu, which reads “25-30 percent of the voters make no inquiries.” [[399]](#footnote-399)

8 August 2014

* Journalist Deniz Fırat, who was injured during the attack by Islamic State Of Iraq And Levant (ISIL) on the Mahmur district located 40 kilometers from Erbil, lost his life.[[400]](#footnote-400)

9 August 2014

* Taraf columnist Mehmet Baransu was taken into custody for offences “indicating anti-terror personnel as target,” “defamation through press” and “defamation.” It was reported that two out of three warrants for Baransu were issued by the Ankara Head Public Prosecutor’s office while the other was issued by the Adana Head Public Prosecutor’s office.[[401]](#footnote-401)
* Hürriyet Chief Editor Enis Berberoğlu resigned from his position. It is alleged that Fikret Ercan, the publishing director of the newspaper , shall take the vacant position by proxy after the resignation of Berberoğlu.[[402]](#footnote-402)
* Based on *Taraf*’s report, journalist Mehmet Baransu was taken under custody in front of İstanbul Justice Palace as being assaulted “severely” by the police as witnessed by bystanders.[[403]](#footnote-403)

10 August 2014

* An attack similar to the cyber-attack carried out on the Websites and company Internet providers of Cihan News Agency and Zaman newspaper during mayoral elections in March 30 was also encountered during the presidential elections. Access to the site was blocked as a result of the attack.[[404]](#footnote-404)

12 August 2014

* The Supreme Court of Cassation approved the prison sentence of 9 years ruled by Diyarbakır 5th High Criminal Court to Hayrettin Çelik, Chairman of the Association of Free Journalists, upon the allegation “membership to the KCK Organization.”[[405]](#footnote-405)
* Doğuş Group ceased operations of CNBC-e’s Ankara office. Zerrin Elçi, Ankara Economics Director and Ergun Aksoy, corporate communication representative of the channel, were dismissed from their jobs in accordance with the decision adopted within the frame of austerity measures.[[406]](#footnote-406)
* SKYTürk television, which entered the sector 14 years ago as a news channel, will not be broadcasting news any more. The new owner of the channel currently called 360, Ethem Sancak, decided to convert the channel with no income into an entertainment channel despite high costs.[[407]](#footnote-407)

13 August 2014

* İhlas News Agency correspondent Ayhan Dinç was wounded with a bullet hitting his left arm while reporting news at the Iraq border.[[408]](#footnote-408)
* MHP Chairperson Devlet Bahçeli visited “joint presidential candidate” Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, who lost the presidential elections. Making a statement after the visit Bahçeli reacted severely to the question directed by a journalist, “You have lost 10 elections since 97. Do you consider resigning?” and responded, “So you desire that very much. We are continuing to do our duty.”[[409]](#footnote-409)

14 August 2014

* journalist Hulki Cevizoğlu made a statement from his account on social media platform *Twitter* and said that it was actually CHP Leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu who requested his dismissal from his assignments at Yurt newspaper and *Kanal Sokak* owned by CHP deputy Durdu Özbolat, and he further wrote that “seeing our Alevite brothers as surefire votes, Kılıçdaroğlu also fired Necdet Saraç, one of the prominent characters of Alevite community.”[[410]](#footnote-410)
* Broadcasting the election comments of the celebrities, including the *tweet* of the singer Atilla Taş, during presidential elections, CNNTürk first withdrew the *tweet* of the singer Atilla Taş from the news after the reactions and then dismissed the social media editor. The “news gallery” on CNNTürk.com site used Atilla Taş’s *tweet* on Ahmet Davutoğlu; “We are really screwed if Ahmet Davutoğlu becomes prime minister.”[[411]](#footnote-411)

15 August 2014

* Based on *T24*’s report, an intervention was made to the final article of Yılmaz Özdil, a columnist at *Hürriyet,* which criticized Prime Minister Tayyip Erdoğan. In Özdil’s article where he mentions about the discussion between Prime Minister Candidates, it was stated that the author used an ironic style where he points out Bilal Erdoğan for the vacant position after Tayyip Erdoğan. It was reported that there was an intervention at the last minute to the article of Özdil in which he criticized Erdoğan and that the article was removed from the newspaper starting from the first edition.[[412]](#footnote-412) In the statement made by Hürriyet newspaper concerning the unpublished article of Yılmaz Özdil, it was stated, “The article of our columnist Yılmaz Özdil, which should be published today, contained some expressions in contrary to Doğan Publication Principles. Özdil, however, chose to not publish his article instead of making modifications. We would like to share this information with our readers.”[[413]](#footnote-413)
* Charges were filed against the Cumhuriyet and Aydınlık newspapers on grounds that they have published audio recordings of the meetings held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by senior officials. *Cumhuriyet*’s Chief Editor İbrahim Yıldız and Managing Editor in Chief Aykut Küçükkaya and Aydınlık newspaper Chief Editor Mustafa İlker Yücel and Managing Editor in Chief Murat Şimşek will appear in court at the İstanbul 2nd High Criminal Court with charges of “disclosure of information which must remain confidential as regards the safety and political benefit of the state.”[[414]](#footnote-414)
* Ufuk Şanlı who managed uzmanpara.com, the finance and energy portal of the Milliyet newspaper, was fired. In the statement made from his *Twitter* account, Şanlı expressed that “we separated our paths with Milliyet newspaper . You will somehow guess its reason. Long live the advanced democratic New Turkey!!!.”[[415]](#footnote-415)
* Radikal newspaper fired Fatih Yağmur, who worked as police & judicial correspondent since 2011. In the statement made from the *Twitter* account, Yağmur expressed that “Thank you all for your good wishes. I am proud of the discomfort I’ve caused.”[[416]](#footnote-416)

16 August 2014

* According to the news reported by BirGün newspaper; after the column of Hulki Cevizoğlu in Yurt newspaper was canceled, the newspaper also parted company with five further columnists. The columns of A. Meriç Şenyüz, Ahmet Kemal, Ayşenur Yazıcı, Necdet Saraç and Şükrü Yavuz were cancelled. The cartoonist the newspaper , Serdar Günbilen resigned from office.[[417]](#footnote-417) The Chief Editor of the newspaper Derya Sazak stated that new decisions were adopted for both the newspaper and the television, and that Cevizoğlu was dismissed from office within the frame of such new arrangements.[[418]](#footnote-418)
* Commenting on removal of Yılmaz Özdil from his job at the Hürriyet newspaper, Vice chairman of Justice and Development Party Salih Kapusuz said that being a columnist at any newspaper should not entitle any person to insult and curse others. Noting that freedom of press is not the freedom to insult, Kapusuz said “If there is anybody who limits the freedom of the journalists in Turkey, then they are the journalists themselves who wrote articles under orders of the boss.”[[419]](#footnote-419)

19 August 2014

* CHP deputy Atilla Kart filed a criminal complaint against the officials of the Prime ministry General Directorate of Legislation Development and Publication who abstained from publishing the election results on the *Official Journal* although 4 days had elapsed from official declaration of the presidential election results by the Supreme Electoral Council on the 15 August. CHP’s Hamzaçebi said, “Although his prime ministry was abolished on the 15 August, The Official Gazette continued to publish seven decrees authorized by Erdoğan.” “Erdoğan is abusing the office of the prime ministry. The Presidential Office must immediately appoint a deputy prime minister.”[[420]](#footnote-420)
* Cumhuriyet newspaper did not publish the article written by Bedri Baykam that calls for the resignation of CHP leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu.[[421]](#footnote-421)
* As of August, the number of Websites blocked from access in Turkey exceeded 50 thousand. Depending on the data from “Engelli (Blocked) Web,” the majority of the sites blocked was comprised of sites broadcasting obscene content. The spokesperson from Engelli Web said that 91.4 percent of blockings were carried out by TİB while the courts, prosecution offices and the YSK had ordered others.[[422]](#footnote-422)

20 August 2014

* President Abdullah Gül held a farewell party at the Çankaya Presidential Residence. Mr. Gül’s wife Hayrünnisa Gül, clearly reacted to some journalists invited to the party,[[423]](#footnote-423) saying, *“I am very mad at you”* toYeni Şafak Ankara Representative Abdülkadir Selvi, the *“First Lady”* did not shake Selvi’s hand. Hayrunnisa Gül criticized ATV Ankara Representative Mehmet Akarca, who was amongst the journalists taking pictures with her husband, saying *“You always gave advice. Now give more advice, as I see you are with everybody else in the picture”* [[424]](#footnote-424)
* HaberTürk newspaper parted ways with courthouse correspondent Bülent Ceyhan. Stating that the “*restructuring*” was alleged as his reason for removal from office, Ceyhan said that he did not believe in the reason for his dismissal. *“There is an unwritten martial law in force in the media. You cannot event take the pictures of the events. There is pressure to act as pro-government. Government representatives are not idle either. They produce lists and journalists are condemned according to such lists. It is an honor for me to be on that list which is made up of journalist who do their work right and pursue only the truth.”*[[425]](#footnote-425)
* The building of Yenisayfa newspaper published in Marmaris was sealed by the municipality on grounds that the building was unlicensed. An action was taken against Süleyman Doğa Tonbul, the owner of the newspaper who removed the seal. The court decided for acquittal stating that publication activities cannot be ceased and publication tools cannot be seized on the grounds of licensing issues. The judge further stated, in his judicial decision, that regulation concerning the license cannot obviate the freedom of press.[[426]](#footnote-426)
* *Aydınlık* columnist Sabahattin Önkibar alleged that 14 journalists working in various media organizations would be fired in short time. In his article, Önkibar said that *“I would never desire it, but the journalists probably lose their jobs due to processes started by the government will most likely be Fikret Bila, Melih Aşık, Hasan Pulur, Güneri Cıvaoğlu, Güngör Uras, Mehmet Yılmaz, Ertuğrul Özkök, Ahmet Hakan Coşkun, Yalçın Bayer and Güngör Mengi*.”[[427]](#footnote-427)

22 August 2014

* Cumhuriyet newspaper Foreign News Editor Ceyda Karan, who suffered from curses as well as insults and slander at the Websites of pro-government newspapers and at other social media sites after her statement, *“an ambitious politician who wants to rule for 30 years gave ballots to the people”* concerning the presidential elections, *“The insults and grievances at miserable Websites indicate that I am a good journalist asking the correct questions whop bear the responsibility of enlightening the public. If, someday, any of these rags publish any article that praises me, I would like to tell in advance that you should spit on my face at such time.”*[[428]](#footnote-428)

23 August 2014

* The supporters of terrorist organization PKK who blocked roads in the Varto district of the Muş province were dispersed after the intervention of the police, after which protestors attacking the printing press of Varto Haber newspaper seized the instruments of the journalists.[[429]](#footnote-429)

24 August 2014

* Columnist Sedat Ergin, was appointed as the Hürriyet newspaper Chief Editor, a position that became vacant after Enis Berberoğlu resigned on 8 August.[[430]](#footnote-430)

25 August 2014

* İlhan Kaya, owner of Çanakkale Democrat newspaper , was taken under custody with allegation of “defamation of statesmen” upon a complaint filed by Deputy Director of the Teacher’s Lodge and member of Eğitim Bir Sen, who had an argument based on the grounds that Kaya criticized the government due to principal assignments of National Education to the schools when talking on the phone in the Teacher’s Lodge. Kaya was released from the custody after his statement at the precinct.[[431]](#footnote-431)

26 August 2014

* Odatv correspondent Bülent Karslıoğlu, who worked as journalist in Samsun said that he was called ten days ago by a withheld number and was threatened and insulted and then he was threatened with death with a note left at his house. Karslıoğlu said that he filed a criminal complaint to Samsun Chief Public Prosecutor’s office and that the threats are most probably related to the news he reported.[[432]](#footnote-432)
* Columnist Mustafa Sönmez parted ways with Sözcü newspaper where he started to write since May. Mustafa Sönmez stated “My path with Sözcü parts at the end the month, the newspaper management wanted me not to forward any articles as of September 1 without any justification...”[[433]](#footnote-433)
* RTÜK decided that the channel “TRT Türkü” made unauthorized broadcasts, but it would not be possible to take action, as the property of TRT is also the property of the state.[[434]](#footnote-434)

27 August 2014

* İrfan Taştemur, who acted as the London representative of Yurt newspaper since its establishment, was dismissed from his duty.[[435]](#footnote-435)
* Ali Fuat Yılmazer, former İstanbul Police Deputy Commissioner responsible from intelligence who was arrested during the operation initiated in 22 July with allegation to be part of the structure of Gülen Community within the Police Department defended that wiretapping of journalists is not an crime. He said that “It is not possible to consider wiretapping of journalists as an offence.”[[436]](#footnote-436)
* The extraordinary AKP assembly where Ahmet Davutoğlu was elected as the chairperson was held in Ankara. Many press organizations suffered from accreditation prohibition prior to the assembly. It was reported that press organizations such as *Yeni Çağ, Evrensel, Sözcü, Aydınlık, Halk Tv, Ulusal Kanal* were stumbled on accreditation obstacle. It was further reported that *Bugün TV, Samanyolu Haber, Kanaltürk TV, Zaman* and Cihan News Agency were also not invited to the assembly.[[437]](#footnote-437)
* Yusuf Kanlı, columnist at Hürriyet Daily News newspaper and Coordinator of Press for Freedom Project of the Journalists Association said that accreditation practice amounting to censorship and discrimination for opposition during AKP extraordinary convention is worrying and contradicts with declarations that the party would “embrace the whole nation.”[[438]](#footnote-438)
* European Journalists Association and Journalists Association of Turkey and nine other journalist press organizations condemned AKP’s attitude and stated that such decision shall mean violation of democracy.[[439]](#footnote-439)
* Hikmet Çinçin, chairman of the Antakya Chamber of Industry and Trade, reprehended and threatened Antakya newspaper Editor-in-Chief who directed questions on the budget of Hatayspor based on the available data during the press meeting held regarding Hatayspor.[[440]](#footnote-440)
* Journalist Ali Adıyaman, who worked at İlke News Agency in Diyarbakır, was abducted by PKK militants at Erkenciler area of the Silvan District where he was visiting family. Based on the news published in Hürriyet newspaper on this subject, the terrorists had said, “you published many news articles against us” as the reason for the abduction.[[441]](#footnote-441)

28 August 2014

* The correspondents, cameramen and newspaper photographers from some media companies were not allowed into the ceremony where President Elect Recep Tayyip Erdoğan officially assumed the duty from the President Abdullah Gül on the grounds of the “instructions received.”[[442]](#footnote-442)
* 11 people were dismissed from the Akşam newspaper Ankara Office. The correspondents monitoring the opposition parties were also amongst those dismissed.[[443]](#footnote-443)
* A report by AKP former deputy İdris Bal alleged that the government tried to silence opposition media through tax penalties and lawsuits and inflict a heavy blow on freedom of the press.

29 August 2014

* *Cumhuriyet* Editor-in-Chief Murat Ataş was relieved from his office on the grounds that he applied censorship to the article by Bedri Baykam dated 19 August entitled *“11 reasons for resigning from leadership Mr. Kılıçdaroğlu.”*[[444]](#footnote-444)

30 August 2014

* The Southeastern Journalists Federation called for the release of İlke News Agency correspondent Ali Adıyaman abducted by the PKK.[[445]](#footnote-445)

31 August 2014

* İlke News Agency correspondent Ali Adıyaman, who was abducted by PKK terrorists, was released four days after at Hazro district together with his vehicle.[[446]](#footnote-446)

1 September 2014

* According to the 2013 Printed Media Statistics published by Turkey Statistical Institute (TÜİK), approximately 70 percent of journalists in Turkey are males. The data indicates that as of 2013, the total number of employees working at publication, printing and distribution departments of printed media is 66,374. Of this figure, 46,054 (69.399 percent) are male. The total number of female employees working in printed media is 20,320. Excluding local newspapers, all of the chief editors of national newspapers are male except for two.[[447]](#footnote-447)
* The report produced by TGS indicated that 981 press employees were dismissed during the first half of year 2014, and that 56 press employees were forced to resignation due to various reasons. The report stated that, “the government tries to transform the media into a uniform block instead of pluralism and that media is disciplined by means of RTÜK through broadcasting shutdowns and administrative fines.”[[448]](#footnote-448)
* Hürriyet newspaper economy correspondent Demet Cengiz resigned from her position.[[449]](#footnote-449) As has become the new fashion, Cengiz shared the information that she parted ways with Hürriyet newspaper with her followers on *Twitter*. *“It is true that, as of today, I parted ways with Hürriyet newspaper where I worked for 12 years. I wish the best for all.”* [[450]](#footnote-450)

3 September 2014

* Sabah newspaper clamed that the Doğan Media Group acted together with the Fethullah Gülen Community organization during the December 25 operation concocted to overthrow the government. The pro-government Sabah newspaper continued, alleging that “In this period where Aydın Doğan media organs gradually loose prestige and circulation, he (Doğan) endeavors to enter into the picture of new Turkey by attending the Presidential reception on one hand, and works to create the perception that the court verdict stating that a coup d’etat was attempted has gone away by using captions such as ‘The file is closed’ on the other.”[[451]](#footnote-451)
* *Taraf* reported that the tax auditors from Ministry of Finance started to investigate the accounts of the newspaper for the third time in the last eight months.[[452]](#footnote-452)

4 September 2014

* In its statement made under caption “a mandatory response to Sabah newspaper “, Hürriyet newspaper highlighted the ownership structure of Sabah newspaper as the “pool” and stated that “The ones who propound such an allegation should first question their dignity. The claimants should be aware of their moral responsibilities such as their ownership structures, and the source of their capital. Media cannot have dignity without transparency.”[[453]](#footnote-453)
* In reaction to the decision on prohibition on cameras at CHP General Assembly, FOX prime time newscaster Fatih Portakal said about the CHP management; “*We were criticizing the accreditation implemented* *by AKP. You started to censor even before you have power.”* Portakal continued to say *“CHP will bring in something new tomorrow but it should not brag about it. The reporters will only monitor the assembly and then come outside and report, will we watch the footage provided by them.”*[[454]](#footnote-454)
* İstanbul Public Prosecutor Mehmet Demir reacted to Samanyolu Television that President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan was targeted through news regarding him personally, alleging the article to be false. Prosecutor Demir wrote at www.adalet.org that “An attack is being organized on our Esteemed President through my person slander is being committed.”[[455]](#footnote-455)

5 September 2014

* During the program on TRT with attendance of the Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu, the question directed by journalist Fikret Bila was censored. Fikret Bila asked Davutoğlu about the resolution process, the acts of PKK in Ağrı and the Turks held hostage by ISIL. Bila’s question was stopped by the administrator of the program, Head of TRT News Department Nasuhi Güngör. Intercepting with *“Lets end the resolution process here with Mr. Bila’s permission”* Güngör gave the floor to Mehmet Barlas before Davutoğlu answered the question. After this incident, Mr. Bila remained silent during the rest the program.[[456]](#footnote-456)
* It was alleged that the Prosecutor İsmail Uçar who carried out the operations against the Police said, while taking the testimony of a police officer, that operations will be organized against the press and businessman after HSYK elections.[[457]](#footnote-457)

8 September 2014

* Lawyer Fatih Savaş, Chairman of Turkuvaz Media Group Law Affairs Group who attended the Media World show presented by Nihan Günay at *A Haber,* said that institutions and persons affiliated to the “parallel structure“ had opened 855 cases in total against Turkuvaz Media Group. Characterizing the 17 and 25 December operations as “attempted coups,” Savaş said that the broadcasts were making the “parallel structure” uncomfortable and that 470 correction applications were made in eight months from December until that day, which was a unique situation in the history of the Turkish media.[[458]](#footnote-458)
* In an article published by *BirGün* in response to Fatih Tezcan, the Chief Editor of Analiz Merkezi, a news portal that declared the newspaper as an “Enemy of Turkey” and “for sale” due to the newspaper’s “down with your income, down with your ‘New Turkey’!” caption published after 10 laborers were killed in a workplace accident at the construction of the Torun Center. BirGün newspaper directed a question, which read “Our price is 1 TL, or 25 TL monthly 25 for PDFs. You can call the subscription center for detailed information. Or should we call Erdoğan for your sake?[[459]](#footnote-459)
* Ankara Metropolitan Mayor Melih Gökçek shared several photographs over *Twitter* and characterized Hürriyet newspaper ’s former Ankara Editor-in-Chief Eray Görgülü as “not a journalist but an activist.”[[460]](#footnote-460)
* *HaberTürk TV* fired journalist Zafer Arapkirli. Arapkirli announced the news with the message he posted on his *Facebook* page: “HaberTürk Television declared that it decided not to work and break off with me as of today. Everybody knows. You can also ask them: I didn’t ask the reason, I didn’t even question … Things happen in this sector. This is not the first and won’t be the last.”[[461]](#footnote-461)

9 September 2014

* The AKP government lifted the requirement for a “court order” imposed upon the objection of the 11 President Abdullah Gül as a prerequisite for accessing the data on the Internet traffic which contains important information “on which user visited which address, to whom, when and for what duration the user communicated with which person over the Internet” by Presidency of Telecommunication and Communication (TİB) through an amendment made at the omnibus law negotiated at TBMM General Assembly. Accordingly, TİB shall be entitled to access the Internet traffic data of any person without any limitation. With the said amendment, the clause, which authorizes the President of TİB to block access to websites within four hours without a court order, which was removed from the Internet law upon request the President Abdullah Gül, was also incorporated into the omnibus law.[[462]](#footnote-462)

10 September 2014

* HaberTürk columnist Yavuz Semerci resigned from his position. In his farewell article, Semerci said that he is considered to be in “the class that the government considers as an enemy” and said *“We are passing through such a period that, the opinion of the author (of course, critics) reflects and is reflected as the will of the newspaper management rather than binding the author. This is an unnecessary burden that compels me to auto control that I must bear on my behalf.”*[[463]](#footnote-463)
* Yalçın Yıldırım, owner of Aydın Şafak newspaper and Aydın Gündem İnternet site alleged that they have been hacked and oppressed because they reported the activities and corruption of Gülen Community at the healthcare institutions in Aydın.[[464]](#footnote-464)
* Bugün newspaper columnist Gülay Göktürk declared that she had retired from writing. Gülay Göktürk stated that she was stuck within the newspaper , that she was about to drown, trapped on an “islet”; and that she departed as she was aware of the discomfort of both a segment of the readers and the newspaper management. [[465]](#footnote-465)

11 September 2014

* Demokrat Haber net reported that the Ministry of Justice concealed the statistics for 2013 in order to hide the lawsuits opened against many citizens, students in particular, in the scope of Anti-Terror Law (ATL) for participation in protests throughout Turkey during Gezi Resistance.[[466]](#footnote-466)
* President Tayyip Erdoğan opened a case against journalist Mustafa Sönmez due to his column in Sözcü newspaper entitled “Istanbul income under RTE despotism” published on 11 July and entitled “Tayyipland, Skyland, scandal” published on 12 July.[[467]](#footnote-467)

15 September 2014

* Cumhuriyet newspaper columnist Orhan Erinç advocated that the Internet law enacted with the new omnibus law shall eliminate freedom of press in his article entitled “Last blow to the Journalists” (EK2)[[468]](#footnote-468)
* In his column, Gaziantep Pusula newspaper columnist Mehmet Torun alleged that Halil Mazıcıoğlu, Gaziantep Deputy from Justice and Development Party, called him due to another of his columns where he criticized him and said that “write another column in order to atone but don’t claim any money for that.”[[469]](#footnote-469)

16 September 2014

* President Erdoğan reproached a journalist asking ““You got 34, 47 and 49 percent during general elections. What, in your opinion, would be the successful outcome for Davutoğlu for 2015 June elections?”[[470]](#footnote-470) and said, “Such an assessment would be contrary to the position I hold. You are trying to throw a curve on me, this I will not allow!.”
* IMC TV fired Turkey’s first transsexual journalist Michelle Demishevich on ground of incompatibility with ethics of the work place.[[471]](#footnote-471)
* The trial of Taraf newspaper columnist Emre Uslu requesting imprisonment up to seven years due to offence of “vilifying by means of press” by İHH Foundation President Bülent Yıldırım started. The court decided to force the attendance of Uslu through police forces, who failed to appear in court despite being summoned.[[472]](#footnote-472)
* Bursa Provincial Director of National Education, Veli Sarıkaya, was protested through applause during the opening ceremony of Year 2014-2015 academic year in Bursa by union members for his appointment of school principals . Commenting on after the incident, MEB Deputy Undersecretary Muhterem Kurt requested the press not to broadcast the protest and said “the commotion and applause is more newsworthy for you,. but, if you emphasize the opening and if you show such events for shorter times in your broadcasts, or not even show them at all, you will have given a great service to this country. I am asking you this personally. For the sake of conscious media, conscious journalism.”[[473]](#footnote-473)
* TGC Chairman Turgay Olcayto came together with the young people during the meeting entitled “Independence of Media and Democracy in Turkey“ organized by Democracy Supervisors Association. Olcayto emphasized the importance of freedom of press and said that “Freedom of press is the right of the public to acquire information and learn the truth.” Chairman Olcayto responded to the question concerning the problems of the press as: “Censorship, auto-censorship, dismissal of the journalists who oppose the government by their bosses, and newspapers that are either ceasing operation or undergoing downsizing are the main problems of today’s media sector.”[[474]](#footnote-474)

17 September 2014

* Erdoğan reacted to the news reported in New York Times, which reads as “militants are pouring from Turkey to ISIL in a constant and organized manner” and said that “Yesterday, an international newspaper uses the photographs of me and the Prime Minister while praying in Hacı Bayram Mosque, and wrote that a terrorist organization recruits terrorists from the zone where that mosque is. I am to be very clear about this; this is, by the slightest words, impudicity, shamefulness, vileness. It is impertinence to show Turkey as a country who support and allow terrorism. They say, Turkey is purchasing petroleum, they say Turkey is providing weapons, treat the wounded in hospitals. This was disclosed time and again by my Minister of Energy, and we explained it too, such thing is beside the point.”[[475]](#footnote-475),[[476]](#footnote-476),[[477]](#footnote-477)
* Contemporary Journalists Association (ÇGD) Chairperson Ahmet Abakay criticized Deputy Prime Minister Yalçın Akdoğan, who came together with representatives of the media for not inviting ÇGD. *“You either don’t know us at all, or you know us very well”,* *“It is not possible to accept such discriminative practices that reflect the New Turkey’s understanding of freedom of press*.”[[478]](#footnote-478)
* Galatasaray Sports Club decided not to invite media organs, who broadcast opposing news recently, to the Assembly Meeting at Türk Telekom Arena. Several press members protested the decision for non-allowance to such critical assembly. It was reported that contradicting explanations on the ground such decision further confused people.[[479]](#footnote-479)

18 September 2014

* Turkish correspondent of New York Times newspaper, Ceylan Yeğinsu, who reported that there are people joining ISIL terrorist organization from Turkey’ has become a target for the pro-government media. Akşam and Takvim newspapers wrote articles insulting Yeğinsu personally and her family and *Takvim* printed the photograph of the correspondent on its front page.[[480]](#footnote-480),[[481]](#footnote-481)
* A conflict erupted between the protestors and the police after the march organized in Diyarbakır by Democratic Regions Party Provincial Office, which ended in front of the school where alleged Kurdish education will be provided. Anatolia Agency photographer correspondent was stabbed while another corresponded was beaten.[[482]](#footnote-482)

20 September 2014

* During the interview with Ayşe Arman, Enver Aysever, whose program named “Contrary Questions” being aired on CNN Türk was reduced to one day per week, accused the channel management with censorship.[[483]](#footnote-483)

22 September 2014

* In his column he wrote on Enver Aysever’s statement: ’Contrary Questions was cancelled because I didn’t ask any easy questions’, *Hürriyet* columnist Ahmet Hakan asked Aysever “whether he is asking easy questions because his show was not cancelled” and called for an explanation.[[484]](#footnote-484) Thereupon, Aysever wrote to his social media account at *Twitter* “Neutral Zone is a successful show of CNN Türk. I hope it is not cancelled through an administrative decision during this season. I wish Allah will bless him with many questions.”[[485]](#footnote-485)

23 September 2014

* *Today’s Zaman* Deputy Chief Editor Celil Sağır reported that access to his account from Turkey will be blocked due to his messages on his *Twitter* account that criticize the government. Sağır reported through a statement made from social media that he was informed his *Twitter* account would be blocked. Sağır said that “To all who didn’t hear yet: Yesterday, *Twitter* notified me, through an e-mail, that my account will be blocked due to a complaint filed to the court. *Twitter* attached the court decision to its e- mail. The complaint is violation of personals rights. *Twitter* raised an objection to the decision within the frame of freedom of expression.”[[486]](#footnote-486) *Today’s Zaman* officials told the *Journalists Association* “*Press for Freedom*” office that the complaint about Sağır was made by the advisors and the family of the President.
* The TV show entitled “Contrary Questions” produced and presented by Journalist Enver Aysever on *CNN Türk* was terminated with an administrative decision. Aysever made a statement from his *Twitter* account:“A development occurred very recently. The Contrary Questions show is completely cancelled. I wanted you to hear from me.”[[487]](#footnote-487)

24 September 2014

* Abant İzzet Baysal University Management blocked access to the Website *www.bolugundem.com* of the local Bolu Gündem newspaper of Bolu with a password from their main computer.[[488]](#footnote-488)

25 September 2014

* The first trial of the case opened due to the news entitled “shocking words from Fethullah Gülen concerning Erdoğan” was held. The lawyer representing the *www.belge.com.tr* news site who gave a statement at the end the hearing alleged that the parallel structure had sent a message: “We dominate the jurisdiction, with such dominion, we will silence you by applying censorship on the press if we intend to.”[[489]](#footnote-489) The web site operating within the structure of Anadolu Basın Group (ANMEG) in Konya broadcasted the audio recordings alleged to be recorded in March between Gülen and Hidayet Karaca, President of Samanyolu Broadcasting Group. Accordingly, as Karaca asks his opinion about the documentary on the life of Prime Minister Erdoğan of that era, where Gülen allegedly says “He committed so many treasons, and is still committing treason. How will we be judged by history? What will we say when facing one blunder after another? Yes. What can I say about this without anything having emerged!”[[490]](#footnote-490)

26 September 2014

* Milliyet newspaper columnist Meral Tamer’s column entitled “Headscarf” was removed from the Milliyet’s website. Meral Tamer said she considered such situation as “normal.”[[491]](#footnote-491)
* Bugün newspaper Washington Representative Adem Yavuz Arslan and Zaman newspaper Washington Representative Ali Halit Aslan, journalists who were monitoring the negotiations made by the President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan during his visit to America suffered verbal harassment from Ali Erdoğan, cousin of Erdoğan who works as his bodyguard.[[492]](#footnote-492),[[493]](#footnote-493)
* In his column entitled “Journalism in Turkey is on the verge of collapse,” Bugün newspaper Columnist Yavuz Baydar raised his concerns by stating: “In this bright new era, you are considered a good “journalist” to the extent of the aggressiveness you demonstrate against the persons who exercise their right to criticize as the ‘voice of the master’. But the truth the matter is different. There is an enormous destruction in the media. This large sector is about to be declared null and void.”[[494]](#footnote-494)
* It was alleged that an İlke News Agency correspondent, who went to the scene to shoot images upon the allegation that the staff of a private hospital in Mardin assaulted a teacher, a relative of a patient, was also assaulted and beaten by the hospital staff.[[495]](#footnote-495)

27 September 2014

* The 72nd Local Journalism Training Seminar, organized jointly by the Turkish Journalists Association (TGC) and Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) was held in Sivas. In the seminar it was emphasized that women are objectified in the media, and that cases with female victims are reported with exaggeration. During the seminar, where limits of the freedom of press were also discussed, TGC Chairman Tuncay Olcayto said that the journalists had been forced out of unionization and that newspaper was subject to serious oppression.[[496]](#footnote-496)

28 September 2014

* It was announced that no cameras will be allowed during the opening ceremony of the academic year of Ondokuz Mayıs University, to be held with the attendance of Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu. The Prime Ministry Press Office announced that only yellow press card holders would be able to attend the ceremony.[[497]](#footnote-497)
* Hakan Denizli, the owner of the Egemen newspaper published in Adana was attacked on 25 September by a person with a club while walking on a street in the Seyhan district, Reşatbey neighborhood. Applying to the police station to file a complaint, Denizli alleged that he was attacked twice due to news they reported. Mentioning that the journalists work for the right of the public to acquire information, Denizli said “They intend to prevent us from reporting news through such personal attacks, but no one can intimidate us. I condemn this attack and I want the responsible persons to be found and punished.”[[498]](#footnote-498)

29 September 2014

* Punishing *Kanal 24* eight times with broadcast suspension penalties with allegations of broadcasting programs to influence the results of presidential elections and broadcasting the election results nine minutes earlier than permissible, the Supreme Electoral Council imposed for further penalties with allegations of “violation of impartiality principle of publications.[[499]](#footnote-499)

30 September 2014

* A letter was left at the entrance of the building where the Internet newspaper named *T24* is located which issued death threats against Aydın Engin, a writer at T24 and Cumhuriyet newspaper and Prof. Murat Belge, columnist of Taraf newspaper . The letter contained the threat that “the *decision has been made for Aydın Engin and Murat Belge and the relevant persons have been commissioned. The date will be announced later. I find this very wrong as a patriot. Kindly submitted for your information. Note: clean tools will be provided to the persons appointed.”* Talking to T24 while assessing the threat, Murat Belge said that *“I don’t think the assassination threat came from Kemalist, pro-coup, nationalist and fascist segments.”*[[500]](#footnote-500)
* In his interview with *Today’s Zaman,* Yusuf Kanlı, coordinator of Press for Freedom project said concerning the death threat to Taraf newspaper columnist Murat Belge and Cumhuriyet newspaper columnist Aydın Engin as *“The threats should be taken seriously. We condemn the alleged conspiracy as a journalism organization. This event is an outcome of hate speech and polarizing policies executed against the intellectuals of the country by political authorities.”*[[501]](#footnote-501)
* Yeni Akit, mentioned that *Cumhuriyet* writer Ceyda Karan shared a picture she took at Şanlıurfa Province Suruç District on her social media account *Twitter*, and accused Karan of *“taking pictures while laughing loudly despite the drama in the region”* and *“sharing them on the Twitter with no shame.”*[[502]](#footnote-502) Thereupon, Ceyda Karan responded from her social media account on *Twitter: “Idiotic AK-trolls/proponents are presenting this photograph as a selfie. Very well, I will take a laughing selfie for you.”*[[503]](#footnote-503)
* Search warrants were issued against two sites under the scope of the prosecution initiated with allegation of “violation of the secrecy of the prosecution” against *www.karsinewspaper.com*, which published news on the 17-25 December corruption proceedings and *www.GriHat.com* founded by unemployed journalists who reported on National Intelligence Agency TIR scandal. Both news sites were closed after the police raid.[[504]](#footnote-504)

1 October 2014

* A decision to close the website GriHat, which was founded by unemployed journalists, was made by the Magistrates Court due to the news they reported on the National Intelligence Agency truck scandal.*[[505]](#footnote-505)*,[[506]](#footnote-506)
* The website of the defunct Karşı newspaper, *karsinewspaper.com* was raided by the police. The police demanded the removal of news on the 25 December bribery and corruption cases from the website; threatening the complete shutdown of the site. newspaper officials stated that police had attempted of censorship despite lacking a court order with an article entitled “You said that the audio records were montages.” TGC condemned the police raid. [[507]](#footnote-507)

2 October 2014

* TİB blocked access to the column of *Radikal* columnist Ezgi Başaran entitled “Dingo’s scientific world” upon application of the Rector Mehmet Karaca of İstanbul Technical University.[[508]](#footnote-508) The “right of notification and objection” was not granted to *Radikal* during removal process of the column from the site.[[509]](#footnote-509)
* According to *Hürriyet,* Claire Danes, the lead actress of Homeland, an American produced series, the fourth season of which was planned to be shot in Turkey but later abandoned, said during the interview with *New York Times: “The producers decided to abandon shooting in İstanbul due to the insistence of the Turkish government to conduct a security clearance for each content in the scenario that might contain elements that depict the image of Turkey in an unpleasant manner’*.[[510]](#footnote-510)
* *Cumhuriyet* writer Aydın Engin stated that he filed a criminal complaint with the Public Prosecutor’s Office due to the threats of assassination towards himself and Taraf newspaper author Murat Belge with the letter left at the door of *T24* news site at the end September. Engin’s lawyer said that the prosecution office notified that the inquiry was made but the offenders were not identified.[[511]](#footnote-511)
* *Sabah* author Ersin Ramoğlu wrote a column where he expressed that Fethullah Gülen Community *“established operation sites,”* that *“they broadcast illegal tapes and blackmail tapes” at these sites* and that *TGC* and the opposition media got angry and make a fuss about inquiries against such sites and accused journalist Can Dündar as being a *“Lolita-lover, delator, aide of the ‘parallel’ for the sake of money.”*[[512]](#footnote-512)
* Azadiya Welat newspaper correspondents Nihat Kutlu and Bişar Durgut and JINHA correspondents Beritan Canözer and Sarya Gözüoğlu, monitoring the events at the Kobane protests in Diyarbakır were attacked by a group armed with knives.[[513]](#footnote-513)

3 October 2014

* Principal Consultant to President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Yiğit Bulut, sent a tweet over the social media platform *Twitter* containing the expressions *“the so-called journalist advancing by himself by saying that he is the voice, the breath of political will’’* and criticized Yenişafak writer Abdülkadir Selvi.[[514]](#footnote-514) Selvi, on the other hand, responded to Yiğit Bulut over *Twitter:* *“Ergenekon supporters messed with me, Gezi supporters messed with me, parallel supporters messed with me; now Yiğit Bulut... I won’t accept this. Yiğit Bulut will get the answer he deserves. I was here again when Ergenekon supporters wanted to overthrow Erdoğan, during the closure case and during the April 27 memorandum; well, where was Yiğit Bulut? Yiğit Bulut, Erdoğan's consultant, was disturbed from the show on CNN where I defended Erdoğan and Erbil. Yiğit, whose man are you? I don’t need any trade of influence; I was at Yeni Şafak before AK party and here I am now; take a look at yourself, cowardly man.”*[[515]](#footnote-515)
* Theologian Nihat Hatipoğlu characterized the allegations published in Taraf newspaper concerning that he bought a hotel at Sultanahmet and incorporated a public space into his hotel in an unlawful manner as “*continuity of an attrition campaign executed by various segments*” and opened a lawsuit against Taraf.[[516]](#footnote-516)
* Yeniçağ newspaper reported that an investigation was launched against them on the ground that *“they have mentioned allegations of bribery and corruption.”*[[517]](#footnote-517)
* President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan hosted the delegation from International Press Institute (IPI) and Committee on Protection of Journalists (CPJ) at Çankaya Presidential Residence. During the meeting, President Erdoğan said, concerning Internet media, *“I am becoming more and more against Internet every day.”*[[518]](#footnote-518)

5 October 2014

* Several citizens attempted to obstruct journalists at the field where they were shooting the images of the conflict between some Kurdish groups and ISIL in the Suruç district of the Şanlıurfa. Police intervened.[[519]](#footnote-519)
* The police fired two gas capsules from point blank range to the vehicle of BBC crew who were at Şanlıurfa province Suruç district for monitoring the armed conflict at Kobane. BBC crew was unharmed but the vehicle suffered minor damage due to fire caused by the capsule.[[520]](#footnote-520)
* *Cumhuriyet* reported that 30 investigations were launched against paper’s authors, correspondents, Chief Editor and Editors after 17 - 25 December investigations. It was further reported that the confutation texts forwarded to the newspaper contained severe accusations such as “so-called newspaper “ and “tools of dark forces.”[[521]](#footnote-521)

7 Of October 2014

* Yeni Akit newspaper targets *Taraf columnist* Namık Çınar:“Former solider of Hit man Taraf, Namık Çınar, demonstrated his intolerance against Islamic State once more.”*[[522]](#footnote-522)*
* A criminal suit was sued against retired officer, journalist Rahmi Yıldırım and demanded imprisonment up to 3 years on the ground “Resistance to Police” offence who approach to TOMA and warned the police not to exert in-proportional violence during the protest demonstrations in Ankara upon death Berkin Elvan, who was injured with the gas capsule fired by police when going to buy bread during Gezi events.[[523]](#footnote-523)

8 October 2014

* 9 Eylül University, Aydın University and İstanbul Trade University managements not allowed posting of posters that sat “you wrote what you want, Yılmaz, prepared by Sözcü newspaper for Yılmaz Özdil at the bulletins within the university campuses on the ground that the poster is “political.”[[524]](#footnote-524)
* *360 TV* Ankara office, recently purchased by Businessman Ethem Sancak from TMSF was closed. The channel management fired 15 journalists, including Ankara Representative Sedat Yazıcıoğlu.[[525]](#footnote-525)
* *Taraf* columnist Namık Çınar imputed the title “proponent” for Yeni Akit who rendered him a target.[[526]](#footnote-526)
* Journalist Tansel Kardeş said that he would file criminal complaint about Kozlu Mayor Ertan Şahin who threatened him on the phone. Kardeş, the concessionaire of weekly newspaper , *Batı Karadeniz,* alleged that his water utility was closed with the order of the Mayor although he pays his bills and he said that he filed a stay of execution suit to the Administrative Court.[[527]](#footnote-527) Interviewing with *Halkın Sesi,* Kardeş said that Mayor Şahin threatened him before due the news he reported.[[528]](#footnote-528)
* *AA,* cameraman Melik Fırat Yücel and photographer correspondent Şebnem Coşkun got injured as they got hit by slugs of unknown origin from the way of activist at Okmeydanı district of İstanbul. The journalists are immediately placed under treatment and incapacity report for three days was issued for both. *Police attacked Hayat TV correspondent Duygu Ayber*. [[529]](#footnote-529)
* During the protests in Diyarbakır, three children were injured.[[530]](#footnote-530)

9 October 2014

* While shooting the protests that started in Diyarbakır on 6 October, Rojhat Değer, cameraman of northern Iraq-based *Gali Kurdistan* television, and a member of Association of Southeastern Journalists, was wounded with pellets from firearms at Bağlar district.[[531]](#footnote-531)

10 October 2014

* DİHA Correspondent Mehmet Zeki Çiçek, who was intercepted by five special team police members in Şırnak province İdil district while pursuing news, was assaulted although he presented his press ID. The police officers then shot at Çiçek. While the bullets didn’t hit Çiçek, bruises and bumps were observed on the face and body of Çiçek. [[532]](#footnote-532)

11 October 2014

* Ruşen Çakır parted ways with *Vatan*. In his column entitled “Goodbye” Çakır said, *“Unfortunately journalism is no longer a popular profession in Turkey“*. [[533]](#footnote-533) Çakır started its new column at HaberTürk newspaper on 20 October.[[534]](#footnote-534)

12 October 2014

* Joining the live broadcast on *Kanal 24,* the Minister of Food, Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, Mehdi Eker, said that five journalists who traveled to Diyarbakır from Germany are under custody as they were captured while provoking children to burn tires while they shot footage.[[535]](#footnote-535)

13 October 2014

* Posters inscribed with “decency please” were posted on the advertisement boards bearing the poster of Bolu Belediyespor team playing at Turkey Ladies Volleyball 2 League. The police initiated investigations by examining camera recordings while the club officials removed the posters on the team poster.[[536]](#footnote-536)
* When President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu hosted the delegation from International Press Institute (IPI) and Committee on Protection of Journalists (CPJ), the Turkish journalist members on IPI delegation Burcu Karakaş and Emre Kızılkaya were not allowed to the meeting.[[537]](#footnote-537) Karakaş shared the justification for their non-allowance to the meeting from social sharing site *Twitter* account as *“it was deemed appropriate to allow only the foreign representatives to attend the meeting.”*[[538]](#footnote-538)
* At the interview with Aksiyon journal, *Radikal* author Cengiz Çandar said “I am under embargo at the televisions of the mainstream media starting from the first months of 2013, including the televisions from my group. Let’s forget about analysis of the domestic politics; we are not called even with the phone on topics such as Middle East, which I have direct interest, I am under embargo.”[[539]](#footnote-539)
* President Erdoğan alleged that spying and treachery is committed by using freedom of press mimicking journalism. Erdoğan said that “There were spies at the Arabian deserts hundreds of years ago in order to collapse the Ottomans, there are spies today. Nowadays the spies can be from their own nation as traitors. We see that new Lawrence’s are endeavoring to throw the region into fire under the appearance of clergyman, service men, disguised as journalists. Unfortunately there are individuals who fulfill the Sykes-Picot agreements either at the close geography or in Turkey by calling it 'service', 'freedom of press', battle of independence' or 'jihad'.”[[540]](#footnote-540)

14 October 2014

* German journalists who were placed under custody by the police during Kobane protests in Diyarbakır told *“they became subject to insults, contempt and violence of the police at the street while being taken under custody.”* After their release, five German journalists, Alexandra Kasprzok, Björn Kietzmann, Christian Gruber, Ruben Nevgebaver and Chris Grodzki said, *“We are only here for news. The journalists are not free in Turkey and they don’t even allow the journalists to shoot pictures even at the courthouse.”*[[541]](#footnote-541)
* Eskişehir Governor Güngör Azim Tuna reacted to *Cumhuriyet* correspondent Selda Güneysu, who reported the news that an ancient amphora furnace and ceramics workshop reported to date back to 10 century was discovered at the land owned by his father at Sinop, during the foundation excavations of an apartment, by saying “We will make that correspondent somehow famous.”[[542]](#footnote-542)
* *Azadiya Welat* and *Gündem* newspaper distributer Kadir Bağdu was killed after armed attacks in Adana.[[543]](#footnote-543)

15 October 2014

* The Platform to Stop Racism and Nationalism stated that they would file criminal complaint against Sözcü author Özdil during their statement entitled “Don’t write as you feel Yılmaz Özdil“. In the statement, the platform alleged, “the columns of Özdil about Syrian refugees represent hate speech.[[544]](#footnote-544)
* It was alleged that Mithat Sancar, who was hosted at the show entitled Evening Report p-broadcasted on *HaberTürk“* was removed from the broadcast on the grounds of “Technical Difficulties” because he *criticized the German model planned to be applied at police department*.[[545]](#footnote-545) *HaberTürk TV* Chief Editor Erhan Çelik, in the statement he made over the *Twitter* account, said that the problem *“emerged due to lack of communication between the moderator and the stage management.”*[[546]](#footnote-546)
* State Theatres Director General Mustafa Kurt resigned from his post. In the news reported in Hürriyet and Cumhuriyet newspaper s, the reason for resignation of Kurt is that the Ministry of Culture and Tourism censored some cues at the original text of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe’s play entitled *Large Even the Sun is Setting*.[[547]](#footnote-547)
* In regard to the article written by Konya *Yenigün* newspaper sports reporter Yunus Altınbeyaz entitled “Punches Thrown at Konyaspor Training”[[548]](#footnote-548), detailing the fight between two Konyaspor players, Konyaspor manager Seyit İçgül denied any fighting, saying “Hleb and Özgür had a disagreement but there were no punches thrown.”[[549]](#footnote-549) Regarding the denial from the club and the responses, *Yenigün* newspaper Editor in Chief Rasim Atalay wrote in his column, “we have done what was required by our duty and standing.”[[550]](#footnote-550)

16 October 2014

* The *Takvim* newspaper published an article on a person who committed murder on suspicion of infidelity, with the headline “Fast Murder for Infidelity.” The newspaper has previously published a bloody picture of a women punched in Yalova with the title “knockout.”[[551]](#footnote-551)

17 October 2014

* Aytekin Gezici, the author of *Fuat Avni Firavun Sarayındaki Musa (Fuat Avni, the Moses in the Pharaoh's Palace)* was taken into custody based on the “reasonable suspicion” principle of the justice package that has not yet passed.[[552]](#footnote-552)

October 2014

* Erzurum Palandöken Municipality Mayor for AKP Orhan Bulutlar claimed due to an article published, “some media outlets known to be close to the parallel structure have started a slander campaign. The local newspaper to which the comment was addressed, *Pusula*, made a statement as follows; “the head of the party to which he belongs, the state's police and prosecutors all know that the Pusula newspaper is not the mouthpiece of any structure, parallel or not. We have only one allegiance, which is true. We are only on the side of the people.”[[553]](#footnote-553)
* Iran based *Press TV* reporter Serena Shim was killed in a traffic accident that occurred in Suruç, where she was stationed to report on the Kobane events. *Press TV* announced that Shim's death was “suspicious.” The channel claimed that two days before her death, the government of Turkey had accused her of spying and she was afraid of being arrested.[[554]](#footnote-554) The official record prepared by the Suruç Gendarmerie Team Command after the event states that the vehicle driven by Judy Irish, Serena Shim's cousin, was at fault for “violating lanes” and “not complying with right turn rules.” The Press TV cameraman Judy Irish was said to be 16 years old and did not have a license.[[555]](#footnote-555)

20 October 2014

* The Journalists Association *published a report entitled* the Problems of the Turkish Press. In the report, the issues experienced by the press were gathered under the headings “freedom of press and expression,” “legal provisions allowing journalists to be arrested,” “censorship and auto-censorship,” “monopolization and de-unionization of the press,” “changes intended to be made to labor laws” and “hazards awaiting journalists.” The eradication of barriers in front of the freedom of press and expression was emphasized as an urgent and necessary step in the Turkey's democratic development.[[556]](#footnote-556)
* *BirGün* editor Barış İnce, who was sued by Prime Minister of the time Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and his son Bilal Erdoğan for the article published on the 3 March 2014 “they built dual carriageway roads to their pockets,” published the defense he was to present to the court in the newspaper.[[557]](#footnote-557)

21 October 2014

* In the case opened against *Taraf* columnist Mehmet Baransu by Minister of Interior Affairs Efkan Ala for “insult via publication or broadcasting” and “Slander,” for a jail sentence up to six years and eight months, the court decided for Mehmet Baransu to be brought to the next hearing by the police. [[558]](#footnote-558)
* *Dicle News Agency* Erzurum reporter Mensur Küçükkarga was taken into custody. I was claimed that Küçükkarga “was associated with the Kobane protests in Hırıs, which he had been covering for press purposes.”[[559]](#footnote-559)

22 October 2014

* Diyarbakır Branch Chairman of the Independent Industrialists and Businessmen Association İsmail Özşanlı applied to the Republican Prosecutors Office requesting a media blackout for the events occurring on the 6th-7 October in Diyarbakır, resulting in 12 deaths. In his announcement, Özşanlı said “These publication use rhetoric that feed the fire of hate and hostility between our people, even leaving an open invitation for more unnecessary and unwanted hostilities with the presentation and depiction of the current events. For all these reasons and to maintain social welfare and peace, we have requested for the Diyarbakır Republican Prosecutors Office to impose a media blackout regarding the events that occurred on the 8 October, in which a number of our citizens lost their lives.”[[560]](#footnote-560)
* The Bianet Media Observation Report has been published. The report details pressures, arrests, attacks, threats, death, barriers and completed and ongoing legal proceedings, investigations and hearings experience by media organizations and employees in July, August and September. According to the BİA Media Observation Report for July to September 2014, as of October 2014, 19 journalists were in jail. 21 journalists, one local newspaper press, and two websites were attacked; two sites were subject to police operations. In the last three months 35 journalists were fired or forced to resign.[[561]](#footnote-561)

23 October 2014

* CHP Group Deputy Chairman Muharrem İnce complained that the *NTV* network had covered AKP Group Deputy Chairman Nurettin Canikli's speech live and cut the feed when he had started speaking, sharing on Twitter; “the AKP Group Deputy Chairman visited us to discuss the Constitution. At the end of the meeting, Nurettin Canikli made a statement that was broadcast live by *NTV*. Afterwards, we made a statement, but *NTV* cut the live feed! Unfortunately, this is what the media has become. Shame on them!”[[562]](#footnote-562) *NTV* rejected CHP Group Deputy Chairman Muharrem İnce's claim of biased broadcasting, saying “the statement made by CHP Group Deputy Chairman Akif Hamzaçebi after the meeting between the AKP and CHP delegations were not broadcast live, but covered in detail in the main news bulletin. The claim that the feed was cut the moment Hamzaçebi started to speak is not based on fact. Furthermore, CHP spokesman Haluk Koç's statement made at 2:30 PM was broadcast live in the *“Haber Aktüel”* program.[[563]](#footnote-563)
* Ministry of National Education (MoNE) has indicated that the *Aydınlık* newspaper and *Ulusal Kanal* website have been designated as “objectionable content” upon the Internet service provided to all schools in Turkey, leaving the decision whether to block access to these sites to the school administrations. Aydınlık newspaper Editor in Chief Ergün Gedek responded to the addition of the newspaper to MoNE's blocked list, saying, “Where you don't find *Aydınlık*, the shining example of the Turkish press, you cannot talk about truthful or factual news.”[[564]](#footnote-564)
* 5 people, including Architects Chamber lawyer Can Atalay, Çiğdem Çidamlı and *Yurt* newspaper reporter Hakan Akpınar, trying to enter the construction area in the parking space next to the Validebağ Grove were taken into police custody.[[565]](#footnote-565)

24 October 2014

* *Yeni Şafak* accused Bank Asya of unlawful dealings in an article, also claiming that the Zaman newspaper was unable to swallow being held under supervision in the stock exchange. “For this reason, Zaman keeps attacking Istanbul Stock Exchange Chairman İbrahim Turan. It is interesting that the newspaper can overlook the unlawful dealings of the bank it is trying to protect.”[[566]](#footnote-566)
* *Kanal D* and *CNN Türk* laid off 10 employees, citing “restructuring.”[[567]](#footnote-567)

25 October 2014

* AKP Istanbul MP Metin Külünk, tried to get *Yeni Şafak* reporter Kübra Kara, who was covering an AKP meeting in Istanbul, to get up from where she was sitting and in the resulting argument, insulted Kara saying that she was “shameless and immoral.” Külünk threatened the reporter saying “which newspaper ? I will talk to your bosses. My name is Metin Külünk, write it down.”[[568]](#footnote-568)

26 October 2014

* Journalist Soner Yalçın was taken into custody at a hotel in Denizli, where he was visiting to participate in an interview. Yalçın was taken into custody from his hotel room in the early hours, due to his failure to testify regarding the complaint of another journalist, *Bugün* newspaper Washington representative Adem Yavuz Arslan and was released by the prosecutor on condition that he “come to testify in the afternoon.”[[569]](#footnote-569)
* The Yüksekova Magistrates’ Court imposed a media blackout regarding the deaths of three soldiers as a result of an armed attack claimed to be carried out by terrorists.[[570]](#footnote-570)
* The website of the *Agos* newspaper was attacked by a racist *hackers* group. The homepage of the site was replaced by the message “tolerance may be infinite but patience is not.” On the 20 January 2014 a group of *hackers* introducing themselves as 'Serberus' had arranged a cyber attack on the *Agos* website.[[571]](#footnote-571)

27 October 2014

* TGC and TGS, met with a number of vocational organizations including the Ankara Journalists Association, lawyers, journalists and academics at the Press Labor Law Assessment Meeting. In the meeting, it was stated “under pressure from media bosses, the government was preparing to abolish articles in the Press Labor Law requiring late payments to carry interest of 5% and severance payments.”[[572]](#footnote-572)
* The *Radikal* newspaper fired Elif İnce, reporting on the urban transformation plans of the Fatih Municipality, especially those in Sulukule, Ayvansaray and Balat. *Radikal* reporter İsmail Saymaz emphasized that the loss was not İnce's but *Radikal*'s, while columnist Fehim Taştekin said that journalism had taken a blow.[[573]](#footnote-573)
* TGS Istanbul Branch Chairman Gökhan Durmuş condemned the recently increased terminations in the media sector. Durmuş stated, “the firing of journalists under pretenses such as downsizing and mergers is not acceptable,” adding that apart from terminations in Ankara by *Kanal D* and *CNN* *Türk*, the firing of *Radikal* urban reporter Elif İnce was a worrying development for the sector. Durmuş called all journalists to unite under the TGS roof to prevent terminations and insecurity in the media sector.[[574]](#footnote-574)
* The “Journalists whose Pencils have been Broken” report, prepared by CHP Deputy General Secretary Veli Ağbaba and Prisons Commission Members MP's Özgür Özel, Nurettin Demir and Muharrem Işık, was announced to the public with a press conference held at CHP Headquarters. CHP Deputy General Secretary Veli Ağbaba made a statement regarding the book, saying “AKP has filled the jails with thousands of dissidents. They have punished those seeking their rights. They turned our streets into gas chambers. Through the courts, thousands of families have been deprived. If you are unwilling to auto-censor, journalists have but three choices: prison, violence and pressure, unemployment. With all this combined, Turkey has fallen to 154 in the world in press freedom.”[[575]](#footnote-575)

29 October 2014

* Four thousand people were expected to participated in the first 29 October Republic Day reception held outside of the Çankaya Presidential Residence, while opposition newspaper and TV representatives such as the *Zaman* and *Bugün* newspapers and *Kanaltürk* and *Bugün TV* as well as the *Birgün* and *Evrensel* newspapers were not invited. The reception was later cancelled due to the mine accident occurring in Karaman.[[576]](#footnote-576)

30 October 2014

* Journalists taping the Peshmerga unit waiting in Suruç, Şanlıurfa, to go over the border to Kobane, were stopped recording and not allowed to take pictures. One journalist who continued to take pictures after being warned was shot at.[[577]](#footnote-577)

31 October 2014

* President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan was asked by a journalist after his speech at the French International Institute “I would like to ask a question about the heritage of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. We know that you are building a presidential palace... Can you tell us your views about the heritage of Atatürk, the secular state and the heritage of the republic?” to which the response was; “I am sorry but the current presidential resident is not one that was built at the time of Gazi Mustafa Kemal, not the facility in which Gazi Mustafa Kemal served. Unfortunately while asking the question you are not aware of the facts.”[[578]](#footnote-578)
* *Kurdistan TV* Diyarbakır representative Mehmet Eren and his cameraman, who were in Suruç, Şanlıurfa to cover the passage of the Peshmerga and the developments in Kobane, were assaulted by the police. Eren obtained a report from the Suruç State Hospital documenting his injuries and said that he would make a complaint about the officers involved. The İMC TV team who took footage of the event said the police had threatened them.[[579]](#footnote-579)
* Terminations occurred at *Sabah, ATV and Takvim* and some magazines sold by the Çalık Group to the Kalyon Group. *Sabah* intelligence group member Orhan Yurtsever, Neslihan Keskin, Pervin Metin and Ali Şahin were all fired.[[580]](#footnote-580)

1 November 2014

* Ministry of National Education authorized union Eğitim Bir-Sen was claimed to have blacklisted candidates in interviews by a school administration in Birecik, [Şanlıurfa](http://www.milliyet.com.tr/sanliurfa/" \t "_blank). The list of 64 teachers serving in Birecik, announced by unions Türkiye Kamu-Sen and Türk [Eğitim-Sen](http://www.milliyet.com.tr/egitim-sen/" \t "_blank), was notable for its annotations appearing next to the names. Announced by Kamu-Sen and Eğitim-Sen to have been prepared by Eğitim Bir-Sen Birecik District Representative Nahsen, the list includes information on the teachers, the schools they have taught at and branches as well as ideological views and similar assessments. The list as published on the website, shows notes such as “not a member,” “man for all seasons, definitely not suitable,” “unreliable, inconsistent, two faced, money grabbing, definitely under the threshold,” “our member, a man of character, definitely should be used,” “definitely should not be used” is militant....” In the announcement made by Türkiye Kamu-Sen and Eğitim-Sen, the blacklisting was condemned. General Secretary İsmail Koncuk said a formal complaint would be made in regard to the documents.[[581]](#footnote-581)

2 November 2014

* Members of the Free Syrian Army, crossing the border at the Mürşitpınar gate to Kobane to assist the Democratic Union Party (YPG) forces in the fight against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, surrounded journalists taking footage and confiscated the *Kanal D* team's camera.[[582]](#footnote-582)
* The Directorate General of State Theatres removed Shakespeare's Macbeth, under stage director Bozkurt Kuruç, from the November program of the Ankara State Theatre. I was reported that ministry officials had seen the play and taken recordings. Regarding the removal of the play from the program, the Directorate General announced; “the sudden illness of one of the actors has led to the cancellation of the production at this time.” A statement made by the Directorate General to *Cumhuriyet* reads; “It has been decided that changes are to be made to have the premier of the play Cymbeline on the 18 November.”[[583]](#footnote-583)

3 November 2014

* Abdullah K., of the Adana Police Department Counter Intelligence Department, searched for “Erdoğan” on the DEVA 2 Intelligence Project system on the 17 September 2013. In the scope of the “parallel structure“ in the police force investigation after the 17 December probe; it was revealed that Abdullah K. had searched for Erdoğan. He was then taken into custody by the prosecutor’s office for Crimes Against Constitutional Order in Ankara. The police officer was referred to the Magistrates’ Court on charges of 'abuse of responsibility, violation of privacy and constitutional crimes' and later released on condition of judicial monitoring. Abdullah K. made a statement saying; “I have sympathy for him and like him. During the event, because of my stance towards him, I wrote his name and looked at his pictures.”[[584]](#footnote-584)

4 November 2014

* *Kurdistan TV* Diyarbakır Representative Mehmet Eren, claimed that he *was “assaulted” by the police for* being an employee of *Kurdistan TV*, while tracking the Peshmerga convey on route to Kobane in Northern Syria, as a result of an argument with the police as he was unable to leave the convey because of the large number of people surrounding him.[[585]](#footnote-585)
* *Milliyet* reporter Kemal Göktaş was charged with “slander against a public official during duty” for a piece published criticizing the dictum presented by prosecutor Göksel Er in the case regarding the heavy assault of police officers stationed upon a women named Fevziye Cengiz at the Karabağlar Police Station in Izmir.[[586]](#footnote-586)
* AKP Izmir MP Binali Yıldırım applied to the Istanbul Anatolia Republican Prosecutors Office to make complaints against the *Zaman* newspaper and some website administrators for “slander” and “insults.” An article published in the *Zaman* newspaper , written by Uğur Sağındık, entitled “New Turkey, old state! Step by step to a second Ferhat Sarıkaya event,” claimed that “Binali Yıldırım had informed some businessmen to buy *Sabah* and *ATV* upon the order of the Prime Minister of the time, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan,” based on voice recordings. These claims had also appeared on various websites.[[587]](#footnote-587)

5 November 2014

* 17 DİSK members placing a symbolic seal on the building of the Ministry of Labor and Social Security during a protest against the deaths of workers and aiming to draw interest to the mining accident in Ermenek, Karaman, were taken into custody after police intervention.[[588]](#footnote-588)
* At a round table meeting organized by the European Journalists Federation, Ethical Journalists Network and Turkish Journalists Union, journalists debated practices and sought an answer to the question “can the Turkish media end auto-censorship and facilitate trust in the general public?” *Zaman* newspaper representative DenizErgürel spoke of the lack of expertise at news centers, adding that the lack of research based journalism and expertise would lead to weak journalism. Examining the media according to ownership, Galatasaray University representative CerenSözeri pointed out that throughout Republican history, “journalist families” owning newspapers and current media bosses tried not to contradict the government. Sözeri talked about “star journalists,” among which many had become MP's, saying “when journalists are willing to put journalism first and renounce their star status, then we can talk with them.” The meeting ended with a discussion about the reliability and trust placed in the media and a general assessment.[[589]](#footnote-589)

6 November 2014

* The Cihan News Agency, with a written statement, criticized the accreditation policy implemented upon the press by the Presidency, Prime Ministry and government organs; “The press is free and cannot be censored. Freedom of the press is addressed in the Constitution with strong measures. On the other hand, the state is charged with providing for the freedoms of press and reporting.” A court case was also opened regarding the accreditation issue.[[590]](#footnote-590)
* Turkish Journalists Association President Turgay Olcayto made a statement condemning the Press Labor Law prepared by the government; “The legislation is designed to keep the press under control and benefit capital owners who are moving together with the government.”[[591]](#footnote-591)
* The Turkish Armed Forces decided to ban the series *Game Of Thrones* in affiliated middle schools, which was shown to students learning the language, on grounds of protection and the content of “pornography and sexual exploitation.”[[592]](#footnote-592)
* Contracts of seven journalists, including long serving broadcasting coordinator Deniz Arman and news director Salih Selçuk, were terminated by *Kanal D.*[[593]](#footnote-593)

7 November 2014

* President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, said regarding *HaberTürk* columnist Fatih Altaylı, who has reported that companies winning tenders for the third (Istanbul) airport were giving up; “ those who cannot swallow the truth are writing something on the sidelines, to the effect of 'they are thinking of cancelling the project'. Not being able to accept the truth is difficult. When it becomes a habit, it is hard to shake. For this reason, they need a quick and urgent operation,” condemning the reports.[[594]](#footnote-594) Fatih Altaylı addressed President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's comments in his column saying, “I will continue to practice journalism for as long as I can. I will walk my own path without insulting, without entering into polemical debates, questioning, searching for good.”[[595]](#footnote-595)
* At the G-9 Journalists Platform bringing together 12 journalists organizations, the *BBC* Turkish reporter asked about “censorship” applied to the press to Justice and Development Party Gaziantep MP Şamil Tayyar, also a former journalist. Tayyar responded; “in principle, I was always opposed to the accreditation policy. I never thought it was right. However, here we have a special and exceptional circumstance. Tayyar explained the exceptional circumstance as follows; “unfortunately some publications are not practicing journalism according to the universal criteria of the press, but are acting as the accomplices of a gang seeking to form an alternative state structure and therefore I think it is natural for the state to wish to protect itself.” *Today's Zaman* Editor in Chief Bülent Keneş expressed that they had been deprived of the opportunity to report and question some news, saying, “In Turkey, the powers of despotic times do things like this. Until recent times, the government of Turkey was a structure based on the armed forces and they had forbidden newspapers and TV channels such as Bugün, *Zaman, Today's Zaman*, *Samanyolu* and *Cihan News Agency.”* Saying that this practice cannot be termed “accreditation,” Keneş added, “When we say accreditation, this pertains to practices related to international events or specific regulations in some countries. This is not the case in Turkey. This is simple censorship.”[[596]](#footnote-596)

9 November 2014

* At the European Union Reform Action Group meeting held in Ankara, upon the intervention of the Ministry of Justice, *Cihan News Agency* and *Zaman* reporters were not admitted*.*[[597]](#footnote-597)
* Journalists and Writers Foundation Secretary General Erkam Tufan Aytav commented on President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's statement regarding Fatih Altaylı's column on the third airport project, saying, “the pressure that is increasing placed on the media recently is unacceptable. We are experiencing a process that would not happen in democratic countries. This pressure is not secretive, but now it is really apparent.”[[598]](#footnote-598)
* The Turkish Progressive Workers Unions Confederation (DİSK) Press Labor Union published a report in October regarding violence, censorship and termination against journalists in recent months, stating, “64 journalists have been fired, two have been killed and a number of journalists have been subject to insults, assault and arrests.”[[599]](#footnote-599)

10 November 2014

* According to *Facebook*'s list of countries requesting content to be taken down, Turkey is second to India in terms of the number of requests for content to be blocked.[[600]](#footnote-600)

11 November 2014

* *Zaman* newspaper claimed that the Ministry of Interior Affairs “had blacklisted candidates together with their families,” “preparing reference lists regarding religious community and party membership as well as political views.”[[601]](#footnote-601) A statement made by the Police Academy refuted the claims; “Our Directorate had published online previously regarding FYO hiring and the refuted claims were republished in the Zaman newspaper dated 11.11.2014. This is a parallel lie.”[[602]](#footnote-602)
* A case was opened against *Zaman* newspaper Editor in Chief for 17 years in prison for publishing voice recordings played in the Turkish Grand National Assembly by CHP leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu, alleging that Prime Minister of the time Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and his son had had a conversation regarding “reducing the money.”[[603]](#footnote-603)
* The Ministry of National Education removed pictures of human reproductive organs from the 2014-2015 six grades Science and Technology textbook and the subject was passed over superficially. Former Eğitim-Sen Izmir 1 Branch Chairman, psychologists Abdullah Tunalı made a statement to *Hürriyet*, saying “the internal structure of reproductive organs used to be illustrated in the textbook just like that of the heart and kidneys. However, the subject has been seriously censored in this years' 6 grade Science and Technology book.[[604]](#footnote-604)
* European Commission Member responsible for Enlargement and European Neighborhood Policy (ENP) Johannes Hahn stated “Turkish government's response to the December 2013 corruption claims have created serious issues regarding the independence and un-biasedness of the courts and the separation of powers. We are monitoring prohibitions of freedom of expression, limitations placed on marches and meetings and the draconian censorship of social media with great anxiety.”[[605]](#footnote-605)
* Three people with iron bars attacked editor and columnist Evren Kurban of the Yenigün newspaper published in Yozgat. Regarding the assault, Evren Kurban said, “because I wrote articles criticizing mayor Kazım Arslan, I was receiving threats on social media sites. Today they attacked me. I made a formal complaint.”[[606]](#footnote-606)
* The Journalists Union condemned the assault on *Cumhuriyet* reporter Kayhan Ayhan and Ulusal Kanal reporter Deniz Çağlayan by the police during the Istanbul Validebağ Grove events, asking members to find the attackers.Emphasizing that violence towards journalists is becoming ordinary; TGS Secretary General Mustafa Kuleli said that the reason for this is that previous attacks have gone unpunished. Kuleli said that the government and authorities should punish the responsible people mentioning, “the prevention of journalists from doing their duty and physical intervention is a violation of press freedom.”[[607]](#footnote-607)

12 November 2014

* The Supreme Electoral Council punished TRT with a seven programs suspension due to failure to comply with previous decisions and violating impartiality.[[608]](#footnote-608)
* A case was opened against *Taraf* columnist Mehmet Baransu for his messages on *Twitter* for “insults” and “blackmail” towards Erdoğan during his Prime Ministry.[[609]](#footnote-609)
* Şanlıurfa Governor İzzettin Küçük, responding to Swedish *SVTI* channel reporter Joalcim Medim's question regarding why the Kurds were not allowed to cross the border during his visit to the safe hill in the Suruç district from where journalists reported on the developments in Kobane, saying “in Sweden, do they allow people to cross borders as they wish? Not everyone can just walk over the border. Translate this and tell him that the Republic of Turkey is a state.” [[610]](#footnote-610)

13 November 2014

* The CNN Türk television channel censored the ‘Three Graces’ by famous baroque painter Peter Paul Rubens during the program *“Dünyanın 1001 hali”* (100 forms of the world) by Emin Çapa for female nudity. Emin Çapa said regarding the incident “we have pressure from RTÜK (The Radio and Television Supreme Council), we don't know what to do with works of art.”[[611]](#footnote-611)
* In *The New Yorker* published in the US, an article by George Packer asked “why is the press less free today?” The article claimed that press freedom in the world was under threat and in general, the world was moving away from democracy. The article said that leaders such as Tayyip Erdoğan were using their power to put pressure on independent journalists, making their work nearly impossible. The article referred to Erdoğan and Russian president Vladimir Putin as “demagogues who have formed the tyranny of the majority.”[[612]](#footnote-612)

14 November 2014

* Journalist and author Önder Aytaç, claimed to be close to the Fethullah Gülen community, who was previously taken into custody in the scope of the voice recordings probe at a meeting regarding developments in Syria held at the Ministry of International Affairs when Ahmet Davutoğlu was the minister, was taken into custody once more in the morning at the Atatürk Airport. It was reported that Aytaç was taken into custody in accordance with a search warrant issued by the Ankara 4 Magistrates’ Court for “insulting and defamation of senior state officials and the police force.”[[613]](#footnote-613) Aytaç was released after testifying before the Bakırköy Republican Prosecutor.[[614]](#footnote-614)

15 November 2014

* Turkish Halk Bank former General Manager Süleyman Aslan, who was arrested in the 17 December corruption probe, made a complaint about *Taraf* newspaper Ankara representative Hüseyin Özay, who reported that Aslan had “4.5 million dollars in shoeboxes at his house.” The Istanbul Republican Prosecutors Office opened a public case against Özay upon Aslan's complaint, on the charges “violating the secrecy of the investigation” and “affecting the fairness of proceedings.”[[615]](#footnote-615)

16 November 2014

* Private security guards and Fenerbahçe Sports Club bodyguards assaulted journalists trying to take pictures of Fenerbahçe goalkeeper Volkan Demirel who due to insults from the fans had left the field before the game between the Turkish Senior National Football Team and the Kazakhstan National Team.[[616]](#footnote-616) In a statement regarding the event, Turkish Journalists Association wrote; “TGC does not consider the change of legislation to be sufficient to prevent violence in sports. For a common stance to be developed, we call the Turkish Football Federation, the Governor of Istanbul and the Police Chief to action. We also expect the Fenerbahçe Club to seek punishment for the private security guards who assaulted our colleagues.”[[617]](#footnote-617) Regarding the same incident, the Turkish Sports Writers Association (TSYD) Headquarters[[618]](#footnote-618) and Press Council[[619]](#footnote-619) made a statement condemning the violence and saying that it was unacceptable.

17 November 2014

* *Akit* newspaper reporter Mehmet Özmen reminded *Zaman* newspaper Editor in Chief Ekrem Dumanlı about the “we supported BDP” statement at the TÜYAP Book Fair, asking if “this was a confession or not” and in the resulting argument, claimed that he was assaulted by Ekrem Dumanlı and his bodyguards.[[620]](#footnote-620) The *Zaman* newspaper broadcasted a video[[621]](#footnote-621) saying that Dumanlı was not involved in the incident, calling *Akit* newspaper reporter Özmen “the person attracting attention with his provocative acts.[[622]](#footnote-622)

18 November 2014

* The Konya Bedesten marketplace shop-owners made a statement regarding an advertisement on the Konya Metropolitan Municipality billboards stating “30% discount at Bedesten every Tuesday.” The statement said, “there is no such discount,” but shop owners were happy with increased interest the municipality statement produced. A reporter of the Konya *Yenigün* newspaper wrote that he had bought a pair of shoes for 100 TL on the discount day but on “no-discount” days the same pair of shoes cost 70 TL, thus he concluded, “there is no discount at Bedesten.” Upon this statement, shop owners gathered in the Bedesten square to protest the newspaper and burned some *Yenigün* copies.[[623]](#footnote-623) The Konya Journalists Association condemned burning of newspaper copies.[[624]](#footnote-624)

19 November 2014

* *Samanyolu* *Publication Group* President Hidayet Karaca, in his article entitled “Media censorship by the Government,” stated, “in the 12 year of the Justice and Development Party government, recently pressure has been increased to the max,” adding “despite so much difficulty and hate crimes committed against our group, we are continuing to operate according to our principles.”[[625]](#footnote-625)
* Journalist Ali Ekber Ertürk said in his book *the Memoirs of a Dangerous Reporter*, that “AKP officials” had said, “don't let that Alevite follow us.” Furthermore, Ertürk stated that he was threatened, being told to be careful with his articles in the *Star* newspaper , or else the *Star* newspaper “would be seized.”[[626]](#footnote-626)
* In the 2015 budget negotiations for the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, AKP Adana MP Şükrü Erdinç, referring to Fazıl Say, said, “an artist should be evaluated according to his art.” Erdinç added; “if his actions overshadow his art, we cannot be talking about his art. Art and the artist may be valuable, may have an ideology, but if the ideology comes before the art, this is not valuable to me. Fazıl Say is not great for me.” The statement concluded with “if a person becomes talked about with opposition to AKP, everyone should doubt his artistic achievement.”[[627]](#footnote-627)
* Despite being selected by the preliminary jury for screening at the 51 Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival, the *Gezi* documentary “*Until the Face of the Earth is the Face of Love“* was omitted from the program, sparking days of debate on censorship. In a statement regarding the censorship debate, director Reyan Tuvi said, “From the moment you start to combat censorship, you are subject to censorship. Censorship is a relic of a prior era.”[[628]](#footnote-628)
* *Ulusal Kanal* reporter Özer Sürmeli was sentenced to five months in prison regarding his articles on the 17 and 25 December corruption and bribery probes. The justification for the verdict was “portrayal of people as criminals.” The Istanbul 2 Criminal Court of First Instance decided for Özer Sürmeli to be sentenced to six months in prison and then revised and delayed the sentence of five months. The *Sözcü* newspaper published an article entitled *“Bribes delivered in the toilet”* on the 9 January, claiming that a number of company and institution representatives entered a disabled toilet at a shopping center to exchange envelopes.[[629]](#footnote-629)
* The *Anatolian Broadcasting Platform* President Sinan Burhan said, “Local media in the Eastern and Southeastern Anatolian Regions are under pressure from the PKK and KCK.” Burhan stated: “In the peace and inclusion process, the pressure and intimidation of the PKK and KCK are unacceptable.”[[630]](#footnote-630)

20 November 2014

* Journalists Confederation General Secretary and Bursa Journalists Association chairman and president of the Journalists Confederation Mehmet Nuri Kolaylı made a statement at the Bursa SKAL Club November meeting, saying, “unfortunately we see that the vocational honor of the journalism profession is at an all time low.”[[631]](#footnote-631)
* Answering MP's questions at the budget negotiations of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Minister Ömer Çelik answered a question about the closure of art organizations saying “if we wanted to close these organization down, we would not have allocated 5.2 billion TL in the last 12 years. Here the issue is our cultural and artistic life becoming one of the central activities of the country.”[[632]](#footnote-632)
* Previously making predictions about different columnists, Yeni Şafak columnist Cem Küçük wrote in his column, claiming, “Tax fine for the Doğan Group is on the way, Ahmet Hakan to be liquidated this year.”[[633]](#footnote-633)
* In the 36 DYO Painting Contest, the painting by artist Metin Çelik entitled *“The Women who loves Strawberries”* was omitted from the opening on Wednesday evening despite being selected by the jury as the women in the painting had one breast exposed.[[634]](#footnote-634)

21 November 2014

* Speaking as a guest of the Social Research, Culture and Art Foundation in Izmir, Reyan Tuvi, whose documentary on the Gezi resistance *“Until the Face of the Earth is the Face of Love“* was censored at the Antalya Film Festival, said “censorship does not only put the artist under pressure, but also the censor. I have the same degree of pity for the artist who is subject to censorship and the censor. I do not believe that censorship will ever yield anything good.”[[635]](#footnote-635)
* The *“Cumhuriyet newspaper Publishing Principles”* enforced by the Cumhuriyet Foundation Board of Directors were announced. The publishing principles were announced on “cumhuriyet.com.tr” with the following statement: **“**The *Cumhuriyet* newspaper has identified its aim from the pen of founder Yunus Nadi with the first issue on the 7 May 1924.Cumhuriyet is not the newspaper of the government or a party. Cumhuriyet only belongs to the Republic, the defender of scientific and popular narrative...”[[636]](#footnote-636)
* The *Doğan Media Group* fired many employees due to the downsizing movement and company mergers. While the transportation service downsized considerable, the *Kanal D* and *CNN Türk* Ankara representation was combined. *Kanal D* Ankara Representative Erhan Karadağ was laid off, together with his assistant and driver. With the combination of the group under a single roof, *Hürriyet* newspaper photo reporter Fahir Arıkan was also terminated.[[637]](#footnote-637)

22 November 2014

* Commenting of *Hürriyet* reporter Tolga Tanış's article[[638]](#footnote-638) *“Ricciardone: Stress at home, stress in the world,”* former US Ankara Ambassador Francis J. Ricciardone, speaking at the Turkish Embassy in Washington, said that Tanış's article was not accurate. Ricciardone said the following about the Hürriyet article: “To those who say that Turkey's focus has changed, I say this: Atatürk said “peace at home, peace in the world” and as someone who has been in this region of the world for 36 years, I have heard the same from Demirel, Ecevit, Özal and Erdoğan. During Atatürk's time, there was stress at home and stress in the world and today the same is true all over the world. This is what I had expressed that day.” Furthermore, Ricciardone said that he wished to express to guests that day, that the Turkish government wanted regional consistency and peace, as the previous governments had. “This is all I wanted to say, but when you look at the article in question, you see something completely different.”[[639]](#footnote-639)

23 November 2014

* *Yurt* newspaper reporter Ahmet Meriç Şenyüz and Mehmet Demirkaya were sentenced to five months each in jail for reporting on the 17 - 25 December corruption and bribery probe.[[640]](#footnote-640)

24 November 2014

* Star Media Group boss Ethem Sancak, fired *Kanal 24*, *Akşam*, *Star* and *Güneş* newspaper Media Group President Mustafa Karaalioğlu, *Star* newspaper Editor in Chief Yusuf Ziya Cömert and *Akşam* newspaper Editor in Chief and former AKP MP Mehmet Ocaktan. These terminations were announced on the *Star* newspaper website as “new era for *Star*.” The conservative columnists assessed this operation as “unfaithfulness.” Conservative columnists working at various newspapers Akif Beki, Nihal Bengisu Karaca[[641]](#footnote-641) and Abdulkadir Selvi**,** strongly condemned the terminations. [[642]](#footnote-642)

25 November 2014

* AKP member and Turkish Grand National Assembly (TBMM) Investigation Commission Chairman Hakkı Köylü applied to the Republican Prosecutors Office for a media blackout regarding the testimony of former Minister of the Economy Zafer Çağlayan, former Minister of Interior Affairs Muammer Güler, former Minister for EU Affairs Egemen Bağış and former Minister of the Environment and Urbanization Erdoğan Bayraktar, citing “the protection of personal rights, reputation and other rights.”[[643]](#footnote-643)
* Regarding the case opened by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan against Yılmaz Özdil for “attack on personal rights,” the judge Mustafa Satış ignored the reversal decision by the Supreme Court of Cassation of Cassation 4 Legal Department, partially accepting the case; Özdil and the *Hürriyet* newspaper where he was employed at the time was ordered to pay President Erdoğan seven thousand TL in immaterial damages.[[644]](#footnote-644)
* Due to two posts to the Internal-External Focus page of the *BirGün* newspaper by the *Twitter* user *'tanrı (cc)' (God)*, *BirGün* Editor in Chief İlker Yaşar, newspaper rights owner Bülent Yılmaz and former *BirGün* Internet editor Ufuk Çalışkan were sentenced to seven months and 17 days in prison for “insulting religious values adopted by part of the people.”[[645]](#footnote-645)

27 November 2014

* Answering an inquiry proposal made by CHP Deputy Chairman Sezgin Tanrıkulu, Deputy Prime Minister Bülent Arınç announced that courts had imposed 4 media blackouts in 2010, 36 in 2011, 43 in 2012, 42 in 2013 and 24 in the first six months of 2014, for a total of 149 media blackouts. On the other hand, in the second six-month period in 2014, a number of media blackouts were imposed, including the ISIL attack on the Mousul Consulate, the Bingöl attack and the Yüksekova attack.[[646]](#footnote-646)
* According to an article in the *Akşam* newspaper , a journalist claimed that his telephone had been bugged by police officers working for the “parallel structure.” The journalist bugged was announced to be *TRT* Cairo representative Mehmet Akif Ersoy, in the scope of the Selam-Tevhid investigation on suspicion of membership to a terrorist organization. Police officers listened to Ersoy's messages as he was reported to be in contact with the Egypt and Palestinian authorities to cross over to Gaza in order to illustrate to the world the secret tunnels used to carry aid and the general situation of the Palestinian peoples. The news article stated, “Ersoy was bugged to find the coordinates of the secret tunnels in Gaza.” It was reported that Mehmet Akif Ersoy was expected to be summoned to testify as a plaintiff.[[647]](#footnote-647)
* A case was brought against journalist Musa Doğan for an article published on his website. Doğan was ordered to pay a fine of 1800 TL in the case, to a businessman claiming to have been insulted. Doğan rejected to pay the fine and requested to benefit from the Supervised Probation Law. The court sentenced Doğan to 150 hours of community service upon this request. [[648]](#footnote-648)

27 November 2014

* After the prosecutors involved in the 17 - 25 December investigation were appointed to the 'Terror Crimes Bureau', established in place of the Specially Authorized Prosecutors Offices, a slander case was opened against judge Sevgi Övünç for posting on “*www.adalet.org*,” “isn't 14 prosecutors too few to cover up the theft and corruption of the 17 December?”[[649]](#footnote-649)
* The media blackout request of the TBMM commission regarding the bribery claim of four former AKP ministers was announced to be “confidential.” According to an article published in the *Taraf* newspaper , commission chairman AKP MP Hakkı Köylü's petition to the court asked for the censorship imposition to be “very urgent.”[[650]](#footnote-650)

28 December 2014

* Murat Bereket, making a program on *TRT Spor*, announced that he had been called and threatened by Sinan Engin and fellow commentator Rasim Ozan Kütahyalı for *posting* on his *Twitter* account “Sinan Engin is a great Fenerbahçe supporter” and one day later, was terminated. [[651]](#footnote-651)
* *Twitter* was the first in Turkey to impose censorship upon an open news portal, *vivaHiba.com*. With the slogan “you are the media, so share,” the founding partners of the site Barış Şarer and Hıdır Geviş expressed that *Twitter* had blocked accessed through *Twitter* without providing any warnings or justification, adding “this is not acceptable.”[[652]](#footnote-652)
* Can Publications Managing Director Can Öz, on the “bestsellers” VTR broadcasted on *TV360*, said that Can Dündar's book *“My Brother Deniz“ was* “not included in the VTR although it was top of the bestsellers list.”[[653]](#footnote-653)

2 December 2014

* At the December council meeting of the Şişli Municipality, the *Şişli newspaper* reporter was preventing from taking photographs and recordings even though the meeting was open to the public, citing a “prohibition.” *Talking* to *Aydınlık*, *Şişli newspaper* Editor in Chief Mehmet Tekin said that they were targeted for reporting on “dirty deeds” at the Şişli Municipality.[[654]](#footnote-654)
* *HaberTürk* columnist Ali Tezel, claimed to have lost his job due to anti-government messages shared on social media, made an explanation through his *Twitter* account, saying *“HaberTürk* fired me because of my messages on Facebook and Twitter... They told me to shut up and not tell the truth, but I couldn't.”[[655]](#footnote-655)
* According to a *Zaman* article, *Zaman* and *Cihan News Agency* reporters were not admitted to a meeting organized at the Prime Ministry building by Deputy Prime Minister Ali Babacan upon Turkey's assumption of the G-20 term presidency.[[656]](#footnote-656)

3 December 2014

* Artist Fazıl Say, in a statement made over social media, said that the Istanbul Symphony had been removed from the Presidential Symphony Orchestra (CSO) annual program, saying,“As of today, censorship in art in Turkey has become a reality.”[[657]](#footnote-657)
* Ergun Babahan[,](http://www.gazeteciler.com/) in his column in the *Millet* newspaper, criticized media organizations known to be close to the government; “each headline, each article is worth almost one contract, while being a supporter is awarded with opportunities worth millions of dollars, while no one cares that the true circulation of the pool media is around 8 to 10 thousand. This is because the money doesn't belong to them, but comes out of the pockets of the people.”[[658]](#footnote-658)

4 December 2014

* The screening of the *Gezi* resistance documentary “*Enough*” by the Independent Cinema Centre at the “What is happening in the Middle East?” conference organized by students of the Pamukkale University was cancelled. It was announced that rector Prof. Dr. Hüseyin Bağcı made the decision.[[659]](#footnote-659)
* Authorities wanted to exclude journalists from the meeting regarding the turnover of a primary school in Gaziosmanpaşa claimed to be constructed without a permit to the Ministry of National Education by corruption suspect, Iranian Reza Zarrab. Upon the insistence of journalists, the press was admitted to the meeting on condition that “no pictures or videos were taken.”[[660]](#footnote-660)
* CHP deputy Aykut Erdoğdu claimed that corruption and neglect uncovered by CHP was not reported by mainstream media and for this reason, the corruption claims made would be broadcasted on social media in the form of short video clips.[[661]](#footnote-661)

5 December 2014

* Hackers attacked *FoxTv* morning anchorman İsmail Küçükkaya’s *Twitter* account. A hacker that cracked Küçükkaya's *Twitter* account with the alias *“Kara Kalpaklı”* shared Küçükkaya's telephone number and *tweeted* messages that could be considered as “hate crimes” against Kurds.[[662]](#footnote-662) The account is said to be hacked because on Küçükkaya's program broadcasted on the 7 November, he talked positively about an article published in the *Cumhuriyet* newspaper about Deniz Gezmiş (a Turkish Marxist-Leninist revolutionary and political activist who was sentenced to death by a military tribunal and executed on May 6, 1972) and advised viewers to “buy a newspaper.”[[663]](#footnote-663)

6 December 2014

* Social Security expert Ali Tezel, who was fired from *HaberTürk* newspaper recently said “a program on *HaberTürk TV* was cut short after calls from the prime minister and deputy prime minister of the time” *on the “Haber Özel”* program broadcast on *Samanyolu Haber TV.*[[664]](#footnote-664)

7 December 2014

* Osmanlıspor Manager Osman Özköylü, became angry after a journalist “laughed at him” at a press conference after the Kayserispor game which his team lost and said to the assembled journalists; “one of you laughed. Is this a stand up show,” and shouted “shameless idiots, I will make you regret this” before attempting to assault the journalists. Özköylü then stormed out of the meeting.[[665]](#footnote-665)

8 December 2014

* During the visit of the *İhlas News Agency* reporters to the Akdeniz University Hospital in Antalya to cover a story, parking attendant Ö.Ç. assaulted *İHA* Antalya News Director Sabri Çağlar and reporter Alparslan Çınar after a disagreement due to the “order from the Judicial Medicine Prosecutor and Chief of Medicine” to not allow journalists in the parking lot. [[666]](#footnote-666)
* Regarding CHP Deputy Chairman Sezgin Tanrıkulu's inquiry proposal as to why the *www.alevikulturdernekleri.com* website was blocked from the Turkish Grand National Assembly, TBMM Deputy Speaker Sadık Yakut answered “the issue was caused by an error in the category defined in the database under the institutional security system,” adding “blocking various sites from the TBMM Internet security system is not something done by administrative order.”[[667]](#footnote-667)

9 December 2014

* The Istanbul, Ankara and Bursa Metropolitan Municipalities took down posters for author İsmet Orhan’s book “I killed Atatürk“ from municipal billboards due to the “unsuitable title.”[[668]](#footnote-668)

28 December 2014

* Kazım Akşar, writer and director of the play *“The Sun is Great, even when Setting ,”* which was tried to be censored due to strong language and erotic scenes, resulting in the resignation of State Theatres Director General Mustafa Kurt, answered the question of *Evrensel* reporter Kahraman Çayırlı regarding censorship saying “censorship is such a word, that it should be censored itself. What are you censoring and according to which mentality? I would censor you then, a counter censor, do you understand?”[[669]](#footnote-669)
* Upon the imposition of Ottoman Turkish as a compulsory course in high schools, BirGün newspaper reacted with the headline *“Thief*” in Ottoman Turkish, causing the opening of an investigation by the Republican Chief Prosecutors Office for slander against President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. In a statement made by the *BirGün* newspaper on *Twitter*, the newspaper stated “we wrote 'thief' in Ottoman Turkish without giving any names, but President Erdoğan took offence.”[[670]](#footnote-670)

11 December 2014

* *Kayseri Deniz Postası* newspaper publisher Azim Deniz announced that they had received a provisional injunction from the 6 Court of First Instance regarding a news article that was to run about a private hospital. The Turkish Journalists Federation called the injunction censorship.[[671]](#footnote-671)

12 December 2014

* Deputy Prime Minister Yalçın Akdoğan accused the media of “reputation killing” and “execution without trial” in regard to the 17 - 25 December corruption probe. Akdoğan also accused the media of being involved in 'an international perception operation threatening Turkey's national interest, unity and national security', describing the government's actions as “right to self-defense.”[[672]](#footnote-672)

13 December 2014

* CHP General Secretary Gürsel Tekin stated that the week of the 17 - 25 December had been announced as the “corruption week” and that the posters prepared for the week reading “We have been robbed, oh my people, don't forget this” were censored through the provision of extraordinarily high prices.[[673]](#footnote-673)

14 December 2014

* The “14 December” operation started with a raid by police on the *Zaman* headquarters in Yenibosna. In the scope of the “parallel structure“ operation investigation, 27 of the 31 suspects with arrest and capture warrants, including police officers and media employees were taken into custody. It was reported that the investigation was initiated on the pretext of the operation against Tahşiyeci group leader Mehmet Doğan, known as “Molla Muhammed,” with evidence against some media employees and police officers being falsified in 2009. The Istanbul Republican Head Prosecutors Office, in charge of the investigation, announced that “upon our order dated 13 December 2014, Hidayet Karaca, Ekrem Dumanlı, Fahri Sarrafoğlu, Hüseyin Gülerce, Ahmet Şahin, Nuh Gönültaş, Naci Çelik Berksoy, Ali Samim Noyan, Ali Kara, Elif Yılmaz, Radiye Şen Vardar, Hikmet Tombulca, Salih Asan, Makbule Çam, Engin Koç, Tufan Ergüder, Mutlu Ekizoğlu, Ertan Erçıktı, Mustafa Kılıçarslan, Ferdi Taşkaya, Ayhan Akça, Mehmet Ali Doğan, Ali Cihan, Mustafa Uyanık, Halit Akbulut, Çetin Öztürk, Rıfat Arslan, Erdem Kısa, Mustafa Altunbulak, Yakup Ergün and Recep Güleç have been taken into custody to testify against the charges of establishing, leading and membership to an armed terrorist group.” Charges against the detained included “using pressure, intimidation and threats to take over the government of the Republic of Turkey, forming an organization structure for slander, depriving of personal freedom and falsification of documents....”[[674]](#footnote-674)In the scope of the operation, some police officers related to the investigation were also taken into custody. Nuh Gönültaş, who was also wanted to testify, was identified as having left the country from the Atatürk Airport the previous night.[[675]](#footnote-675)
* *Zaman* newspaper Editor in Chief Ekrem Dumanlı was taken by Anti Terror Units at the newspaper headquarters. Dumanlı is taken under custody.[[676]](#footnote-676)

15 December 2014

* News and program presenter Suna Vidinli was fired from *NTV*. In a message shared on *Twitter*, Vidinli stated “I was fired from *NTV* today. I am proud. May we be remembered not for what we gained, but for what we rejected in times like these.”[[677]](#footnote-677)
* The state TV channel *TRT*, under the obligation for unbiased broadcasting, used the headline “so shall ye reap” regarding the police operation against media organizations close to the Gülen Community.[[678]](#footnote-678) After the news, *TRT* General Director Şenol Göka made a statement saying “that the media cannot be completely unbiased” and that the headline was used to attract attention.[[679]](#footnote-679)

17 December 2014

* Additional custody time was granted for *Zaman* newspaper Editor in Chief Ekrem Dumanlı and *Samanyolu Broadcasting Group* President Hidayet Karaca, who were taken into custody in the scope of the “14 December Operation.” Hidayet Karaca's lawyer Doğan Akkurt said his client was subject to “psychological torture.”[[680]](#footnote-680)
* Journalist Hüseyin Gülerce, who was taken into custody during the “14 December Operation” and released after testifying, stated on *Twitter* that his life was being threatened. [[681]](#footnote-681)

18 December 2014

* It was claimed that a case was opened against Seray Şahiner, for her article “these were are normal high schools” published in *BirGün* on the 7 August, where she wrote “Bilal Erdoğan, whose superior intelligence we have witnessed in the recordings,” leading to a complaint by Bilal Erdoğan for slander, on the charge of ridiculing Erdoğan's intelligence as a statement that is humiliating, demeaning and general outside of the lines of criticism.[[682]](#footnote-682)
* Claiming that his book was censored by the *NT* chain, belonging to Fethullah Gülen, author Senai Demirci stated “in my article *'wait for me Maklube'* I said 'I will not say amen to a curse', leading to *NT* telling me 'your books have been removed from the list and you are blacklisted'.”[[683]](#footnote-683)
* Bilal Erdoğan, son of President Erdoğan opened a case against journalist and author Bilal Erdoğan. In the case opened on the charge of “slander through the press,” journalist Yalçın's book *The Lost Record / Erdoğan's Stolen File* was cited.[[684]](#footnote-684)
* *Zaman* newspaper Editor in Chief Ekrem Dumanlı, referred to the court with an arrest request was asked about Gülen and “Tahşiye” by the prosecutor. Dumanlı testified that Fethullah Gülen was not a manager of the *Zaman* newspaper , only his Friday articles were published and Gülen had no effect over the publication policies of *Zaman*. Ekrem Dumanlı was referred to the court on charges of membership to an armed terrorist group.[[685]](#footnote-685)
* *Samanyolu TV* Publication Group President Hidayet Karaca refused to testify to the judge when referred to the court.[[686]](#footnote-686)
* Thespian Ferhan Şensoy spoke about “retraction of state aid to private theatres and censorship in the theatre,” adding that they were excluded from state aid due to their support of the *Gezi* protests*;* “we have said many times that the government does not have the right of determination for support according to political alignment. Nothing happened. The government does not like the theatre, is irritated and scared! If they could, they would do away with the theatre. But they cannot. If theatres were banned, we would continue with our plays with civilian disobedience; in the streets, the villages, the mountains!”[[687]](#footnote-687)

19 December 2014

* *Zaman* newspaper Editor in Chief Ekrem Dumanlı, taken into custody in the 14 December operations, was released with a prohibition on leaving the country.[[688]](#footnote-688)
* Of the suspects taken into custody in the 14 December operation, *Samanyolu TV* Publication Group President Hidayet Karaca was charged with “leading a terrorist organization” and arrested, while the other suspects Tufan Ergüder, Ertan Erçıktı and Mustafa Kılıçaslan were charged with “membership to a terrorist organization” and arrested.[[689]](#footnote-689)

20 December 2014

* Delegates tried to confiscate cameras belonging to journalists covering the MHP district congress in Ereğli Konya, after a fight broke out. Journalists protesting this action left the meeting.[[690]](#footnote-690)
* President Erdoğan, speaking at the Foreign Economic Relations Board (DEİK) meeting, regarding the 14 December operation stated regarding journalists*: “*What is it? The person taken into custody is a journalist. Don't journalists commit crimes?”[[691]](#footnote-691)
* An article published in *Zaman* stated that journalists and authors have condemned the “14 December Operation.” Saying that the aim of the operation was to “silence the opposition in the media,” the writers emphasized that “other media organizations may also be targeted.”[[692]](#footnote-692)
* Pakistani journalist Hasnain Kazim, reporter for Turkey for the *Der Spiegel* magazine, said that after his interviews with grieving relatives in Soma ran with the title *“Go to Hell Erdoğan”* together with his photograph, a lynch campaign had been started against him on social media and he was receiving hate mail, as well as death threats such as “we will cut your head off.” Saying that he had previously worked in Pakistan but not seen such pressure from the Taliban administration, Kazim temporarily left Turkey upon the threats.[[693]](#footnote-693)

21 December 2014

* It was claimed that a group assembling in front of the Istanbul Courthouse Complex in Çağlayan to support Ekrem Dumanlı and Hidayet Karaca, arrested for “leading an armed terrorist group” had harassed and verbally abused Yeni Akit newspaper reporter Mehmet Özmen who was giving an interview to *Ehlisünnet TV*.[[694]](#footnote-694)
* Deputy Prime Minister Yalçın Akdoğan refuted accusations that he was behind the dismissal of *Yurt* newspaper Editor in Chief Derya Sazak from *Milliyet*, where he held the same position, due to his article on the *“Guards of Imralı,”* accusing Sazak of “lying” and “sycophancy.”[[695]](#footnote-695)

22 December 2014

* In his column in *Hürriyet*, Ahmet Hakan relayed actor Zihni Göktay's account of censorship*:* “In the play, police chief Cafer says to his lover 'come and take everything off me'. When the women refuses, the character jokes 'does it have to be the government that takes everything?'. One of the audience members made a complaint to the White Desk thinking that the government was being ridiculed. This play was written in 1951. Cafer means the government at the time. That line was removed from the play.”[[696]](#footnote-696)
* Writer Emin Çölaşan and the *Sözcü* newspaper opened a compensation case due to an “attack on personal rights” against Sabahattin Önkibar with the Istanbul 9 Court of First Instance for his columns “is Emin Çölaşan's salary being paid by Pennsylvania?,” “Çölaşan Documents” and “the Community and Emin Çölaşan.” In the case, immaterial compensation in the amount of 1 TL was requested by Çölaşan while 99,999 TL was demanded by *Sözcü*. As a result of the expert assessment, it was decided that there were no ground for immaterial compensation. During the hearing, the judge decided against the compensation saying “the article content upon which the case is based in not an attack against personal rights, but must be considered as a criticism in the scope of freedom of press.[[697]](#footnote-697)

24 December 2014

* General Art Director of the “Cibali Police Station” play Erhan Yazıcıoğlu, who was reported to be preparing to sue Nedim Saban for claims of censorship, made a statement saying that the censorship claims are unbiased, saying that Saban's statements in the media “*now we know why he is good in Karadayı (a Turkish TV serial) as a minister” were “overbearing” and that he would be filing a complaint. Yazıcıoğlu said “I am opening a case for the first time in my life.”*[[698]](#footnote-698)
* Minister of Transportation, Maritime Trade and Communication Lütfi Elvan expressed that he was against blocking and limitation of social media, however saying, and “social media does need some moral values.” Elvan said that Turkey had filed 338 content blocking requests on *Twitter*, while 255 were blocked and during the Kobane protests of the 6 - 8 October, 84 accounts were suspended due to the *“tweets”* that were posted.[[699]](#footnote-699)

28 December 2014

* *Sol* newspaper Editor in Chief Hafize Kazcı was sentenced to 1 year, 6 months and 22 days in prison for an article published in the *Sol* newspaper regarding Ahmet Atakan, who lost his life in the *Gezi* protests, after being charged with “agitation of one part of society to hate and hostility against another on the basis of social class, race, religion, sect or region.”[[700]](#footnote-700)
* President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and son Bilal Erdoğan opened a case against author Emrah Serbes for “slander.” Serbes had participated in the program “Burada Laf Çok” (Talk is Plenty Here) presented by Mesut Yar on *CNN Türk*, where he had said about Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, “If I was the Prime Minister, I would not burst into a market with one hundred bodyguards and slap children. Forget everything else, this is not acceptable behavior. First, one should be polite. One should embrace all. If by some accident, someone threw a till at Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, like they did to Bülent Ecevit, he would do a flying kick.” About Bilal Erdoğan, Serbes had used the expression “Bilal, the last million bender.”[[701]](#footnote-701)
* Upon Emin Çölaşan's statement “she changed her political views and got jobs,” Hülya Avşar opened a 50,000 TL immaterial compensation case against Çölaşan and *Sözcü* owner Akbay for personal insult.[[702]](#footnote-702)
* After the Constitutional Court annulled the legislation allowing the government to “block Internet access to dangerous content within 4 hours,” the government started preparing for new legislation. With the new legislation, the Prime Ministry and Ministry would have the authority to restrict access in situations where national security and public order are at stake and the necessity to apply to a court within 24 hours and obtain a judgment within 48 hours was added. After the court verdict, sites that do not take down “offending” content could be fined up to 500,000 TL. TİB will be authorized to apply to prosecutors’ offices to file a complaint.[[703]](#footnote-703)
* Speaking at the *RTÜK* Communication Centre Mobile Application Unveiling and Radio Trends Study 2014 Results Meeting, Deputy Prime Minister Yalçın Akdoğan answered claims regarding “media censorship” saying “those that say the free press cannot be censored are ironically broadcasting live on four or five television channels. It is ironic that not only are they live on television, but also their slogans are plastered on the headlines of their newspapers over nine columns and also on their websites. If you are being silenced, how are you on so many channels at once? How can you be operating with so many newspaper s.”[[704]](#footnote-704)
* HDP Deputy Co-Leader Alp Altınörs said that the AKP government was waging war on the Internet, stating, “They are censoring the Internet with the fear that the information and documents regarding their corruption and theft will be revealed.”[[705]](#footnote-705)
* *Star* newspaper parliamentary and politics reporter Hamza Erdoğan and economics and defense reporter Kıymet Sezer were both fired. Reporter Ayşegül Sayın of the *Kanal 24* Ankara Bureau, affiliated to the same group, was also terminated. The reason for this termination was announced as “the company being affected and losing from the economic crises in the country.”[[706]](#footnote-706)

26 December 2014

* Football commentator Ahmet Çakar has been banned from sports venues for three months upon the complaint of the Turkish Football Federation for his comment on the *“Derin Futbol” (*Deep Football*)* program; “the Central Referees Board has drawn pictures of former chairman Zekeriya Alp and some other referees and drawn a line through them.”[[707]](#footnote-707)
* *Zaman* newspaper Editor in Chief Ekrem Dumanlı has written an letter stating that press freedom in Turkey “in under a serious threat.” The letter was sent to TBMM Speaker Cemil Çiçek, Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu, Minister of Justice Bekir Bozdağ and Turkish political party leaders as well as UN Secretary General Ban-Ki Moon, European Parliament Chairman Martin Schulz, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, European Parliament group leaders, and the European Parliament Turkey Reporter Kati Piri.[[708]](#footnote-708)

29 December 2014

* 170 people were fired from the *Akşam* newspaper due to a restructuring by *Star* newspaper and *Kanal* *24 TV*, owner Ethem Sancak, with the rationale “the effect and loss incurred by our company due to the economic crises in our country,” while the magazines were also closed down. [[709]](#footnote-709)

30 December 2014

* *Al Jazeera Türk* reporter Abdülkadir Konuksever and İlker Taş, travelling to Cizre were attacked by the PKK terrorist organization's youth wing, YDG-H, snipers from the rooftops of houses behind the hotel they were staying at, as they were trying to film footage out of their hotel room window. Although three bullets hit the room, the journalists were not wounded. Hotel employees stopped the group, who tried to enter the hotel in which the journalists were staying.[[710]](#footnote-710) The Gaziantep Journalists Association condemned the attack with a statement; “we request the immediate cessation of this anti democratic behavior against Konuksever and Taş and our other colleagues.”[[711]](#footnote-711)

31 December 2014

* The objection made by the prosecutor to 1 Magistrates’ Court regarding the release of eight taken into custody during the 14 December operation, including *Zaman* newspaper Editor in Chief Ekrem Dumanlı, was rejected by the higher court.[[712]](#footnote-712)
* Minister of Transportation, Maritime Trade and Communication Lütfi Elvan, stated regarding the messages on *Twitter* shared by journalist and presenter Sedef Kabaş; “it is as if swearing and insulting is allowed on social media. This is not the case. I think that especially social media should be used according to our own values, our ethics.” Elvan also stated that there were hundreds of thousands of fake virtual accounts.[[713]](#footnote-713)
* Assessing the bugging news in the press at the 2014 assessment meeting, Elvan said, **“**The investigation is being carried out by the prosecutor. The records before the 17 - 25 December were erased and the CD's were broken. They are trying to restore these erased records. With the restored information, new records and additional illegal bugs may come to light.” In response to a question regarding the new Internet law, Elvan said, **“**there is no issue related to the freedom of communication. This freedom of communication in Turkey is not present in developed countries. I am also saying this about the freedom of press. Today, all kinds of critiques can be written in Turkey. Look at the printed and visual press. 80% of the newspapers and television channels are publishing news against the government. The newspapers are publishing insults and false news. You couldn’t do this in developed countries.”[[714]](#footnote-714)
* Fatih University and the Istanbul Institute performed a study with bureaucrats, journalists, finance experts, academics, research centers and NGO's in the US, Germany, France and England, to find how the elite of developed democracies perceive Turkey. 87% of the participants reported that press freedom in Turkey was not up to the standard of developed democracies. [[715]](#footnote-715)

## Social Media Access Restrictions

6 March 2014

* At a program broadcast on *ATV*, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said that the government would be taking new measures after the 30 March (mayoral polls) and that they would not let the Turkish people be devoured by *YouTube* or *Facebook* “Whatever the step needed to be taken is, we will do it with determination. Including blocking. Because these people or organizations are providing incentives using their facilities for all types of immorality, all types of espionage and agency. This cannot be an understanding of freedom.”[[716]](#footnote-716)

20 March 2014

* Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, speaking at his Bursa meeting, said, “You know these sites, like *Twitter*. There is a court order. *Twitter* and the like, we will end them all. Yes, all of them! The international community might say this or that... I am not interested! They will see the power of the Republic of Turkey!”[[717]](#footnote-717)
* The Prime Ministry Press Office made a statement to the Anatolian Agency saying that *Twitter* administrators had “not acted upon” court orders for the blocking of certain content and that “they may not be any other solution than to block access completely.” The same evening, at 11:30 PM, access to *Twitter* was blocked using DNS codes.[[718]](#footnote-718)

21 March 2014

* TİB announced that access to *Twitter* was blocked according to the judgments of the Istanbul Anatolia 14 Court of First Instance dated 3 February 2014, the Istanbul Anatolia 5 Magistrates’ Court dated 18 March 2014, the Samsun 2 Magistrates’ Court dated 4 March Istanbul and the Istanbul Head Prosecutors Office (under Turkish Civil Law article 10) dated 20 March 2014. One of the accounts shown as the basis for the complaint leading to the restriction belonged to former Minister of Transport and Izmir Metropolitan Municipality Mayor Candidate Binali Yıldırım.[[719]](#footnote-719)
* *Twitter* started negotiations with TİB through attorney for Turkey Gönenç Gürkaynak.[[720]](#footnote-720)

22 March 2014

* Google DNS widely used to circumvent the *Twitter* restriction was blocked. In the evening hours, IP based restrictions to *Twitter* began and the circumvention through DNS changing was rendered useless. Users started to use alternative browsing programs and VPN's. General Internet access was also problematic from time to time.[[721]](#footnote-721) According to an article in the *Wall Street Journal*, Turkey wanted to block access to proof of corruption on *Google* and *YouTube*. However, Google turned down these requests, which were found to be unlawful.[[722]](#footnote-722) *Twitter* suspended a fake account using a the name of women in Samsun, C.K., which was sharing photos containing nudity.[[723]](#footnote-723) Furthermore, the Republic of Turkey Prime Ministry Public Diplomacy Coordination Office published an announcement defending the restrictions.[[724]](#footnote-724)
* Minister of Transport Lütfi Elvan stated *“*whichever company, *Twitter, Yahoo* or *Google,* whichever social media company, they must and will comply to the laws of the Republic of Turkey.”[[725]](#footnote-725) Despite the blocking, continued access to *Twitter* over VPN services was considered as Erdoğan's defeat.[[726]](#footnote-726)

23 March 2014

* Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan addressing a rally in Kocaeli said, “Whoever it is, I am not listening. I must take precautions against every attack that my country faces, even if the world stands against me. This organization called *Twitter*, this *YouTube*, this *Facebook*; they have shaken the family to its foundations. These organizations have all types of montage, they would do anything. I cannot understand how the wise can still defend *Facebook*, *YouTube* and *Twitter*. Here you will find all kind of lies. Will we not take a stand against those who say that things that never took place have occurred? Did you not give us this power? They will sow chaos in our country. You know what these tweets did during the Gezi protests. You know what they did on the 17 December, on the 25 December.”[[727]](#footnote-727)

27 March 2014

* The recording of the secret Syria meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was published on *YouTube*. The site was closed down without a court order as of 4:00 PM. TİB applied to the Gölbaşı Magistrates’ Court the same day and obtained an order at 7:45 PM.[[728]](#footnote-728)

29 March 2014

* The Gölbaşı Magistrates’ Court restricted all news, interviews and criticism regarding the meeting carried out about Syria on printed, visual and Internet media in the scope of the related investigation file, citing “public security” and “disclosure of state secrets.”[[729]](#footnote-729)

2 April 2014

* The Constitutional Court voted unanimously that the complete restriction of *Twitter* access was a violation of freedom of expression. The Constitutional Court emphasized that the court orders shown as justifications were for the removal of the related content and that the administrative judicial prohibition for the “suspension of implementation” was still not carried out. The restriction to *Twitter* was ended at lunchtime the following day.[[730]](#footnote-730)
* The government criticized the decision of the Constitutional Court. Minister of Justice Bekir Bozdağ said that it was wrong of the court to accept Individual Applications and that with this decision, the “lines that have been drawn were crossed.”[[731]](#footnote-731) On the 4 April, Erdoğan said that they were required to “implement the verdict of the Constitutional Court, but not required to respect it.” The Prime Minister said that he found the Constitutional Court's decision to defend an American companies' application without going through the primary court “dangerous for national values.”[[732]](#footnote-732)
* The press voiced claims that despite the ban being lifted, Türk Telekom was monitoring access to *Twitter*. Users were advised to continue to use VPN's for their own security.[[733]](#footnote-733)
* Minister of Foreign Affairs Ahmet Davutoğlu met with EU member responsible for expansion Stefan Fule in Brussels. Davutoğlu stated regarding the restriction of access to social media sites; “it would be beneficial for them to be in contact with Turkey before such announcements are made.”[[734]](#footnote-734)

3 April 2014

* Due to the blocking of *YouTube* access, lesson content prepared by the Anadolu University Open Education Faculty for the visually challenged could not be accessed. The call center manager of the Open Education Faculty said that the issue was the *YouTube* access restriction and that they did not know when the issue would be resolved.[[735]](#footnote-735)
* CHP Deputy Chairman Sezgin Tanrıkulu applied to the Information Technologies Institution (BTK) after the *Constitutional Court* verdict regarding *Twitter* was published in the *Official Gazette* and not implemented.[[736]](#footnote-736)
* TBMM Speaker Cemil Çiçek said that the verdict of the *Constitutional Court* regarding *Twitter* was a justified one.[[737]](#footnote-737)

4 April 2014

* The Gölbaşı Criminal Court of Justice, debating the Bar Associations Union's objecting to the *YouTube* restriction on the 27 March 2014, lifted the ban to all content and sustained the restriction on 15 links only. The prosecutor’s office immediately objected to the decision. Upon this development, the Gölbaşı Criminal Court of First Instance decided for the blocking of *YouTube* to continue as the site had failed to take down the content forming criminal intent despite the notification sent. [[738]](#footnote-738)

7 April 2014

* *YouTube* applied to the Constitutional Court to lift the ban, while the Ankara 4 Administrative Court opened a case to “cancel and lift the order for the restriction of access.”
* Furthermore, *YouTube* objected to the verdict of the Gölbaşı Criminal Court of First Instance to continue the ban.[[739]](#footnote-739)
* The President of the Constitutional Court answered criticism to the *Twitter* verdict from the government, saying that verdicts are not based on nationality, religion or sect, but are universal. The Constitutional Court reported that the Individual Application was accepted to prevent irreversible damage in cases where the freedom of expression and communication were at stake.[[740]](#footnote-740)
* TBMM Speaker Çiçek made a statement regarding the verdict of the Constitutional Court on *Twitter*, saying, “If those who do not like the verdict say 'I do not respect it', this is their own freedom of expression.”[[741]](#footnote-741)

8 April 2014

* TBB President Metin Feyzioğlu made a Individual Application to the Constitutional Court to lift the *YouTube* ban.[[742]](#footnote-742)
* A written statement from the Ministry of Justice condemned the Constitutional Court with a harsh tone for lifting the *Twitter Ban*. The Ministry stated that the Constitutional Court was not a “super appeals court” and that Individual Applications could not be accepted, maintaining that the decision provided *Twitter* with the incentive to continue to shun Turkish law.[[743]](#footnote-743)

9 April 2014

* The Gölbaşı Criminal Court of First Instance, discussing the objection filed by *YouTube*, lifted the ban on the entire site on condition that the 15 links that led to the initial ban would remain restricted.[[744]](#footnote-744)

10 April 2014

* The Information Technologies and Communication Organization (TİB) announced that the restriction of access to the website *YouTube* would continue due to the failure of the site to take down the disputed content.[[745]](#footnote-745)
* The Gölbaşı Criminal Court of First Instance lifted the access restriction to *YouTube*, however before long, TİB closed the site with an administrative decision. The justification for this decision was the fact that the 151 videos that were restricted from Turkey were still accessible from abroad. [[746]](#footnote-746)

11 April 2014

* AKP Istanbul MP and TBMM Constitution Commission Chairman Burhan Kuzu applied to the Constitutional Court, which had lifted the *Twitter* ban, requesting access to the site to be restricted.[[747]](#footnote-747)

13 April 2014

* The *Twitter* and *YouTube* access issue, which had been on Turkey's agenda since December 2013, continued to be an important topic in April. The restrictions were widely criticized as censorship of the people's rights to freedom of expression and information.[[748]](#footnote-748) However, some parties expressed that the foreign companies had completely refused to comply with the Turkish legal system or they were threatening national security.[[749]](#footnote-749)

18 April 2014

* Minister of Transportation, Maritime Trade and Communication Lütfi Elvan, meeting with *Twitter* administrators in Turkey, made a written statement saying; “an accord has been reached for the Chilling[[750]](#footnote-750) of harmful content of that addressed by court order. They have also expressed that the presence of a lawyer representing them in Istanbul will contribute to the solution of current issues.”[[751]](#footnote-751)
* CHP Istanbul MP Mahmut Tanal made a Individual Application regarding *YouTube* access to the *Constitutional Court*, requesting for access to be provided. [[752]](#footnote-752)
* Prime Minister Erdoğan applied to the Constitutional Court with a request for 50,000 TL in immaterial compensation for the failure of court orders against violations on social media regarding himself and his family.[[753]](#footnote-753) With this application, Erdoğan became the first Prime Minister to make a Individual Application to the Constitutional Court.

19 April 2014

* As a result of negotiations, *Twitter* “hid” the accounts “Haramzadeler333” and “Başçalan,” which were publishing voice recordings allegedly belonging to Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and other members of the government.[[754]](#footnote-754)

20 April 2014

* Deputy Prime Minister Beşir Atalay stated, “*Twitter* will come, discuss with our country, negotiate with the government and take our court orders seriously. Now *Twitter* is falling into line. In fact, they were doing this for other countries and from now one, our country will have no problems. Actually, we don't have a problem with social media.”[[755]](#footnote-755)
* TBB President Metin Feyzioğlu stated that Erdoğan's application to the Constitutional Court for compensation was unjustified and unnecessary. Feyzioğlu said, “If the Prime Minister thinks he has been wronged, he should have opened a case against *Twitter* or TİB.”[[756]](#footnote-756)

22 April 2014

* The hearings regarding the 29 people facing up to three years in jail for *tweets* during the Gezi Park events in Izmir continued. Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's request to participate in the case as an aggrieved party was accepted.[[757]](#footnote-757) The court did not accept requests for evidence that was allegedly gathered illegally from the case file and postponed the hearing until the 14 July.[[758]](#footnote-758)

25 April 2014

* TBMM Constitution Commission Chairman AKP MP Burhan Kuzu said, “*Twitter* is one of thousands of communication tools. Therefore, they should know when to stop, but they have fallen in line.”[[759]](#footnote-759)

28 April 2014

* Ankara University member of the Faculty of Political Sciences Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kerem Altıparmak and Istanbul Bilgi University member of the Law Faculty Prof. Dr. Yaman Akdeniz made a second Individual Application to the *Constitutional Court* to lift the administrative ban on *YouTube* placed by TİB. [[760]](#footnote-760)

1 May 2014

* Deputy Prime Minister Bülent Arınç, speaking at a meeting at the TBMM Justice Commission regarding the legislation proposal concerning Internet news sites to be assessed under the Press Law, said that in practice, the implementation would be based on “voluntary participation. There would be no implications for those not wishing to be subject to this law.”[[761]](#footnote-761)

4 May 2014

* With the legislation proposal including Internet news sites in the scope of the Press Law, TİB will have the authority to cancel journalist's press card due to investigations. On the same pretext, official announcements may also be suppressed. Journalists objected to the proposal saying that it would mean *“the end of journalism”* and it was a violation of the constitution.[[762]](#footnote-762)

6 May 2014

* The Ankara 4 Administrative Court cancelled the implementation of the decision of the Telecommunication Administration regarding the *YouTube* ban, upon an application made by *YouTube*.[[763]](#footnote-763)
* US State Department Spokesperson Marie Harf said, “perceptions of Turkey will change if they stop blocking YouTube and lift the ban on Twitter. This makes people think 'hey, freedom of expression is not so good in Turkey'.[[764]](#footnote-764)

8 May 2014

* Minister of Transportation, Maritime Trade and Communication Elvan, stated regarding the Ankara 4 Administrative Court's decision to stop the implementation of the *YouTube* block; “*the court order has not yet reached TİB. After the order is received, TİB will assess the situation.*”[[765]](#footnote-765)

12 May 2014

* The authority given to TİB to cancel press cards in the case of non-compliance to legislation was transferred to the Directorate General of Press and Information.[[766]](#footnote-766) The article that caused great controversy, providing TİB with the authority to ask journalists for their sources, remained in the proposal.[[767]](#footnote-767)

16 May 2014

* Information Technologies and Communication Institution (BTK) President Tayfun Acarer said that the decision to block *Twitter* access and the subsequent chilling effect solution were not implemented to limit freedoms, but to prevent the violation of personal freedoms. [[768]](#footnote-768)

20 May 2014

* The sale of German technology to Turkey to allow suspects to be observed, bugged and tracked online, as well as other forms of technical monitoring, hit a roadblock. *According to articles published in the German media, most prominently in Süddeutsche Zeitung*, the German Federal Minister of the Economy and Social Democrat (SPD) Leader Sigmar Gabriel stated “this technology should not be sold to regimes that limit Internet freedom and damage human rights in illegal ways.” Gabriel opposed the sale of the technology to countries he described as 'lawless states and dictatorships', as well as Turkey, despite Turkey being a NATO member.[[769]](#footnote-769)
* Assessing the final proposal for the law regulating online journalism, Antalya Bar Association Chairman Alper Tunga Bacanlı said “providing authority to TİB to request information regarding the source of news is against the Constitution.”[[770]](#footnote-770)

21 May 2014

* In the second round of negotiations between the Information Technologies and Communication Institution and *Twitter*, an agreement was reached regarding the establishment of a Turkish language hotline for users that had complaints such as violations of rights or threats on *Twitter*. The complaints made to this hotline will be solved as quickly as possible and where possible, without a court order.[[771]](#footnote-771) Tayfun Acarer, president of the Information Technologies and Communication Institution (BTK) said that the negotiations in Dublin were “very beneficial.” [[772]](#footnote-772)

23 May 2014

* A website owner using Anatolian Agency articles without authorization was charged with unfair competition as per the Turkish Trade Law no. 6102. A court case was opened with the Istanbul 1 Court of Intellectual and Industrial Property Rights against a website owner and administrator who had used AA articles without permission. The court considered the suspects actions as “unfair competition” as a criminal offense and sentenced the defendant to 120 days of administrative fines based on the form, importance and protected value involved in the crime.[[773]](#footnote-773)

29 May 2014

* While the *Twitter* ban was being discussed, the government had placed a ban on *YouTube* through the courts and TİB, just before the elections. In the time that had passed, the courts had ordered the implementation to be halted, although TİB had not lifted the *YouTube* access ban. However, the *Constitutional Court lifted the YouTube ban*. *The Constitutional Court* debated Individual Applications made by Republican People's Party MP's regarding the ban, as well as *YouTube* lawyers and TBB representatives. Finding the applications acceptable, *the Constitutional Court* decreed that the blocking of access to *YouTube*, as with the case with *Twitter*, was a blow to the democratic rule of law and freedom of expression.[[774]](#footnote-774)

30 May 2014

* The Constitutional Court came to a verdict on the applications made by *YouTube's* lawyer, TBB and CHP MP's. The court decided that the applicant's rights had been violated and the blocking of access was a violation of freedom of expression.[[775]](#footnote-775)
* *The Constitutional Court's* verdict regarding the opening of *YouTube* was covered in Today's Zaman, which reported that the BTK had not lifted the *YouTube* ban despite the court order.[[776]](#footnote-776)

31 May 2014

* The government is planning to buy *Twitter* compliant NetClean software to delete illegal photographs, videos and information shared on *Twitter* immediately after being uploaded. The software deletes child pornography, illegal photographs and terror related *tweets* automatically within five minutes. [[777]](#footnote-777)
* CHP Deputy Chairman and Istanbul MP Sezgin Tanrıkulu announced that they had applied to the BTK for the verdict of the *Constitutional Court* dated 29 May 2014 regarding *YouTube* to be implemented immediately, in order to end the violation of freedom of expression.[[778]](#footnote-778)
* MHP Group Deputy Chairman Oktay Vural also said that he considered the *Constitutional Court's* verdict about freedoms to be a good thing, adding, “If someone makes insults regarding the private lives of others, the personal rights must be under the protection of the law.”[[779]](#footnote-779)
* *The Financial Times* reported that the *Constitutional Court* had specifically decided that the *YouTube* ban was a violation of freedom of expression. *The Daily Telegraph* of England reported that access from Turkey to the video sharing site was now possible, that *YouTube* was blocked by the government of Prime Minister Erdoğan some two months ago, while the *Constitutional Court* had decided that this restriction was a violation of freedom of expression and had lifted the *Twitter* ban in a similar fashion in April. The US based Wall Street Journal reported that the verdict had opened the path to access to *YouTube* in Turkey, which had been closed for two months, reminding readers that the government under Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan had previously rejected the lower court's decision to open access to the site. The British broadcasting organization BBC reported that after the decision of the highest court in Turkey, access to *YouTube* could be possible once more. Emphasizing that the video sharing site was closed after the corruption scandal, the BBC said that the highest court in Turkey had decreed that the ban was a violation of freedom of expression.[[780]](#footnote-780)
* US Ambassador to Ankara Francis Ricciardone said regarding the YouTube verdict of the Constitutional Court, “We think it's a good thing, but the important thing is Turkish law. We are not the judges of Turkish law, but for us, anything that increases the freedom of expression is good.”[[781]](#footnote-781)
* European Security and Cooperation Organization, Press Freedom Representative Dunja Mijatovic said that they were happy with the *Constitutional Court's* decision to lift the *YouTube* ban, calling for the verdict to be implemented as soon as possible.[[782]](#footnote-782)
* Journalist, author and academic Jeff Jarvis spoke about the Internet restrictions in Turkey, saying; “governments see the Internet as a form of media. However, the Internet is an arena, a living space where all types of people can talk. They think they can control the Internet like they control the media, but this is not possible. If you don't allow people to speak on the Internet, they will find somewhere else to speak and this speech may not be so calm, just as it was in Taksim Square in Istanbul in 2013.”[[783]](#footnote-783)

1 June 2014

* *The Constitutional Court* decision that reversed the *YouTube* ban as a “violation of rights” was not implemented by TİB. Minister of Transportation, Maritime Trade and Communication Lütfi Elvan explained; “The TİB administration has reported that the verdict has not yet reached them. After the verdict is served, the needful will be done.[[784]](#footnote-784)

4 June 2014

* The Gölbaşı Magistrates’ Court reversed the decision made on the 27 March 2014 regarding restriction of access to *YouTube*.[[785]](#footnote-785)
* The English Financial Times newspaper reported that Turkey's lifting of the *YouTube* ban should not be seen as a change in governmental policy and that the government was simple implementing the court order. [[786]](#footnote-786)

6 June 2014

* *The Constitutional Court* General Board Verdict regarding the lifting of the *YouTube* ban was published in the *Official Gazette*[[787]](#footnote-787)

8 June 2014

* The Constitutional Court issued a justified statement regarding the *YouTube* ban, criticizing TİB for failing to implement the verdicts of local courts suspending the ban and emphasizing that restrictions were a violation of freedom of expression.[[788]](#footnote-788)

4 July 2014

* Lawyer and expert of social media and Internet law Serhat Koç stated that “all actions on social media are perceived as an insult and a basis for a court case, while regimes seeking to increase social pressure are beginning to control these areas more than before.”[[789]](#footnote-789)

9 July 2014

* Deputy Prime Minister Bülent Arınç, making a statement during the negotiations of the proposal accepted by the TBMM Justice Commission, placing websites in the scope of the Press Law, said that after the work of the sub commissions, a nearly perfect text was produced and added, “we will make comprehensive changes to the Press Labor Law No. 212. With the participation of stakeholders, we will bring the issues that need to be addressed in the Press Labor Law to the agenda in a framework of consensus.”[[790]](#footnote-790)

13 July 2014

* According to the independent Chilling Effects website, established to answer to transparency requests by users, 64% of all requests to remove content were received from Turkey. The site reported that Turkey was the world leader in requesting content to be removed from *Google, Twitter* and *YouTube*, using content removal requests as a form of censorship.[[791]](#footnote-791)

5 July 2014

* Twitter blocked access from Turkey to the Twitter account of RedHack, a [*hacker group*](http://tr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hacker) established in 1997 defining themselves and [*Marxist*](http://tr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marksist) and Socialist.[[792]](#footnote-792)

19 July 2014

* A number of organizations active in the fields of children's rights, human rights and information technologies, including the Internet Publishers Association, objected to the Ministry of Interior Affairs efforts to negotiate with a foreign company to purchase filtering software claimed to prevent child pornography from being shared. The organizations maintained that sensitivities regarding children were being used as a front to purchase a censorship and tracking system, starting a signature campaign.[[793]](#footnote-793)

15 August 2014

* After refusing to shut down accounts sharing content violating privacy upon corruption claims in Turkey, *Twitter* did exactly the opposite in the USA.[[794]](#footnote-794) *Twitter* closed down the account of the group *Anonymous Hacker* after the name of the police officer who shot dead a black teenager, Michael Brown, in the street recently, was shared.[[795]](#footnote-795)

14 September 2014

* In the past 9 years of the AKP government, more than 51,000 websites were reported to have been blocked. With the omnibus law passed through parliament, the number of restrictions is expected to rise. The Internet restrictions in Turkey have increased after the Gezi Part Resistance, the spread of corruption claims regarding AKP on social media and the increase of authority vested in TİB. According to Engelli Web data, the number of blocked websites in Turkey at the beginning of September was 51,043, while 46,536 had been blocked directly by the Presidency of Telecommunication and Communication (TİB). According to the data, 94.4% of the websites were blocked by TİB, the courts blocked 4.1% and prosecutors and the Supreme Electoral Council blocked the remainder.[[796]](#footnote-796)

25 September 2014

* Lawyer Muhammed Sincar made a complaint to social media site Facebook regarding an account belonging to M.B., in which photographs and videos related to ISIL operations and murdered victims had been shared along with content praising ISIL. Facebook responded negatively to lawyer Sincar's request to remove the hate and violence filled statements and photographs shared on the page. After a second refusal, Sincar repeated his complaint for the third time. After Sincar's third try, Facebook decided to close M.B.'s page due to hate speech and violating community standards.[[797]](#footnote-797)

17 November 2014

* The official Twitter account of the Ankara University was taken over by hackers. The hackers tweeted “dear students, due to the midterm examinations please stop making love in your homes and start studying.” After this tweet was retweeted by a large number of users, the hackers tweeted again; “I am studying for my exams with my eyes closed, goddamn you minister of national education” (a play on a famous Turkish poem). [[798]](#footnote-798)
* A person who went pheasant hunting in Tuzluca, Iğdır, without a hunting license or stamp shared photos of the pheasants that he had shot, while the Ministry of Forestry and Hydraulic Works, Hunting Protection teams identified that the hunt was unlicensed and the Ministry levied a fine to the person in the amount of 6,084 TL. An announcement made by the relevant authorities stated, “The citizen was punished with a fine for hunting without a hunting license and hunting stamp.”[[799]](#footnote-799)
* TTNET restricted access to *“free encyclopedia Wikipedia”* articles in Turkey “vagina,” “human penis,” “testes” and “female reproductive organs” despite lacking a court order for blocking access. TTNET made a statement denying these claims and stated that the Presidency of Telecommunication and Communication imposed the restriction. [[800]](#footnote-800)

## The Radio and Television Supreme Council Penalties

3 March 2014

* The Supreme Electoral Council (YSK) gave a nine-day closure punishment to *Cem TV* for two programs that were broadcast.[[801]](#footnote-801) The punishment was reported to have been given due to data from two surveys being shared without giving the number of participants. The Journalists Associations said that the punishment was not in line with the reasonable punishment principle.[[802]](#footnote-802)

5 March 2014

* The YSK closed *Cem TV* for nine days, four days for the daily *“Uyan Türkiye”* (Wake up Turkey) program presented by Celal Toprak and Hüsniye Kaya and five days for the *Cem TV* Main News Bulletin presented by Pınar Işık Ardor. The justification for the penalty stated that surveys for the approaching local elections as published in newspapers were presented to the general public.[[803]](#footnote-803)

14 March 2014

* Punishments discussed for the channels covering and broadcasting the CHP group meeting in which Prime Minister Erdoğan's phone calls were played let to heated debates at RTÜK. RTÜK member Ali Öztunç said that the board had been instructed to give punishments, adding that the board had become a “stick used by the government to beat opposition.”[[804]](#footnote-804) In the written statement made by RTÜK, it was mentioned that experts had requested for an assessment and this did not mean an instruction.[[805]](#footnote-805)

15 March 2014

* Upon RTÜK's complaint and YSK’s order, *Samanyolu Haber* TV was given a 20-day closure penalty for 7 different programs.[[806]](#footnote-806) The YSK gave TRT a warning for giving Prime Minister Erdoğan's meetings a total of 13 hours and 32 minutes of screen time between the 22 February and 2 March, while CHP, MHP and BDP combined, received 1 hour and 35 minutes.[[807]](#footnote-807)
* RTÜK added a further closure penalty for 15 programs to *Samanyolu Haber* TV, in addition to the 21 programs penalized in March.[[808]](#footnote-808)
* On the other hand, CHP representatives at RTÜK Ali Öztunç and Süleyman Demirkan wrote a letter to the European Commission, Council of Europe and OSCE regarding the increased pressure on the press by AKP during election times.[[809]](#footnote-809)

26 March 2014

* The national broadcasting rights of Kanaltürk, affiliated to the Koza Group, were cancelled. RTÜK stated that the cancellation was specifically related to the landline broadcast rights, while Kanaltürk was continuing to broadcast over satellite and cable.[[810]](#footnote-810)

2 April 2014

* RTÜK issued an administrative fine to *Beyaz TV* for the violation of the principle “broadcasting must be based on the principles of objectivity, truth and fact and not prevent the free formation of opinions in the general public” during the broadcast of the program *“Basın Kulisi”* on 05-06.07.2013 evening.[[811]](#footnote-811)
* RTÜK issued a fine to *Beyaz TV* for displaying a cigarette during a piece in the program *“Erkan Tan Vakti.”*[[812]](#footnote-812)
* RTÜK issued a fine to *Beyaz TV* for portraying claims regarding the Gezi Park Events while violating the principle of impartiality during the *“Dinamit”* program.[[813]](#footnote-813)
* RTÜK issued an administrative fine to *HaberTürk* for the program produced by Didem Arslan Yılmaz broadcast on the 10 February 2014 entitled *“Türkiye'nin Nabzı”* for the violation of the principle “the use of the Turkish language without overstepping the features and rules, in a pleasing and understandable fall, without base, rude or slang usage.”[[814]](#footnote-814)
* RTÜK issued an administrative fine to *HaberTürk* for the broadcast of *“Television newspaper “* on the 19 February 2014, presented by Veyis Ateş, for the violation of the principle “compliance to the rule of law” regarding a commercial broadcasted featuring Bahçeşehir College. [[815]](#footnote-815)
* RTÜK issued a warning to *TRT 1* for the Main News Bulletin on the 25 January 2014 for presenter Anda Özmen's expression *“Baby Opposition”* during the announcement of an article related to MHP.[[816]](#footnote-816)
* RTÜK issued warnings to *Show TV “Show News with Ece Üner”* on the 10 February and TGRT Haber for the *“Gün Ortası”* program broadcast on the 5 February 2014, for an article regarding a 'university student who killed his cat', for violation of the principle of “not encouraging behavior that will cause damage to general health, the environment or the protection of animals.”[[817]](#footnote-817)
* RTÜK issued a warning to *NTV* for the program support spot given to *“Nutraxin”* for company promotion.[[818]](#footnote-818)

3 April 2014

* RTÜK issued an administrative fine to *Beyaz TV* for the Main News Bulletin dated 28 January 2014, which reported “knife fight at the end of the school day,” citing the principle “in radio and television broadcasting services programs that may harm the physical, mental or moral development of children and youths will not be broadcasted during times that they may be watching.”[[819]](#footnote-819)
* RTÜK issued an administrative fine *to Beyaz TV* for the program *“Erkan Tan Vakti”* on the 11 February 2014 for the section where honey products were being discussed, citing “hidden commercial communication is prohibited.”[[820]](#footnote-820)
* RTÜKissued an administrative fine *to Ulusal Kanal* for the *“Haber Masası”* program on the 17 February 2014 regarding the article reporting Bilal Erdoğan would be called to testify, citing the principle of “rule of law.”[[821]](#footnote-821)

5 April 2014

* RTÜK issued a warning to *Samanyolu Haber* on the 27 January 2014 for the program *“Gündemin İçinden”* where presenter Mahmut Filizer and guest Nevval Sevindi's comments on current events were said to be in violation of the principle of “rule of law, justice and impartiality in broadcasting.” [[822]](#footnote-822)
* RTÜK issued a warning to *Samanyolu Haber* for airing of voice recordings of Ebru Gündeş, Reza Zarrab and Gündeş's brother Cengiz Kumartaşlıoğlu.[[823]](#footnote-823)
* RTÜK issued a warning to *Bugün TV* on the 28 January 2014 for the news report stating “dirty money transfer on red passport, citing violations of the principle of “rule of law, justice and impartiality in broadcasting.” [[824]](#footnote-824)
* RTÜK issued a warning to *Bugün TV* on the 5 February 2014 for the *“Haber 17”* program broadcast of pictures of Reza Sarraf, taken into custody in the scope of the 17 December Operation, for violation of the media blackout imposed by the Istanbul 2 Criminal Court of First Instance and the Istanbul Republican Prosecutors Office regarding the investigation.[[825]](#footnote-825)
* RTÜK *issued an administrative fine to Halk TV* on the 19 December 2013 for the piece broadcasted in a news bulletin regarding AKP Deputy Chairman Numan Kurtulmuş, for the violation of the principle “broadcasts will not be in violation of respect to personal dignity and will not include statements outside the boundaries of criticism that are humiliating, demeaning or outright slander.”[[826]](#footnote-826)

7 April 2014

* RTÜK issued a warning to *Samanyolu Haber* on the 14 February 2014 for the *“Güncel”* program covering the *“Şefkat Tepe”* series for violations of the principle of “being based on truth and fact and article 9 paragraph 3 “hidden commercial communication is prohibited.”[[827]](#footnote-827)
* The tapes played by CHP leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu at the CHP Group Meeting led to a fine being issued to *Samanyolu Haber*.[[828]](#footnote-828)

22 April 2014

* Upon the reversal of the Supreme Council decision for no administrative action by a court regarding the *CNN Türk* broadcast of *“Aykırı Sorular”* presented by Enver Aysever on the 23 October 2012, both a warning and an administrative fine was issued.[[829]](#footnote-829)
* Upon the reversal of the Supreme Council decision reversal of the Supreme Council decision for no administrative action by a court regarding the *TV 8* broadcast of *“Telegol”* on the 14 October 2012, an administrative fine was issued for the violation of the principle of “human dignity, the sanctity of private life and refraining from using expressions regarding persons or organizations outside the boundaries of criticism that are demeaning, humiliating or outright slander.”[[830]](#footnote-830)
* *A Haber* received a warning for *“Gündem Özel”*s failure to broadcast the disclaimer and correction text issued by Koç Holding.[[831]](#footnote-831)

30 April 2014

* *RTÜK* issued an administrative fineto *Ulusal Kanal* for the 25 February 2014 broadcast of *“Ankara Kulisi”* in which Sabahattin Önkibar made statements regarding the alleged voice recordings of Prime Minister Erdoğan and his son Bilal Erdoğan which were beyond the boundaries of criticism, demeaning and humiliating.[[832]](#footnote-832)
* RTÜKissued an administrative fine to *STV* for the 27 February broadcast of the Main News Bulletin regarding Prime Minister Erdoğan, for the inclusion of “exaggerated sound and visual, unnatural sound effects and music.”[[833]](#footnote-833)

1 May 2014

* *STV* received a fine for the Main News Bulletin on the 3 March 2014 in which Prime Minister Tayyip Erdoğan's speech was “abridged to the degree of manipulation.”[[834]](#footnote-834)
* *Cem TV* received an administrative fine for the 22 February 2014 broadcast of *“Yaşamın İçinden,”* for a violation of the principle “hidden commercial communication is prohibited.”

7 May 2014

* *Artı 1 TV* received a warning for the *“1 de Medya”* program presented by Yavuz Oğhan, broadcast on the 13 March 2014 in which the broadcasting of a voice recording alleged to be between former Prime Ministry Undersecretary Efkan Ala and Istanbul Governor Hüseyin Avni Mutlu violated the provision “compliance to rule of law, justice and impartiality.”[[835]](#footnote-835)

8 May 2014

* *Bugün TV* received an administrative fine for the “Haber 21” program aired on the 17 March 2014 for the piece “meeting in shopping center toilet,” which made allegations against former minister Zafer Çağlayan and Reza Sarraf, for violation of the principle of “rule of law, justice and impartiality.” [[836]](#footnote-836)
* *Haber Türk* and *Show TV* received administrative fines for the programs *“Gün Başlıyor”* and *“Show News with Ece Üner”* for a piece on a family massacre in Kayseri, for the violation of the provision “respect to the sanctity of personal dignity and private life.”[[837]](#footnote-837)
* *Flash TV* received a fine for a Main News Bulletin broadcast in 2007, 7 years after the fact.[[838]](#footnote-838)

9 May 2014

* *Ulusal Kanal* received an administrative fine for the “Matruşka” news program broadcast on the 3 March 2014 regarding the corruption claims for a violation of “personal dignity and the sanctity of private life and going beyond the boundaries of criticism to using expressions that are demeaning, humiliating or outright slander.”[[839]](#footnote-839)
* *Artı 1 TV* received a warning for the Main News Bulletin of the 1 March 2014 in which a report on Reza Sarraf was aired, citing “violation of the principle of rule of law, justice and impartiality.”[[840]](#footnote-840)
* *Artı 1 TV* received an administrative fine for the *“Yekta Kopan'la Cumartesi”* program aired 8 March 2014, regarding slang usage by Cem Yılmaz violating the principle “the use of the Turkish language without overstepping the features and rules, in a pleasing and understandable fall, without base, rude or slang usage.”[[841]](#footnote-841)
* *Halk TV* program *“Öğleden Sonra”* aired the 5 March 2014 and *Beyaz TV* program *“Moderatör”* aired 4 March 2014 and the Main News Bulletin received administrative fines for the coverage of the Kayseri family massacre for violation of “personal dignity and the sanctity of private life.”[[842]](#footnote-842)
* *Halk TV* received an administrative fine for the 10:00 news bulletin on the 6 March 2014 in which a recording alleged to be between Prime Minister Tayyip Erdoğan and former Minister of Justice Sadullah Ergin was played illegally.[[843]](#footnote-843)
* *Bugün TV* *“18 Haber Bülteni”* program aired 04.03.2014 received a warning for the article on “an insane father who murdered his wife and four children before committing suicide” was warned for a violation of “personal dignity and the sanctity of private life.”[[844]](#footnote-844)

10 May 2014

* *Samanyolu Haber*, which aired a recording alleged to be between Prime Minister Tayyip Erdoğan and Osman Ketenci, received a fine. [[845]](#footnote-845),[[846]](#footnote-846)
* *Samanyolu Haber* was warned for hidden advertising of “Kaynak Kültür Yayınları” in the *Güncel* program.[[847]](#footnote-847)
* *Samanyolu Haber*, which broadcasted news regarding Reza Sarraf in the “Güncel,” “Haber Ekranı” and *“Güncel-Sıcak Gündem”* programs received a fine.[[848]](#footnote-848)
* *Samanyolu Haber* received a warning for the *“Haber Ekranı”* program in which Nuh Gönültaş participated on the 25 February 2014, for violating the principle of “the use of the Turkish language without overstepping the features and rules, in a pleasing and understandable fall, without base, rude or slang usage.”[[849]](#footnote-849)
* *Ülke TV* received an administrative fine for the *“Vizyondakiler”* piece in the Main News Bulletin on the 2 March 2014 for violating the provision “broadcasted programs, films, series, music videos, advertisements and promotional films will not depict the use of tobacco product or related visuals.”[[850]](#footnote-850)

12 May 2014

* *Samanyolu Haber* was fined for broadcasting voice recordings alleged to be between former Minister of Interior Affairs Muammer Güler and his son Barış Güler.[[851]](#footnote-851)
* *Samanyolu Haber* was fined for broadcasting voice recordings alleged to be between Prime Minister Tayyip Erdoğan and his son Bilal Erdoğan.[[852]](#footnote-852)
* *Samanyolu Haber* was fined for the news and Güncel program on the 1 March 2014 between 12:59 - 13:42 for the article on Reza Sarraf with the subtitle “you should give your tips first,” for violation of the principle “broadcasting services will respect the rule of law and comply to the principles of justice and impartiality.”[[853]](#footnote-853)

2 June 2014

* *Samanyolu Haber* was fined for broadcasting alleged voice recordings of Prime Minister Tayyip Erdoğan and businessman Erdoğan Demirören on the 7 March 2014 during the “Main News,” “News Bulletin” and “Sıcak Gündem” programs.[[854]](#footnote-854)
* *Bugün TV* was fined for Gültekin Avcı's comments on the voice recordings from the Syria meeting during the *“Güne Bakış”* program.[[855]](#footnote-855)
* *Ulusal Kanal* was fined for comments and criticism on the Syria recordings during the *“Matruşka”* news program.[[856]](#footnote-856)
* *Show TV* *“Pazar Sürprizi”* was fined for displaying Özge Ulusoy's designs on ground of hidden advertisement.[[857]](#footnote-857)

3 June 2014

* *Samanyolu Haber* was fined for claims during the “Main News” and “News” bulletins that the Iranian businessman Reza Sarraf, involved in the 17 December investigation, had given bribes to former Minister for EU Affairs Egemen Bağış.[[858]](#footnote-858)
* *Samanyolu Haber* was fined for broadcasting voice recordings alleged to be between Prime Minister Tayyip Erdoğan and former Minister of Justice Sadullah Ergin during the *“Merhaba Yenigün”* program. [[859]](#footnote-859)
* *Samanyolu Haber* was warned and also fined for the *“Öğleye Doğru”* program which aired visuals alleging Reza Sarraf had given bribes to Egemen Bağış.[[860]](#footnote-860)
* *Halk TV* was given an administrative fine for the *“Gündem Özel”* program in which Emrah Serbes had called in to comment on the *Twitter* ban.[[861]](#footnote-861)
* *Samanyolu Haber* was fined for broadcasting on the programs *“Günün Haberi,” “News Bulletin,” “Merhaba Yenigün”* and *“Haber Ekranı” voice* recordings allegedly belonging to Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and businessman Metin Kalkavan.[[862]](#footnote-862)
* *Ulusal Kanal* *“Main News”* bulletin was fined for violating the media blackout which featured the “Syrian war tapes.”[[863]](#footnote-863)
* *Ulusal Kanal* was fined for comments regarding Berkin Elvan during the *“Ankara Kulisi”* program.[[864]](#footnote-864)
* *Ulusal Kanal* *“Main News”* bulletin was fined for violating the media blackout which featured the “Syrian war tapes.”[[865]](#footnote-865)
* *Artı 1 TV* was issued a warning for broadcasting voice recordings allegedly belonging to former Prime Ministry Undersecretary Efkan Ala and Istanbul Governor Hüseyin Avni Mutlu during the *“1 de Medya”* program.[[866]](#footnote-866)

4 June 2014

* *Kanal D* was issued a fine for damaging the general family structure of Turkish society for the *“Kaynana Gelin Seda'ya Gelin”* program presented by Seda Sayan.[[867]](#footnote-867)
* *CNN Türk* was issued a fine for the *“Aykırı Sorular”* program which hosted author Pınar Kür.[[868]](#footnote-868)

5 June 2014

* *Bugün TV* was fined for the news article entitled “meeting in the shopping center toilet” regarding former Minister of the Economy Zafer Çağlayan and Reza Sarraf.[[869]](#footnote-869)
* *Bugün TV* was fined for 11 programs that featured the news subtitle “Bayram present for Bağış.”[[870]](#footnote-870)

6 June 2014

* *STV* and *Samanyolu Haber* received fines for broadcasting an article in the Main News bulletins featuring alleged voice recordings between İbrahim Kalın, advisor to Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and a businessman.[[871]](#footnote-871)
* *Samanyolu Haber* was fined for broadcasting news featuring an alleged voice recording between Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Osman Ketenci during the “Merhaba Yenigün” program.[[872]](#footnote-872)
* *Samanyolu Haber* received fines for using the subtitle “Bribe or Donation” during five different programs.[[873]](#footnote-873)
* *Artı 1 TV* received a warning for the voice recordings piece broadcast on the 18 March 2014 edition of *“Canlı Gaste.”*[[874]](#footnote-874)
* *STV* was warned and fined for a news article regarding a conversation between Mustafa Varank, advisor to Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and an AKP official.[[875]](#footnote-875)
* *Samanyolu Haber* received a warning for the special effects used in the piece entitled “Really Natural?” during the “Gün Ortası” news bulletin on the 7 March 2014.[[876]](#footnote-876)
* *Meltem TV* was fined for airing a commercial on the 18 March 2014 featuring products “Kibarlı and Kibarlı Panax” on grounds of violation of the principle “the prohibition of misleading articles and damaging consumer interests.” [[877]](#footnote-877)

19 June 2014

* *Ulusal Kanal* received an administrative fine for the article “Unbelievable Accident” broadcast on the “19 Main News” bulletin on the 13 March 2014.[[878]](#footnote-878)
* *Kanal D* received a fine for the *“İrfan Değirmenci İle Günaydın”* program aired on the 9 April 2014 for a news story related to murder, accidents and bodily harm, which were judged to have damaged personal dignity.[[879]](#footnote-879)
* *TGRT Haber* received a fine for hidden commercial advertisements during *“Mola Zamanı.”*[[880]](#footnote-880)
* *Show TV* was fined for the *“Show Main News with Ece Üner”* for a detailed description by suspect Aykut Balk about the rape and murder of a 9 year old named Mert in Kars.[[881]](#footnote-881)
* *Fox TV* was both warned and fined for the *“Not Defteri”* series.[[882]](#footnote-882)
* Kanaltürk Radio was warned for overstepping the boundaries of commentary with the expression used while reading newspapers during the program “Murat Erdin İle Burası Türkiye.”[[883]](#footnote-883)

20 June 2014

* *360 TV* received a warning on the grounds that Arda Turan addressed to the name of the magazine in the interview he made with “Four Four Two” magazine.[[884]](#footnote-884)
* *Ulusal Kanal* was issued an administrative fine for the Main News Bulletin detailing the deaths of political academics and former military officers who had been convicted in the scope of the Sledgehammer and Ergenekon Trials.[[885]](#footnote-885)
* *Meltem TV* received a fine for promotion of tour companies for pilgrimage candidates during the *“Gönül Pınarı”* program.[[886]](#footnote-886)
* *CNN Türk* was fined for airing the Murat Boz and Gülşen music video during the *Main News* bulletin for hidden commercial advertisement.[[887]](#footnote-887)
* *Beyaz TV* was issued an administrative fine, for the complaints received in RTÜK HOT LINE with recpect to the slang language used in TV shows “Beyaz Futbol” and “Derin Futbol.”[[888]](#footnote-888)
* The TV Show “Söylemezsem Olmaz” in *Beyaz TV,* where Senem Kuyucuoğlu appeared as guest star, was issued a fine.[[889]](#footnote-889)

21 June 2014

* *Samanyolu Haber* was issued a fine for the news coverage about tapes allegedly belonging to Prime Minister Erdoğan’s Principal Clerk Hasan Doğan and MP Nurettin Canikli

23 June 2014

* Three TV Shows broadcasted in *Samanyolu Haber,* in which “Does Ala Assume Turkey to be a Tribal State” caption appeared, were issued a fine.[[890]](#footnote-890)
* *Samanyolu Haber* was issued an administrative fine, for violation of the principle of “rule of law, justice and impartiality in broadcasting” with respect to the caption “the Prime Minister decides the headlines” broadcasted in TV Shows “Gün Ortası” dated 10 March 2014 and “Güncel” dated 11 March 2014.[[891]](#footnote-891)
* *Samanyolu Haber* was issued a fine, with respect to the caption “*This is How You Own a Ship!*” broadcasted in the TV Show “Merhaba Yenigün.”[[892]](#footnote-892)
* *Samanyolu Haber* was issued a fine, with respect to the caption *“Erdoğan is claimed to Appoint the Deans”* broadcasted in “Main News Bulletin.”[[893]](#footnote-893)
* *360 TV* was issued a fine, for the violation of the principle of “hidden commercial violation is prohibited” in TV Show “Spor Keyfi” dated 3 May 2014, with respect to Arda Turan's interview with “Four Four Two” magazine 2014 .[[894]](#footnote-894)
* *Kanaltürk* was issued a fine for the news covberage about footbal player in Beşiktaş, Gökhan Töre being injured.[[895]](#footnote-895)
* *Dizimax Drama* channel was issued a fine, with respect to the tobacco scnenes depicted in the movie, “Doc Marchin.”[[896]](#footnote-896)

24 June 2014

* *Samanyolu Haber* was issued a fine for the broadcast “Elections 2014” dated30-31 March 2014 .[[897]](#footnote-897)
* *Samanyolu Haber* was issued a finefor the broadcasted news “Has the Prosecutor's Office put the Prime Minister under examination?.”[[898]](#footnote-898)

10 July 2014

* *Halk TV* was issued an administrative fine for the broadcast about Soma mine accident, dated 14 May 2014, for the violation of the principle of “exaggerated sound and visual, unnatural sound effects and music.”[[899]](#footnote-899)
* *CNN Türk* was issued an administrative fine for the violation of “personal dignity and the sanctity of private life and going beyond the boundaries of criticism to using expressions that are demeaning, humiliating or outright slander” where the rage against Prime Minister Tayyip Erdoğan during Gezi Protests was expressed in the TV Show “Aykırı Sorular” hosted by Enver Aysever, in which Mustafa Altıoklar appeared as a guest, dated 23 April 2014.[[900]](#footnote-900)
* *A Haber* was issued a fine regarding the TV Show “Deşifre,” dated 20 May 2014, for the violation of the principle “no one shall be pleaded or presented guilty unless charged with adjudication; during prosecution process for issues submitted to the jurisdiction, no news coverage that may interfere with the judicial process and its impartiality shall be made.”[[901]](#footnote-901)

11 July 2014

* *Halk TV* was issued an administrative fine, on grounds of violation of the principle “the prohibition of misleading articles and damaging consumer interests,” regarding the promotion and sales of a cosmetic product, in the show dated 29 May 2014.[[902]](#footnote-902)
* *Bugün TV* was issued an administrative fine on the grounds of direct broadcasting of strong language and swearing without any hindrance or conceal, broadcasted in news coverage “tension in Okmeydanı“ in 3 o'clock news bulletin dated 23 May 2014.[[903]](#footnote-903)
* *Ulusal Kanal* was issued an administrative fine on grounds of violation of the principle “shall not prohibit free opinion forming in the society” in Main News Bulletin dated 20 May 2014, presented by Ümit Zileli.[[904]](#footnote-904)
* *Kanal D* was issued an administrative fine on grounds of violation of the principle “The use of the Turkish language without overstepping the features and rules, in a pleasing and understandable fall, without base, rude or slang usage,” regarding “Soma mine disaster” broadcasted in TV Show “32. Gün,” dated 16 May 2014.[[905]](#footnote-905)
* *Beyaz TV* was issued an administrative fine on grounds of violation of the principle “Hidden commercial communication is prohibited” in episodes of TV sports program “Derin Futbol” dated 19.5.2014 - 20.5.2014.[[906]](#footnote-906)
* *Artı 1 TV* was issued warning on grounds that “Hidden commercial communication is prohibited” in TV show “Sağlık İçin” broadcasted on 2 June 2014.[[907]](#footnote-907)

14 July 2014

* *Halk TV* was issued an administrative fine on grounds of violation of the principle “to human dignity...” with respect to comments of the guests on the TV show “Öğleden Sonra” dated 14 May 2014, regarding Soma disaster.[[908]](#footnote-908)
* *Halk TV* was issued an administrative fine on grounds of violation of the principle “going beyond the boundaries of criticism to using expressions that are demeaning, humiliating or outright slander to people and organisations” in TV show “Ezber Bozanlar” dated 25 April 2014, regarding the comments about Prime Minister Tayyip Erdoğan, by the program hosts Eren Erdem and Ayşe Acar as well as program guest Mustafa Altıoklar.[[909]](#footnote-909)
* *STV* was issued warning on grounds of violation of the principle “The prohibition of misleading articles and damaging consumer interests” with respect to smart phone promotion and sales broadcasted on 20 May 2014, at 8.15.[[910]](#footnote-910)
* *Cem TV* was issued an administrative fine on grounds of violation of the principle “… use of exaggerated sound and visual, unnatural sound effects and music in news coverage” in “Never Ending Domestic Violence” broadcasted in TV show “Uyan Türkiye” dated 20 May 2014.[[911]](#footnote-911)
* *Cem TV* was issued an administrative fine on grounds of violation of the principle “No audio and/or visual warning that the organisation in question is broadcasting commercial communication” regarding “Cem Radyo” promotion broadcasted on 15 May 2014.[[912]](#footnote-912)

15 July 2014

* *Cem TV* was issued an administrative fine on grounds of violation of the principle, 27 - 29 May “Hidden commercial communication is prohibited.”[[913]](#footnote-913)
* *Bugün TV* was issued an administrative fine on grounds of violation of the principle “Hidden commercial communication is prohibited” regarding news coverage “Samba dancers in Kanaltürk” broadcasted in sports bulletin dated 3 June 2014.[[914]](#footnote-914)
* *STV* was issued an administrative fine on grounds of violation of the principle “… use of exaggerated sound and visual, unnatural sound effects and music in news coverage...” with respect to the news coverage “Funerals are Held” in Main News Bulletin dated 15 May 2014, regarding the Soma mine disaster.[[915]](#footnote-915)
* *Cem TV* was issued an administrative fine on grounds of violation of the principle “Hidden commercial communication is prohibited” in TV Show “Bahar’la Güzel Şeyler” broadcasted on the 13 and 20 May 2014.[[916]](#footnote-916)
* *Mesaj TV* was issued an administrative fine on grounds of violation of the principle “The prohibition of misleading articles and damaging consumer interests” in commercial communication broadcast with the “Tele-Alışveriş” logo, dated 4 June 2014.[[917]](#footnote-917)

16 July 2014

* *Halk TV* was issued an administrative fine on grounds of violation of the principle “no use of exaggerated sound and visual, unnatural sound effects and music in news coverage” in 12 o'clock news bulletin, dated 31 May 2014, regarding Gezi Park demonstrations.[[918]](#footnote-918)
* *Halk TV* was issued an administrative fine on grounds of violation of the principle “The use of the Turkish language without overstepping the features and rules, in a pleasing and understandable fall, without base, rude or slang usage” with respect to the comments of program guests about Soma mine disaster, in the TV program prepared and presented by former minister Yaşar Okuyan, dated 25 May 2014. [[919]](#footnote-919)
* *Flash TV* was issued an administrative fine on grounds of violation of the principle “prohibition of competition or lottery through information media as well as distributing or intermediation of lottery prize” in the mobile phone advertorial broadcasted on 28 May 2014, at 9.10.[[920]](#footnote-920)
* *STV* and *Samanyolu Haber* were issued an administrative fine on grounds of violation of the principle“in radio and television broadcasting services programs that may harm the physical, mental or moral development of children and youths will not be broadcasted during times that they may be watching and without using smart signs” with respect to drug news broadcasted in Main News Bullettin dated 2 June 2014.[[921]](#footnote-921)
* 360 TV was issued an administrative fine on grounds of violation of the principle “Hidden commercial communication is prohibited” in TV program “Stüdyo Platin” dated 25 May 2014.[[922]](#footnote-922)

24 July 2014

* *Kanaltürk* was issued an administrative fine on grounds of violation of the principle “in radio and television broadcasting services programs that may harm the physical, mental or moral development of children and youths will not be broadcasted during times that they may be watching and without using smart signs” regarding the TV series “Fatmagül’ün Suçu Ne” broadcasted on 2 June 2014.[[923]](#footnote-923)

25 July 2014

* *Halk TV* was issued an administrative fine on grounds of violation of the principle “rule of law, justice and impartiality in broadcasting” with respect to the tapes of alleged phone call between Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and his son Bilal Erdoğan, broadcasted in the news bulletin dated 7 June 2014.[[924]](#footnote-924)
* *Top Shop TV* was issued a warning, on the groundsof violation of the principle “Prohibition of competition or lottery through information media as well as distributing or intermediation of lottery prize” in tele-marketing broadcasts dated 3-4-5-6 June 2014, where audience providing the correct answer to the question “Denizin Ortasında Ne Var?” were given prizes.[[925]](#footnote-925)
* *A9 TV* was issued a warning, on the groundsof violation of the principle “Prohibition of unfair advantage” as to Adnan Oktar unveiling the identity and screening the picture of an audience that sent abusive messages, in the TV show “Adnan Oktar ile Sohbetler,” dated 30 May 2014.[[926]](#footnote-926)

11 August 2014

* *Halk TV* was issued an administrative fine on grounds of violation of the principle *“The prohibition of misleading articles and damaging consumer interests”* as to commercial communication of an alleged cosmetic product “*slimming, firming and cellulite free*” via tele-marketing, broadcasted on 16 June 2014 .[[927]](#footnote-927)
* *TRT Haber* was issued an administrative fine on grounds of violation of the principle “Broadcasted programs, films, series, music videos, advertisements and promotional films will not depict the use of tobacco product or related visuals” with respect to Traditional MÜSİAD İftar Dinner, broadcasted live on 29 June 2014.[[928]](#footnote-928)
* *Star TV* was issued a fine for using children for commercial and advertorial purposes, in game show “O Ses Çocuklar” broadcasted on 21 June 2014.[[929]](#footnote-929)
* *STV* and *Samanyolu Haber* were issued an administrative fine on grounds of violation of the principle “Hidden commercial communication is prohibited” with respect to the news coverage with the headlines“Champions' Address,” “ Fethullah Gülen makes us Proud, 3 in Rank shakes the social media” and “He received the good news at Umrah” regarding LYS exam results, broadcasted in Main News Bulletin, dated 28 June 2014 .[[930]](#footnote-930)
* *Smart TV* was issued a fine as to mobile phone promotion and sales tele-marketing broadcast dated 13 June 2014.[[931]](#footnote-931)

25 August 2014

* *Flash TV* was issued an administrative fine on grounds of violation of the principle “Prohibition of competition or lottery through information media as well as distributing or intermediation of lottery prize” as to awarding a prize of necklace & ring for providing the correct answer in advertorials dated 15 - 16 - 17 - 18 - 20 June 2014.[[932]](#footnote-932)
* *Cem TV* was issued an administrative fine on grounds of violation of the principle “Hidden commercial communication is prohibited” as to program guest İbrahim Gökçek promoting products developed by him in the TV show “Sağlıklı Yaşam” dated 3 July 2014 .[[933]](#footnote-933)
* *Bugün TV* was issued an administrative fine on grounds of violation of the principle “Hidden commercial communication is prohibited” as to news coverage about LYS exam results in the newscast presented by Ceren Bektaş, dated 28 June 2014.[[934]](#footnote-934)

2 September 2014

* As to the investigation made regarding the petition given by HSYK, *Bugün TV* was issued an administrative fine on grounds of violation of the principle *“News having the possibility to be investigated in the frame of professional media principles shall not be broadcasted without investigation and validation; shall be on grounds of the principles of impartiality, authenticity and validity”* with respect to the news coverage aboutHigh Council of Judges and Prosecutors (HSYK) appointment decree for summer 2014, broadcasted on newcasts dated 24/25 June 2014.[[935]](#footnote-935)
* As to the investigation made regarding the petition given by HSYK *Samanyolu Haber* and *STV* wereissued an administrative fine on grounds of violation of the principle *“News having the possibility to be investigated in the frame of professional media principles shall not be broadcasted without investigation and validation; shall be on grounds of the principles of impartiality, authenticity and validity”* with respect to the news coverage aboutHigh Council of Judges and Prosecutors' (HSYK) appointment decree for summer 2014, broadcasted on newcasts dated 24/25 June 2014.[[936]](#footnote-936)
* *Cem TV* was issued an administrative fine on grounds of violation of the principle *“The prohibition of misleading articles and damaging consumer interests”* as to broadcasting advertorial of herbal product “Furkan Bitki Çayı,” broadcasted in advertorials, dated 07 / 14 July 2014.[[937]](#footnote-937)
* *Kanal D* was issued an administrative fine on grounds of violation of the principle “The use of the Turkish language without overstepping the features and rules, in a pleasing and understandable fall, without base, rude or slang usage” in musical game show “X Factor Star Işığı” broadcasted on 09 / 16 July 2014.[[938]](#footnote-938)
* *Kanal D* was issued an administrative fine on grounds of violation of the principle “in radio and television broadcasting services programs that may harm the physical, mental or moral development of children and youths will not be broadcasted during times that they may be watching and without using smart signs”in TV series “Güllerin Savaşı” broadcasted on 8 July 2014.[[939]](#footnote-939)
* Beyaz TV was issued an administrative fine on grounds of violation of the principle “incompatible with human dignity, going beyond the boundaries of criticism to using expressions that are demeaning, humiliating or outright slander to people and organisations” with respect to program guest AKP Gaziantep MP Şamil Tayyar’s comments about MHP ve CHP not having an in-house candidate in Presidential elections, in editorial TV program “Son Söz” broadcasted on 15 July 2014.[[940]](#footnote-940)
* *Beyaz TV* was issued an administrative fine on grounds of violation of the principle *“use of exagurated sound and visual, unnatural sound effects and music in news coverage is prohibited”* regarding the news coverage titled “Withstood for Six Hours” about Israil attacks to Gazze, broadcasted in main news bulletin “Beyaz Haber,” dated 16.07.2014.[[941]](#footnote-941)

3 September 2014

* *Bugün TV* was issued an administrative fine on grounds of violation of the principle *“Hidden commercial communication is prohibited”* as to broadcasting of interview with two successful students in LYS exam in news bullettins dated 06 - 07 July 2014.[[942]](#footnote-942)
* Flash TV was issued an administrative fine on grounds of violation of the principle “Prohibition of competition or lottery through information media as well as distributing or intermediation of lottery prize” regarding mobile phone advertorials broadcasted on 19-21-23-25-27-29 June 2014 and on 01-03 July 2014.[[943]](#footnote-943)
* *Cem TV* was issued an administrative fine on grounds of violation of the principle *“Hidden commercial communication is prohibited”* in TV show “Sağlıklı Yaşam,” broadcasted on 10 July 2014.[[944]](#footnote-944)
* Halk TV was issued an administrative fine on grounds of violation of the principle “in television and radio broadcasting services, advertorials and tele-marketing are regulated so as to be easily distinguished with other program aspects and be clearly recognized with an audio and/or visual warning” regarding the promotion and commercial communication in the broadcast streaming dated 24 June 2014 .[[945]](#footnote-945)

11 September 2014

* Songül Karlı's TV show in *Kanaltürk* was issued a fine for encouraging and justifying violence, via hosting a criminal having injured his wife 43 times with a screwdriver. As to the aforementioned broadcast, the television channel was issued a fine of two percent of pervious month's advertisement revenues, with respect to the violation of the provisions of Law Numbered 6112, article 8/1, item (s).[[946]](#footnote-946)

13 September 2014

* *Gün TV*’ye was issued a warning on the grounds of *“Broadcasting graphic violence”* in the movie *“*ThePianist*”* where story of a Jewish pianist surviving from German detention camps during World War II is depicted.[[947]](#footnote-947)

19 September 2014

* “Seda Sayan Show” broadcasted on *Show TV*’de was issued fines for two seperate violations, where Sefer Çalınak an ex-convict who murdered both his wives and then released by amnesty was hosted. As to program host Seda Sayan’s statements about Çalınak, “You are world-wide known,” “Have you ever seen such a lovely murderer?” encouraging crimes and criminals, it has been stressed that the principle “*prohibition of praising crimes, criminals and crime syndicates*” was violated. Furthermore, by majority vote, RTÜK Higher Board members issued a fine of *“ 170 000 TL that equals to two percent of advertisement revenues”* on the grounds of violating the principle “*promotion of violence & supression against women, abuse of women and behaviors inimical to gender mainstreaming*.”[[948]](#footnote-948)

21 September 2014

* On grounds of violation of the principle *“Hidden commercial communication is prohibited”* regarding the news coverage about İpek Universty, broadcasted in TV programs “Her Sabah“ in *Kanaltürk,* on 06 August 2014 and in newscast in *Bugün TV* on 05/06 August 2014, aforementioned TV channels were issued administrative fines.[[949]](#footnote-949)’
* Kanaltürk and Bugün TV were issued administrative fines on grounds of violation of the principle “in radio and television broadcasting services programs that may harm the physical, mental or moral development of children and youths will not be broadcasted during times that they may be watching and without using smart signs” as to the news coverage about killing of two kittens broadcasted in news bulletins dated 12 August 2014.[[950]](#footnote-950)
* *TV Net* was issued a warning on the grounds of violation of the principle “no one shall be pleaded or presented guilty unless charged with adjucation; during prosecution process for issues submitted to the jurisdiction, no news coverage that may interfere with the judicial process and its impartiality shall be made” regarding news coverage about Mustafa Özcan, broadcasted on 28 March 2014.[[951]](#footnote-951)
* *Fox TV* was issued an administrative fine on grounds of violation of the principle *“The ratio of program promotions shall not exceed five percent of the hourly broadcasting stream”* regarding the advert break in the TV series“Ruhumun Aynası,” broadcasted on 5 August 2014 .[[952]](#footnote-952)
* A Haber was issued a warning on the grounds of violation of the principle “prohibition of broadcasting and promoting discrimination and humiliation of individuals on the basis of, race, colour, language, religion, nationality, gender, disability, political or philosophical point of view, sect or region” regarding the statements of program guest, historian-author Kadir Mısıroğlu about Presidential Candidate Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu in TV show “Deşifre,” broadcasted on 07 August 2014 .[[953]](#footnote-953)

22 September 2014

* *Bugün TV* was issued an administrative fine on grounds of violation of the principle “in radio and television broadcasting services programs that may harm the physical, mental or moral development of children and youths will not be broadcasted during times that they may be watching and without using smart signs” regarding news coveragetitled “Dövmek de parayla” broadcasted in 7 o'clock news stream dated 10 July 2014.[[954]](#footnote-954)
* *Halk TV* was issued an administrative fine on grounds of violation of the principle *“The prohibition of misleading articles and damaging consumer interests”* with respect to communication of a metal commercial product used for cutting regarding the statements “Magic Saw; a mutli-fuctional saw for wood, aluminium, iron, ceramics, glass, wall tiles, pvc, etc. First in Turkey“ broadcasted on 18 August 2014.[[955]](#footnote-955)
* Bugün TV was issued a warning on grounds of violation of the principle “…other then being newsworthy, probation of interfering with judicial process and impartiality for issues submitted to jurisdiction” regarding the news about policemen taken into custody during the operation performed to security directorate, that was broadcasted in 7 o'clock news, dated 26 July 2014 .[[956]](#footnote-956)
* *Cem TV* was issued an administrative fine on grounds of violation of the principle *“The prohibition of misleading articles and damaging consumer interests”* regarding the herbal product advert broadcasted on advertorials dated 25 August 2014.[[957]](#footnote-957)
* Number One TV was issued a warning on grounds of violation of the principle “News having the possibility to be investigated in the frame of professional media principles shall not be broadcasted without investigation and validation; shall be on grounds of the principles of impartiality, authenticity and validity; and shall not prohibit free opinion forming in the society” in the news coverage titled “World Wide News in 60 Seconds” regarding Axa Oyak broadcasted in news bulletin dated 18 August 2014.[[958]](#footnote-958)
* Haber Türk was issued a warning sanction on grounds of violation of the principle *“in strip advertising, the advert space shall not exceed 20% of screen space”* regarding the strip advertisement appeared during editorial program “İletişim Pazarı” on 17 August 2014.[[959]](#footnote-959)
* *HaberTürk* was issued an administrative fine on grounds of violation of the principle “*Hidden commercial communication is prohibited”* regarding the tobacco brand appeared on screen during TV program “Teke Tek” presented by Fatih Altaylı, dated 22 July 2014.[[960]](#footnote-960)
* It has been decided to issue a warning to *Kral Pop* on grounds of violation of the principle “in radio and television broadcasting services programs that may harm the physical, mental or moral development of children and youths will not be broadcasted during times that they may be watching and without using smart signs” regarding Calvin Harris’ video clip “Summer” broadcasted on 12 June 2014.[[961]](#footnote-961)
* *Fox TV* was issued an administrative fine on grounds of violation of the principle *“The ratio of program promotions shall not exceed five percent of the hourly broadcasting stream”* regarding advert of TV series “Ruhumun Aynası” broadcasted on 5 August 2014.[[962]](#footnote-962)
* *Artı 1 TV* was issued an administrative fine on grounds of violation of the principle “ *respect to the sanctity of personal dignity and private life”* in news coverage regarding CHP Secretary General Gürsel Tekin playing recordings of the alleged phone call between Bilal Erdoğan and Ministry of National Education & Türgev Management in the press conference, broadcasted in +1 Main News Bullettin dated 4 August 2014 .[[963]](#footnote-963)

24 September 2014

* RTÜK submitted to Supreme Electoral Council (YSK) approximately 100 reports about television channels violating codes specifc to electoral period. Based on these reports, YSK issued a number of fines to TV channels, including *A Haber*, *Halk TV, TRT Türk, 360 TV, NTV*. Since YSK decisions are subject to contention of unconstitutionality, for this uniliteral action, there will be no submitting to jurisdiction.[[964]](#footnote-964)

28 September 2014

* On 9 September 2014, after the broadcasting of TV series “Küçük Ağa,” with respect to the complaints made to RTÜK by a number of people about the fiction child character Mehmet Can being “a liar, unreliable, a debaucher, a briber, disrespectful to elders, a violator, disorderly, a violator of confidentiality of private life, a promise breaker, vengeful, pretentious, etc.”; some of which are: “Children will be adversely effected by child character being identified with playboy and throwing party,” “Bribery is encouraged,” “Running away from home is promoted. Children are adversely effected by lying and promise breaking habits of the child character,” *Kanal D* was issued a cash fine of 156,000 TL.[[965]](#footnote-965)

2 October 2014

* *Star TV* was issued an administrative fine on grounds of violation of the principle “Broadcasted programs, films, series, music videos, advertisements and promotional films will not depict the use of tobacco product or related visuals” regarding screening of a smoking lady in the football match between FC Porto team and Frenchn Losc Lille team, in the scope of qualifying rounds of UEFA Champions League, dated 26 August 2014 .[[966]](#footnote-966)
* *Show TV* was issued a warning on grounds of violation of the principle *“prohibition of promoting alcohol, tobacco and addictive drug use as well as gambling”* stated in Broadcasting Principles, chapter three, eight article, first clause, paragraph (h); regarding the lyrics of the song performed by program guest Pau in TV show *Gülben*, dated 9 November 2013.[[967]](#footnote-967)
* *STV* was issued an administrative fine on grounds of violation of the principle “in radio and television broadcasting services programs that may harm the physical, mental or moral development of children and youths will not be broadcasted during times that they may be watching and without using smart signs,” in TV series Küçük Gelin, broadcasted on 24 – 31 August 2014 .[[968]](#footnote-968)
* *Kanaltürk* was issued an administrative fine on grounds of violation of the principle “promotion of violence & suppression against women, abuse of women and behaviour inimical to gender mainstreaming” in TV show *Songül Karlı ile Yeniden, broadcasted on* 27 – 28st August 2014 .[[969]](#footnote-969)

24 October 2014

* RTÜK investigated and issued 76,000 TL fine to STV on grounds of the violation of the principle “suicide and violence scenes depicted in the TV series influencing physical and mental abuse of youth, regarding the TV series, Küçük Gelin.[[970]](#footnote-970)
* After RTÜK imposed penalties neither to the publisher nor to the broadcast, regarding use of “*libellous*” statements in TV show *Resmi Tarihten Gerçek Tarihe* broadcasted inKanal *A* by permanent program guest Sait Alpsoy, about the founder of Turkish Republic Mustafa Kemal Atatürk and CHP, RTÜK member made the following statement: *“Not punishing one to call Atatürk, CHP 'Godless'! On the other hand, imposing heaviest penalty on people to make insignificant criticism about President [Tayyip Erdoğan](http://www.hurriyet.com.tr/index/recep_tayyip_erdo%C4%9Fan" \t "_blank" \o "Tayyip Erdoğan) or any member of the ruling party AKP. It's a total unlawful act.”*[[971]](#footnote-971) (After the issue has been reflected to the press, in early November, RTÜK decided on a penalty.)

14 November 2014

* Show TV was issued a fine of 200,000 TL on grounds of violation of the principle” in radio and television broadcasting services programs that may harm the physical, mental or moral development of children and youths will not be broadcasted during times that they may be watching and without using smart signs” with respect to the complaints of people regarding the game show, Bu Tarz Benim.[[972]](#footnote-972)

19 November 2014

* The Radio and Television Supreme Council rendered the movie “*İlişki (Two Moon Junction,”* depicting a young girl graduating from school and going back home to “*meet the right guy*” but getting involved in a relationship with someone else who totally disapproves with “Turkish moral codes” and “obscene,” hence issuing a break penalty to TV channel MGM out of obscenity.[[973]](#footnote-973)

25 November 2014

* Alleged propaganda of a news paper broadcasted in Fox TV was ordered to be punished on grounds of making “secret advertisement.” During the program *“İsmail Küçükkaya ile Çalar Saat”* broadcasted on Fox TV on Nov 7th, an article about Deniz Gezmiş was praised and the audience were encouraged to “**buy a newspaper** “[[974]](#footnote-974)

27 November 2014

* RTÜK issued no fines to a program of Kanal A, on grounds of calling Atatürk'e “briber.” While members selected from CHP, MHP and BDP quota asserted that “*Atatürk is insulted, penalty should be imposed*,” five members selected from AKP quota resolved that “There is no insult,” hence issuing n fines for the TV channel. Ali Öztunç from CHP quota claimed that these five members of RTÜK to have a secret agenda, that they want to take revenge from Atatürk, saying “*Esat Çıplak and I, together, will resort to jurisdiction.”* Çıplak from MHP quota “objected to the decision, saying “Such a mentality of AKP has penetrated to all levels of governmental institutions.” Previously, in the same program, named Atatürk and CHP to be godless, hence the TV channel was issued a warning. [[975]](#footnote-975)

18 December 2014

* RTÜK president Davut Dursun issued a 150 TL fine to the RTÜK member who had insultedd Ali Öztunç by shouting, and attempting to assult him by saying “why don't you defend Islam, or Palestine as much as you do Atatürk“.[[976]](#footnote-976)

19 December 2014

* The Radio and Television Supreme Council issued 410 000 TL fine to Kanal D, on grounds of violating the principle of RTÜK legislation, *“prohibition of broadcasts to be against national and moral values of the society, public morality, and the principle to preserve family,”* with respect to the game, “men dancing with other women to make the spouses jealous,” presented in game show “My Spouse Knows the Best,” broadcasted on Kanal D.[[977]](#footnote-977)

20 December 2014

* RTÜK's report regarding the TV series Sungurlar broadcasted on STV states “the tv series should be broadcasted after midnight wit +18 smart sign, rather then +7 violence/fear, negative behaviour smart sign.” Two separate smart sign violations were deemed about violence and smart signs; hence, it has been decided to issue a fine regarding violence. In addition, a warning is issued about the smart signs.[[978]](#footnote-978)

31 December 2014

* RTÜK issued a 408 000TL fine to Kanal D on grounds that the promotion broadcasts of the tv series “Şeref Meselesi,” “Ulan İstanbul“ and “Arkadaşım Hoşgeldin” violating the principle of RTÜK legislation “The ratio of program promotions shall not exceed five percent of the hourly broadcasting stream.”[[979]](#footnote-979)

## Domestic and Foreign Reactions to Violation of Freedoms

27 March 2014

* After banning of *Twitter* and *YouTube*’un one after another, EU Enlargement Commissioner Stefan Füle asked “Will there be an end to it?” and severely criticised Turkey.[[980]](#footnote-980)

28 March 2014

* International organisations reacted to hindering access to social media organs that have active role in publicizing alleged corruption and bribery.[[981]](#footnote-981)

5 April 2014

* USA management stated contentment about allowing access to *Twitter*’ın; hence issuing a call to Turkish Government for lifting *YouTube* ban also.[[982]](#footnote-982)

11 April 2014

* Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (AKPM), stated that blocking off *Twitter* ve *YouTube* in Turkey during election period is a violation of freedom of expression.[[983]](#footnote-983)

14 April 2014

* In her speech in the annual conference of American Turkish Associations Assembly, USA Ministry of Foreign Affairs Turkey Desk Chief Amanda Sloat stated, “We have made criticisms about restrictions to Internet freedom, including *Twitter* ve *YouTube*’u interdicts of Turkish Government.”[[984]](#footnote-984)

19 April 2014

* USA Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Doug Frantz stated that oppression to journalists, journalism being counted as an offense, media ban such as *Twitter* and *YouTube*, will result in Turkey to be associated with countries such as China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, İran, hence severely damaging its country image.[[985]](#footnote-985)

24 April 2014

* Human Rights Watch censured Turkey violating its liabilities arising from international law and forcing to repatriate Azeri journalist Rauf Mirgadirov. The organisation stated that the journalist being taken under custody and getting arrested right after he arrived Azerbaijani left the impression that it was a coordinated operation between the two countries.[[986]](#footnote-986)

29 April 2014

* Human Rights Watch stated that MİT Law will harm the principle of accountability of the state, freedom of press, and right to immunity of private life. The organisation stressed that the journalists that revealed violation of rights accredited with MİT are threatened with imprisonment.[[987]](#footnote-987)

1 May 2014

* In its report for 2014, the *Freedom House*, that monitoors freedom of press all over the world brought Turkey from “partially free countries” category down to “unfree countries” category for the first time in 15 years.[[988]](#footnote-988)

2 May 2014

* Politicians reacted to severe police intervention to demonstration that took place overall Turkey on May 1st. Politicians made their statements to *Evrensel* paper, criticising Prime Minister's statements on May 1st, asserting that such severe police intervention merely happen in authoritarian regimes.[[989]](#footnote-989)
* Wall Street Journal indicated that they have concerns about “tactics” of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan sets model for other countries; and Turkish Government being “one of the most tenacious Internet censors in the world.”[[990]](#footnote-990)
* Freedom House President David Kramer evaluated Freedom House report for Freedom of Press for Cihan News Agency (CHA) stated that in Turkey, people have lost the ability to live by being journalists.[[991]](#footnote-991)
* Despite *Freedom House*’s report about “relegating” Turkey regarding freedom of press, Minister of Foreign Affairs Ahmet Davutoğlu claimed that journalists in Turkey have more freedom then that of their colleagues globally.[[992]](#footnote-992)

4 May 2014

* Yurt Paper published a black front page, asserting AKP to be responsible for Turkey relegating to no freedom of press category.[[993]](#footnote-993)

10 May 2014

* Star paper, editor in chief Yusuf Ziya Cömert criticised, TBB President Metin Feyzioğlu regarding his speech in the Council of State , saying “Are you a journalist? Is it your concern?”[[994]](#footnote-994)

11 May 2014

* Two journalists from *Yenişafak* paper asserted their comments about Freedom House report. Mehmet Barlas evaluated the report to reflect the global double standards, claiming that in Turkey, the period of appointing the prime minister, having a share from tenders is over; hence, number of imprisoned journalists are not as many as stated in the report. Etyen Mahçupyan stated that, there are no differences between a journalist or a doctor or engineer with respect to committing a crime. He further claimed that Freedom House is not reputable, respectable even in the States.[[995]](#footnote-995)

14 May 2014

* Kocaeli Journalists Association censured riot police's attitude towards journalists during the intervention to a group protesting mine disaster in Soma, town of Manisa province.[[996]](#footnote-996)

15 May 2014

* In its condolence message for workers killed in Soma, Platform for Freedom to Journalists reacted to slowing of news stream.[[997]](#footnote-997)

17 May 2014

* Turkish Journalists Union, reacted to police brutality toward journalists in Soma.[[998]](#footnote-998)

19 May 2014

* Retired Ambassador and politician Onur Öymen stated that press used to react to censorship in the media, however, now media bosses are trying to make up to the government as to oppression.[[999]](#footnote-999)
* In the statement made by Press Council in the name of Platform for Freedom to Journalists, it is stated that “President Tayyip Erdoğan making a call to media bosses to fire journalists is far beyond freedom of press; which is ignoring it..”[[1000]](#footnote-1000)

25 May 2014

* Occupational organisations deemed Prosecutor Mehmet Aydın demanding 52 years imprisonment for Taraf columnist Mehmet Baransu and Taraf newspaper former Managing Editor Murat Şevki Çoban regarding “2004 MGK decisions paper” to be a “a major blow to freedom of press and expression.”[[1001]](#footnote-1001)

1 June 2014

* Çukurova Journalists Association Executive Board stated police intervention with water cannons, pepper spray and shields to journalists at work on the demonstrations in Adana Atatürk Parkı for the first anniversary of Gezi Events to be unacceptable.[[1002]](#footnote-1002)

2 June 2014

* Turkish Federation of Journalists(TGF) Chairperson and President of İzmir Association of Journalists (İGC) Başkanı Atilla Sertel censured violation of freedom of reporting and disseminating news for press members during the first anniversary of Gezi Events.[[1003]](#footnote-1003)
* The incidents that took place all over Turkey in the first anniversary of Gezi Park Events got reactions from Europe. Avrupa Konseyi İnsan Hakları Komiseri Nils Muiznieks stated that, “Misconduct of security forces has formed a direct threat to the rule of law, which is intolerable.”[[1004]](#footnote-1004)
* In Adana, members of DİSK, KESK, TMMOB and Adana Chamber of Physicians reacted to the police brutality and intervention towards the demonstrations on the first anniversary of Gezi Park movement.[[1005]](#footnote-1005)
* In Adana, solicitors made denunciation regarding the police brutality towards people who gathered and disbanded after the press statement made in Atatürk Park, with respect to the anniversary of Gezi Park events.[[1006]](#footnote-1006)

4 June 2014

* TGC President Turgay Olcayto censured the systematic police brutality towards journalists in social events. Olcayto stated that, “In Turkey, the dignity of democracy is diminishing day by day. Such a shame on people's freedom of information shall be anihiliated.”[[1007]](#footnote-1007)
* One of the reputable NGOs, CPJ (Committee to Project Journalists) as well as US Department of Foreign Affairs reacted to Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan accusing *CNN International* correspondent being an “agent.”[[1008]](#footnote-1008)
* USA Ministry of Foreign Affairs Vice-Spokesman deemed Prime Minister Erdoğan’s claims about CNN correspondent Watson being an agent to be “ridiculous and nonsense.”[[1009]](#footnote-1009)
* CPJ called in Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and all other authorities to avoid making statements that encourage media hostility and that are gruesome & irrisponsible. Europe and Mid-Asia Coordinator of the Committee Nina Ognuanova stated that the Prime Minister's statements about journalists are worrisome.[[1010]](#footnote-1010)

5 June 2014

* TGC Chairperson Turgay Olcayto censured the systematic police brutality towards journalists in social events. Olcayto stated that since the Gezi events, systematic police brutality towards journalists have been increased.[[1011]](#footnote-1011)
* Reporters Without Borders protested censorship application on reportrs related anti-government protests and the excessive use of force on journalists by police. The organiatyion called on the prime minister to stop violence towards journalists on the anniversary of the Gezi events. The organisation asked the premier to put an end to antagonist statements, claiming that attitude set the grounds for the aggression.[[1012]](#footnote-1012)
* During his visit to Malatya Journalists Association, AKP Malatya Province Chairman stated that “We are quite aware that our colleagues working especially in the country, in Eastern provinces are exposed to severe oppression.”[[1013]](#footnote-1013)

6 June 2014

* Adana Bar President Solicitor Mengücek, came together with journalists in breakfast briefing in Gazi Çıtırık Bar Premises and stated that fundamental rights and freedoms have deteriorated for 12 years when AKP was in power.[[1014]](#footnote-1014)

12 June 2014

* First report of the *“Press for Freedom“* project implemented by Ankara Journalists Association within the scope European Unşon Delegation’s Civil Society Facility Turkey was published (with three months delay). The report underlines the necessity for governments to welcome transparent and accountable management responsibilities and all sorts of criticism; in their words *“Disagreeing with state's decisions, and expressing via different media is a democratic right, itself.”*[[1015]](#footnote-1015)

17 June 2014

* TGC Executive Board stated that the media blackout regarding the Mousul incident is a new type of censorship to the right to information of the public.[[1016]](#footnote-1016)

18 June 2014

* In the case opened by Evrensel newspaper , ECHR decided that “in European Court of Human Rights, Turkey violated the 6 article about fair trial and 10 article about freedom of expression.”[[1017]](#footnote-1017)
* Çukurova Journalists Association censured the media blackout regarding the Turkish hostages in ISIL raid to Turkish Consulate General in Musul, stating this to be unacceptable with respect to freedom of information.[[1018]](#footnote-1018)
* On behalf of Bizim Gazete - daily news paper - Turkish Journalists Association raised an objection against media blackout regarding raids of terrorist organisation ISIS. In the petition of the lawsuit brought against the media blackout decree of Ankara 9. Criminal Court, dated 16 June, it was stressed that the decree stands as an intervention to freedom of press and censorship.[[1019]](#footnote-1019)
* In his statement about the media blackout regarding ISIL raid, MHP Vice chairmanSemih Yalçın indicated that, “Prime Minister Erdoğan signalled a possible media blackout about the situation in Mousul, which is then followed by court decree and RTÜK decision.”[[1020]](#footnote-1020)

19 June 2014

* International Organisation for Reporters Without Borders censured media blackout in Turkey regarding ISIL kidnapping Mousul Embassy staff members.[[1021]](#footnote-1021)
* In “+1T Design Week” hosted by Zaman newspaper , Cüneyt Özdemir - as a guest - stated that technology would never extinguish journalism, however, the essential problem of journalism is restricting the freedom of press.[[1022]](#footnote-1022)

23 June 2014

* TGC Executive Board made a statement to censor 10 journalists being attacked by private security guards in Fırat University 2014 Spring Fest, while they were trying to doing their jobs.[[1023]](#footnote-1023)
* Free Journalists Association (ÖGC) made a statement about imprisoned journalists that Dicle News Agency (DİHA) reporter Abdullah Çetin “has been in prison for 2.5 years for journalism”; that his trial will be on June 24 in Siirt High Criminal Court and called in for awareness for Çetin’s trial.[[1024]](#footnote-1024)

24 June 2014

* In his article titled *“Censoring Mousul news is unacceptable”* Hürriyet columnist Sedat Ergin underlined that restrictions brought by courts to freedom of press has been drastically disseminated and systematized.[[1025]](#footnote-1025)
* İstanbul Association of Local Journalists protested the attack to members of the local press in Silivri.[[1026]](#footnote-1026)

26 June 2014

* CHP Vice chairmanSezgin Tanrıkulu presented a case to Ankara 9. High Criminal Court to cancel the media blackout decree regarding the attack to Turkish Consulate General in Mousul.[[1027]](#footnote-1027)
* HDP, Group Deputy Chairman submitted a resolution to Speakership of Parliament Pervin Buldan to investigate massacre of Kurdish press labourers. In the justification of the resolution, Buldan referred to history of Kurdish press and stated that Kurdish newspapers has always been under oppression.[[1028]](#footnote-1028)
* Southeast Journalists Association, assembled in Diyarbakır under the chairmanship of Press Council President Pınar Türenç. Türenç expressed the oppressions and difficulties faced by the journalists: “Politics is extinguishing free journalism, however, free journalism can be hindered by no one.”[[1029]](#footnote-1029)

28 June 2014

* Brussels reacted to Taraf newspaper undergoing a tax audit, initiated by Ministry of Finance. AB Commissioner Füle said: “such a segregation would injure press freedom.”[[1030]](#footnote-1030)

30 June 2014

* Journalists Association, Press for Freedom (ÖİB) project, report for April was issued. In the report, it was stated that April was not the best month bearing promising developments regarding freedom of expression and freedom of press: “Organs of the state (jurisdiction, police forces) prolonged their rude and rough attitude towards the media and public having critical approach to the government.” In the report, restrictions to media access were deemed to be censorship to people's right to freedom of speech and right to information; hence, censorship would merely be removed via international influence and higher judicial bodies such as the Constitutional Court take sides with freedoms.[[1031]](#footnote-1031)

4 July 2014

* Press Council Chairman Pınar Türenç applied to the Constitutional Court to cancel the media blackout decree regarding the attack to Turkish Consulate General in Mousul and kidnapping of Turkish diplomats.[[1032]](#footnote-1032)
* Education Union Eğitim-Sen University Representative Agency censured the punishment issued to Kocaeli University students.[[1033]](#footnote-1033)

11 July 2014

* Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly announced that they will appoint a supervisor to observe presidential elections in Turkey, with respect to the claims and reasons in March 30 elections, such as “gerrymander, infraction of rules, oppression of the press.”[[1034]](#footnote-1034)

15 July 2014

* Trabzon Journalists Association reacted to Günebakış and Kuzey Ekspres representatives not being allowed to the signing ceremony of the new Trabzonspor football coach.[[1035]](#footnote-1035)

16 July 2014

* Reporters Without Borders (RSF) made a statement, “Unfortunately there has been an increase in oppression recently, which is quite worrying for the future of Turkish Press,” with respect to the case opened against Today’s Zaman newspaper editor in chief Bülent Keneş regarding “alleged insult the Prime Minister.”[[1036]](#footnote-1036)

21 July 2014

* Press Council stated that Press Publication Agency's cutting of official adverts as punishment is being used as a trump to silence opponent newspaper s; which is censorship and an intervention targeting freedom of expression and press.[[1037]](#footnote-1037)

22 July 2014

* Journalists Association Chairperson Nazmi Bilgin made a statement regarding 106th anniversary of first abolition of censorship with a sad message: “As press, we should be celebrating this day rather than tackling with censorship,” said Bilgin.[[1038]](#footnote-1038)
* Zekeriya Öz, İstanbul Deputy Public Prosecutor of the time who directed the extensive bribery and corruption operations reacted to police officers' that were involved in corruption operations to be taken under custody, from *Twitter* saying, “They could not finish the money they keep at home, but the dignity of the state and the people. Now, they are trying to smear, thus finish the innocent people.”[[1039]](#footnote-1039)

24 July 2014

* Chairman İbrahim Erdoğan, made a statement on behalf of Association of Anatolian Sports Journalists Central Office Management: “In Turkey, we do not merely experience free press arguments, but also a strange type of unlawfulness regarding accreditation of journalists in football stadiums and unperformed judicial decisions.”[[1040]](#footnote-1040)
* Adana Bar President Mengücek Gazi Çıtırık made a statement regarding 106 anniversary of anticensorship: “In Turkey, freedom of thought and expression is at the same level with third world countries; hence, people's right to information is disabled by the political power.”[[1041]](#footnote-1041)

27 July 2014

* TGC censured monitoring of Hürriyet newspaper reporter Toygun Atilla’s e-mail traffic during 2009-2010 as well as tapping his phone for 3 months in 2011.[[1042]](#footnote-1042)

29 July 2014

* Şırnak Journalists Association censored the attempt to kidnap and batter journalist Abit Dündar in Cizre town, Şırnak province.[[1043]](#footnote-1043)

30 July 2014

* Gallup World Poll's evaluation regarding Turkey indicates the drawback of press freedom in Turkey as well as lowering its grade by international institutions.[[1044]](#footnote-1044)

31 July 2014

* TGC Executive Board censored Anadolu News Agency and Sabah newspaper reporters' being attacked in Hatay .[[1045]](#footnote-1045)

1 August 2014

* Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe's (OSCE) report regarding the presidential elections on August 10th, Turkey was subjected to a series of criticism from press freedom to transparency. The report stated the following statements regarding press freedom: *“Authorities that meet wit OSCE delegation indicated their concerns about media owners' and political actors' direct intervention to freedom of broadcasting will result in journalism void of investigation; while, restricting the criticizing the Prime Minister.”*[[1046]](#footnote-1046)

4 August 2014

* Stop Women Killings Platform members made a denunciation about Vice Prime Minister Bülent Arınç regarding his statement: *“Women shall not laugh in public.”* CHP İstanbul MPs Melda Onur and Mahmut Tanal as well as CHP Ankara MP Aylin Nazlıaka also provided support to Stop Women Killings Platform members who unfurled a banner *“We denunciate Arınç for indicating laughing women as targets”* in front of Courthouse.[[1047]](#footnote-1047)

5 August 2014

* Alevite Bektashi Federation Vice chairman Necdet Saraç, Alevite Bektashi Federation Faith Authority Vice chairman Baki Düzgün, Gazi Cemevi head Veli Gülsoy and many other Alevite organization representatives assembled in İstanbul Gazi Mahallesi, and criticized President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan’s statement: *“Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu is Alevite, Selahattin Demirtaş is Zaza, Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu is not native”* and stated that: *“The Prime Minister is indicating targets.”*[[1048]](#footnote-1048)

6 August 2014

* Umut Uzer, member of Turkish Delegation to The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) made a statement about Turkish press: *“Our press has several problems: It is as if Israel is bombing, attacking Gaza for no reason. Of course this is not the case. They never think about the past; the missiles fired by Gaza never appears on media. In 2012, when we were there, a missile hit our vicinity. No one is aware of these events; only the operations run by Israel are shown.”*[[1049]](#footnote-1049)

7 August 2014

* İstanbulite Armenians assembled in front of Agos newspaper premises, where Hrant Dink was murdered, to protest Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan’s statement: *“They called me Georgian; even worse, excuse me to say, they called me Armenian*.*”* Protestors claimed that the Prime Minister was aiming at nationalists' votes and that was why he made such statements.[[1050]](#footnote-1050)
* Washington Post, reported Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan’s statement: *“They called me Georgian; even worse, excuse me to say, they called me Armenian“* as an insult towards Armenians. [[1051]](#footnote-1051)
* *Economist* reporter and Taraf columnist, made the following statement with respect to Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan pointing Amberin Zaman as a target in public meetings: *“In democracies, journalists are not threatened. In Erdoğan's power, it is getting harder for independent journalist to do their jobs.”*[[1052]](#footnote-1052)

8 August 2014

* In the headline, *Agos* presented a reply to Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan’s statement: “They called me Georgian; even worse, excuse me to say, they called me Armenian“. The newspaper referred to Hucurât section of Koran, *“[in Koran] it is stated that ‘People! We have created you from a single man and women, thus separated you into nations and tribes for you to get to know each other’. We wonder whether Prime Minister is aware of the values he has been violating? Nothing to say: May god forgive his sins.”*[[1053]](#footnote-1053)
* TGC and Press Council reacted to Cihan News Agency (Cihan) team not being allowed in the program - though invited - where Minister of Interior Efkan Ala was a guest. Press Council Chairman Pınar Türenç censured this attitude, stating: *“Not allowing opposing news agency reporters to governmental meetings is destroying press freedom.”*[[1054]](#footnote-1054)

9 August 2014

* Journalist and CHP MP Mustafa Balbay indicated that in Turkey, the media has lost its power to be the 4 power, in his own words: “Today, people who hold all power at their hands have become the fourth power. With the power of the media, they are shaping people as they wish. Therefore, in order to reach the information, you need to read a lot..”[[1055]](#footnote-1055)

11 August 2014

* *Taraf* columnist Mehmet Baransu being taken under custody and assaulted by the police was in the news in *Huffington Post* news portal. İstanbul Cumhuriyet Chief Prosecutor Hadi Salihoğlu, stated that Baransu was taken under custody as to *“indicating security guards working in counter terrorism as targets.”*[[1056]](#footnote-1056)
* Women reporters called elected President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to apologize from journalist Amberin Zama regarding his words *“shameless woman.”* Women’s Group for Monitoring Equality *(EŞİTİZ)*made the following statement: *“Political power is responsible with all the committed and future crimes of individuals or groups it provoked by the attacks and insults it made against people with opponent ideas and way of living.”*[[1057]](#footnote-1057)
* OSCE, delegation of international observers announced their impressions about presidential elections in a press meeting. Observers stated that all three candidates run their propaganda with respect to freedom of assembly and expression; however, “Prime Minister using his official position and media unequally ensured a great advantage to one candidate over others.” The initial report to be published stated that TV channels gave wide publicity to Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan’s campaign, but restricted publicity to other candidates.[[1058]](#footnote-1058)

12 August 2014

* TGC censured attacks against journalists, with respect to Fırat News Agency reporter Deniz Fırat being killed in an ISIL attack in Mahmur AND İhlas News Agency reporter Ayhan Dinç being injured in the collision in Şemdinli. In their statement, they stressed “the necessity to ensure security of journalists that work for the right to information and truth of the people.”[[1059]](#footnote-1059)

22 August 2014

* Journalist Amberin Zaman wrote an article titled *“Hit the Bitch”* about “lynching campaigns” targeting women reporters, regarding Tayyip Erdoğan pointing her as a target.[[1060]](#footnote-1060)

25 August 2014

* 45 intellectuals and artists published a notice to support *The Economist* reporter and *Taraf* columnist Amberin Zaman, who was insulted by Erdoğan and journalist Ceyda Karan, who was attached and insulted on *Twitter*. In the notice, they stated: *“Keeping silence against such statements bears no human dignity.”*[[1061]](#footnote-1061)

27 August 2014

* *Freedom House* claimed that there was a democratic crisis in Turkey. In their report titled, “Democratic Crisis: Corruption, media and power in Turkey,” it is stressed that a great many of journalists became unemployed after Gezi Park events. Freedom House President David Kramer, “Social polarization increases with government's aggressive attitude towards the media. President Obama should make an explanation about the incidents that followed regarding their relationship with Prime Minister Erdoğan.”[[1062]](#footnote-1062)
* Journalist Fatih Portakal of Fox TV identified AKP'S attitude towards newspapers supporting Gülen Community and opponent press - not allowing them in their congresses - with Presidency of General Staff's ban against some media institutions in the past.[[1063]](#footnote-1063)
* Bandırma Representatives of Turkish education unions Eğitim-Sen, Eğitim-İş, Eğitim-Sen and Aktif Eğitim-Sen made a press meeting in front of Provincial Directorate of National Education premises in Bandırma, claiming that newly appointed principals of schools in Bandırma are selected politically.[[1064]](#footnote-1064)

29 August 2014

* PMD stressed the incident that took place in press gallery during presidential oath taking ceremony in TBMM General Assembly and censured CHP Group Deputy Chairman Engin Altay, when he throw a booklet to TBMM Chairman Çiçek, and when the so-called reporters and MPs “*hooted*” together.[[1065]](#footnote-1065)

30 August 2014

* Çukurova Journalists Association Executive Board also reacted to the accreditation against several media corporations that wish to attend 1 Special Meeting of AKP and Presidential handover ceremony.[[1066]](#footnote-1066)

2 September 2014

* Human Rights Watch Turkey's report regarding freedom of online expression, they stated: “In recent month, the government extended their authority to censor online content and monitor Internet activities; however, there is no supervising mechanism for these authorities.”[[1067]](#footnote-1067)

4 September 2014

* In the panel “*Media freedom in Internet age”* held in İstanbul Bilgi University, they stated Internet censorship “*not being favorable*” for Turkey; hence, participating European Commission Vice chairman and Commission Member responsible with the Digital Agenda Nelie Kroes stated that: *“Governments should put an end to swimming against the current. Beside EU membership, freedom of speech is a matter of culture that requires heeding different opinions.”*[[1068]](#footnote-1068)

8 September 2014

* Human Rights Association, Van Branch censured verbal and physical attack of the police to members of the press that were doing their job, while the police intervened İŞKUR working who were marching from Van to Ankara .[[1069]](#footnote-1069)

10 September 2014

* Regarding the claims of “more strict Internet control” in Turkey with an amendment made with the “Omnibus law,” Wall Street Journal stated that: “The government is increasing Internet censorship in order to faster intervention to content.”[[1070]](#footnote-1070)

11 September 2014

* US State Department Spokesman Marie Harf made a statement *“We will continue to share our anxieties with Turkish authorities”* regarding the increased authority of Telecommunications Authority Chairman to ban Internet with the Omnibus law.[[1071]](#footnote-1071)

12 September 2014

* ÇGC censured the attack to Egemen newspaper -local newspaper in Adana- grant holder Hakan Denizli. In the statement made, ÇGC deemed press members, while working in the framework of the constitutional “right to information,” being attack on duty as unacceptable and they stressed the necessity to change this designated perception.[[1072]](#footnote-1072)

13 September 2014

* Deputy Prime Minister Akdoğan made a statement in the opening speech of the meeting with media representatives: “Public sector, private sector and NGOs are the tripod of press and media. Media is our guarantee to democracy; a free, independent media accompanies civil politics against all sorts of guardianship. I believe you will provide all the necessary support in terms of democracy and law, when tackling with guardianship.”*[[1073]](#footnote-1073)*

15 September 2014

* In a joint press conference in İstanbul, a group of media and human rights associations stated that Turkey went far beyond lawfulness regarding Internet censorship, hence warned for having no democratic standards based on solid grounds regarding EU accession. Reporters without Borders, TGC, Alternative Informatics Association, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch representative stressed the importance of journalists keeping together with respect to supporting freedom of press and expression and cancelling censorship.[[1074]](#footnote-1074)

16 September 2014

* Human Rights Watch (HRW) stated that the new regulations in the Omnibus law enacted by the parliament on September 10 has *“deepened the Internet censorship in Turkey*. The statement published in the organization’s website states that *“metadata being preserved by TİB is a great threat, as they can observe and monitor Internet use of people directly.”*[[1075]](#footnote-1075)

19 September 2014

* *The New York Times* Editor in Chief Dean Bauet made a statement on behalf of the newspaper , regarding President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan’s speech against them, stressing *“Turkish authorities' attitude towards reporters living in Turkey to be unacceptable.”*[[1076]](#footnote-1076)

20 September 2014

* *The New York Times*, reported that President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan as well as *Akit, Akşam* ve *Takvim* etc. newspapers that quoted him are clearly pointing the newspaper and their İstanbul correspondent Ceylan Yeğinsu as a target regarding their recently published news.[[1077]](#footnote-1077)

22 September 2014

* Regarding New York Times correspondent's news coverage about radical Salafi organisation ISIL gathering Turkish militants from Ankara being pointed as a target by the press organs close to the government, USA made the following criticism: *“Such threats are not in line with Turkey's desire to become a model for democracy and to prolong democratic standards.”*[[1078]](#footnote-1078)

24 September 2014

* Globally active freedom of speech exponents, International Reporters Without Borders, International Assembly of Writers (PEN) and organisations of Article 19 sent President Tayyip Erdoğan a letter stating their concerns regarding the recent developments in Turkey, in their own words: *“Turkey has a worrysome tendency for publicly destroying journalists' reputation, including receiving death threats.”*[[1079]](#footnote-1079)

25 September 2014

* In his speech in *Press Labour Law Workshop* organised by Directorate General of Press and Information (BYEGM), Vice Prime Minister Yalçın Akdoğan stated that very recently they have met with media representatives in the Prime Ministry premises to discuss fundamental issues; that they are willing to cooperate with sectoral workers in any action to resolve sectoral problems.[[1080]](#footnote-1080) In the workshop, where Journalists Association (Ankara) Chairman Nazmi Bilgin was among the participants, Director General of Press and Information Murat Karakaya stated that press workers ensure developing a democratic culture by contributing to the freedom of information and providing the right information to the public as well as making criticism and helping the society to build different viewpoints.***[[1081]](#footnote-1081)***
* TGS and DİSK Basın-İş censured the reporters working under harsh conditions in Suruç and Kobane to be hindered and intervened by security forces. TGS stated that *“press workers are taken under custody, being threatened and became targets & hit with tear gascartridges*.[[1082]](#footnote-1082)

27 September 2014

* In their statement regarding Bugün newspaper Washington representative Adem Yavuz Arslan being kicked out from the hotel and being assaulted, TGC stated that “*Political power making a discrimination based on 'supporters' and 'opponents' is unacceptable.”*[[1083]](#footnote-1083)
* Washington National Press Club (NPC) Chairman Myron Belkind stated that “Journalist with the desire to follow President Erdoğan being attacked by his security guards is a pity.”[[1084]](#footnote-1084)

28 September 2014

* RSF censured Bugün newspaper Washington representative Adem Yavuz Arslan and Zaman newspaper Washington representative Ali Halit Aslan being attacked by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan’s nephew Ali Erdoğan and his security guards with the following statement *“Turkish governmental authorities being comfortable with two journalists being attacked outside the country and during an important bilateral discussion is unacceptable.”*[[1085]](#footnote-1085)
* TİB, the regulating authority to monitor Internet traffic was handed down by *the Constitutional Court*. By giving such authority to TİB, people will be subject to backlisting on grounds of “*ethnic and racial origins; political, religious and philosophical view; union membership; sensitive information regarding health and sexual orientation*.”[[1086]](#footnote-1086)
* Being one of the reputable human rights associations, Human Rights Watch (HRW) prepared an extensive report regarding the situation of democracy in Turkey. With the headline, *“Turkey's Regress in terms of Human Rights and Reform Proposals”* in the report Emma Sinclair-Webb states that *“During the last year Erdoğan’s AK Party violated the rules, silencing criticisms and intimidation when answering its political opponents. In the name of Turkey's and its citizens' future, the state shall take steps backwards and protect human rights rather than attacking them.”*[[1087]](#footnote-1087)

29 September 2014

* During the media forum organised by Journalists Association and Reporters Medialog Platform in İstanbul with Japanese reporters, the severity of recent practices in Turkey and Turkish media are expressed, stating “Pluralism in media ensures social peace. Peace in the country will be endangered unless different voices are heard in media, which may result in great loss for the country.”[[1088]](#footnote-1088)
* During a visit to Turkey to participate a meeting held by World Economic Forum, Head of EU Commission Jose Manuel Barroso made the following remarks about the relationship between Turkey and EU: “We should be realistic, we need to progress in accession negotiations. This may only be possible if and when Turkey seriously tackles with problems regarding rule of law and fundamental rights.”[[1089]](#footnote-1089)
* President of Media Ethic Council Halit Esendir stated that “Bugün newspaper Washington Representative Adem Yavuz Arslan being exposed to insults of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan’s nephew Ali Erdoğan, his advisor Mustafa Varank and other authorities is unacceptable; hence, does not comply with freedom of press.”[[1090]](#footnote-1090)

1 October, 2014

* Orhan Kemal Cengiz, a *Bugün* daily columnist, said it was saddening that some media outlets and press members remain indifferent to the oppression faced by their counterparts.[[1091]](#footnote-1091)

2 October, 2014

* The Cinema Writers Association protested the removal of “Until the Face of the Earth is the Face of Love“ a documentary by Reyan Tuvi, from the 51 International Golden Orange Film Festival, and considered it as cencureship.[[1092]](#footnote-1092)
* “Turkey’s human rights rollback,” indicated by the Human Rights Watch’s 2014 report, adding, “In office for twelve years, the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) has shown increasing intolerance of political opposition, public protest and critical media.”[[1093]](#footnote-1093)

3 October, 2014

* The Cinema Writers Association (SİYAD) members also made a statement, saying that they “*define the decision as cencorship*” and requested “*withdrawal of decision*.”[[1094]](#footnote-1094)
* The directors and producers of 11 movies out of 12 competing for the Golden Orange said the following with regard to the censorship imposed on Reyan Tuvi’s documentary “Love will Change the Earth”: “*The works of art cannot be evaluated in accordance with criminal laws. The process of selecting the movies to be included in a festival program should be conducted only by cinema professionals.”*[[1095]](#footnote-1095)
* Antalya Metropolitan Municipality Mayor Menderes Türel said, “In my opinion, censorship and self-censor is never acceptable.”[[1096]](#footnote-1096)
* After President Erdoğan said, “*I’m increasingly against the Internet every day,* “during a meeting with a delegation of members of the International Press Institution (IPI)and the International Press Institute (IPI), *The Independent* responded with the following tweet on the micro blog *Twitter: “Turkish President: ‘I’m increasingly against the Internet every day.’ “Internet is increasingly against him.”*[[1097]](#footnote-1097)

4 October, 2014

* After access to *Radikal* daily columnist Ezgi Başaran’s article has been blocked by the Presidency of Telecommunication (TIB) with an application made by Istanbul Technical University (ITU) Rector Professor Mehmet Karaca without a court decision, the Turkish Journalists’ Association (TGC) defined the incident as “censorship.” The TGC Board of Directors made the following statement: *“This is an absolute intervention in many fundamental rights, mostly the freedom of press and expression. We are protesting the decision. The authorization annulment decision made by the Constitutional Court is promising in terms of a transition from omnibus democracy to real democracy. Each intervention to be made in Internet is closely related with the freedom of press. We are urging party representatives to implement applications aimed at expanding not censorship, but the freedom of press and expression.”*[[1098]](#footnote-1098)
* *Yeniçağ* daily columnist criticized the disturbance caused by the lawsuit filed against him by President’s son Bilal Erdoğan in his column as follows: *“Oh, Bilal boy! Don’t even mention the* *things that you did and would do against me, besides the cruelty inflicted by your father against this nation! Bring it on… I won’t become a silent devil… I won’t take sides with silent devils. Let me offer you a convenience to make things easier for you; I support the parallel structure… Don’t waste your time and call your police…”*[[1099]](#footnote-1099)

6 October, 2014

* Judge Can Candan has resigned due to “*discussions about censorship*” at the 51 Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival, which was followed by the resignation of 10 jury members.[[1100]](#footnote-1100)

8 October, 2014

* The 2014 Progress Report of the European Commission criticized a great many issues related with Turkey, including the authority delegated to National Intelligence Agency (MİT) and harsh interventions by the police during riots.[[1101]](#footnote-1101) The report praised continuation of the settlement process ‘despite isolated incidents.’ “Reforms are needed to improve civilian scrutiny of the military, the police, the gendarmerie and the intelligence services,” the report said.[[1102]](#footnote-1102)

9 October, 2014

* After the gradually intensifying attacks by Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) group, 20 journalists taking refuge in Turkey were detained, and thus the Journalists Union of Turkey criticized the incident with the following statement: *“As the Journalists’ Association of Turkey, we request that the journalists captured at the Science High School along with 160 persons from Kobane are immediately released and this illegal application is ended as soon as possible. Our union would like to inform you that the meetings will be held with relevant institution in order to ensure that our colleagues are released.”*[[1103]](#footnote-1103) The detained journalists decided to stage a hunger strike to in order to be released.[[1104]](#footnote-1104)
* The broadcast ban was imposed on a case related with an assassination attempt against Bingöl Security Director.[[1105]](#footnote-1105)

13 October, 2014

* The directors including Derviş Zaim, Erol Mintaş, Kaan Müjdeci and Murat Düzgünoğlu who competed at 51 Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival issued a statement. *“The censorship, censorship, censorship, self-censor… The festival started with censorship. The management of a festival cannot take precedence over the content of art. We will fight censorship here,”* the statement said.[[1106]](#footnote-1106)

14 October, 2014

* The Press Council issued a statement criticizing the court’s broadcast ban on the case related with an assassination attempt against Bingöl Security Director. *“The court’s broadcast ban on the judicial process in Bingöl is a stance hindering the freedom of press. The public must be especially informed on interrogations related with terrorism. Such decisions put a question mark in the minds of public. Therefore our Press Council favors an open judicial branch,”* the council’s statement said.[[1107]](#footnote-1107)
* The NGO “*Siyah Bant*” researched and documented censorship in arts with regard to the censorship issue which started with the removal of “Until the Face of the Earth is the Face of Love“ documentary directed by Reyan Tuvi by the festival management on grounds of its violation of Articles 125 and 299 of the Turkish Criminal Law (TCK) [[1108]](#footnote-1108) and then made a statement. Siyah Bant made the following statement: *“The involvement of TCK articles for censorship purposes is a violation of freedom of artistic expression. These articles should be totally removed from the TCK.”*[[1109]](#footnote-1109)
* The Board of Directors of Çukurova Journalists Association condemned the armed attack against a journalist in Adana and requested that the perpetrator or perpetrators are brought to the independent judiciary as soon as possible.[[1110]](#footnote-1110)

15 October, 2014

* The parliamentary questions addressing the Minister of Culture and Tourism which were submitted to the Parliament by Umut Oran, a deputy from the Republican People’s Party (CHP), as a result of the resignation of General Director of State Theaters (DT) Mustafa Kurt, consisted of the following: *“Why did General Director of DT Mustafa Kurt resign yesterday? Did you force Mustafa Kurt to resign? Is there a censorship unit attached to your ministry? Do you carry out a political and ethical inspection of each work of art to be staged? Do you force the managers who have signed the declaration entitled “No to the Turkey Arts Council’s (TÜSAK) Law Draft” to resign?”*[[1111]](#footnote-1111)
* The Progressive Journalists Association (ÇGD) issued a statement for Azadiya Welad and Özgür Gündem daily official Kadir Bağdu who have lost their lives in an armed attack in Adana, requested that the murderers are found immediately. The ÇGD urged the ruling party to stop the pressures and threats against journalists, allow them to perform their duties freely, find the murderer of Kadri Bağdu and impose the required penalty.[[1112]](#footnote-1112)

16 October, 2014

* During a meeting concerning the “Relations between Media and Politics” which has been organized by the Turkish Journalists’ Association (TGC), TGC Chairman Turgay Olcayto said, “Threats against journalists and causing them to become a target have become a serious problem.”[[1113]](#footnote-1113)

17 October, 2014

* The Board of Directors of Çukurova Journalists’ Association criticized the detention of journalist Aytekin Gezici due to the tweets that he has shared, saying, *“We are sorry to have heard that Aytekin Gezici, a member of our association,* *was detained by the police due to the tweets that he has shared. We don’t deem appropriate the detention of citizens within the scope of an article (reasonable doubt), which is covered by the new judicial package, but not in effect yet.”*[[1114]](#footnote-1114) The Press Council defined the domiciliary visit made to Gezici because of his posts in social media and his detention as “*alarming developments*.” *“The term ‘reasonable doubt’ which is contrary to the principle of concrete evidence in law is a very open-ended and ambiguous concept. The ‘reasonable doubt’ is nothing but bringing arbitrariness to the judiciary.”*[[1115]](#footnote-1115)

18 October, 2014

* The German Journalists Association (DJV) criticized the detention of three German journalists in the exercise of their duties, indicating that this is a violation of the freedom of press and President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan’s description of German journalists as “*spies,* agents” is unacceptable.[[1116]](#footnote-1116)

19 October, 2014

* *Cumhuriyet* daily reported that the Culture and Tourism Ministry controls the State Theaters in terms of its repertoire, as well as its rehearsals and the actors/actresses and their roles in plays. It was reported that Deputy Undersecretary Sefer Yılmaz responsible for the Directorate General of DT and State Opera and Ballet requested that the plays which are currently at the stage of rehearsals are recorded and that the CDs are submitted to the ministry in order to find answers to following questions: *“What’s going on in rehearsals? Which lines are used in plays? How do the actors/actresses behave in rehearsals? How will these cues be given at the stage of rehearsals and in the play?”*[[1117]](#footnote-1117)

20 October, 2014

* Journalist-writer Aytekin Gezici who has been questioned as the *“reasonable suspect”* on grounds of allegations that he has insulted President Tayyip Erdoğan and Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu and the Justice and Development Party through his tweets on the social networking site *Twitter* said the following: *“I’ve just shared my opinions. I believe that I have not committed any crime. What’s saddening is that the souvenir photo that was taken in a barbershop that I shared with a note, saying, ‘Waiting for that moment’ was also included in the criminal record and considered as an insult. What’s a photo taken in a barbershop got to do with an insult? Is it a crime to wait for breaking the fast or fast?”*[[1118]](#footnote-1118)

22 October, 2014

* When director Suat Eroğlu, winner of the first prize with his movie *Fıtrat* at the third Short Movie Competition which was organized by the Confederation of Turkish Real Trade Unions (Hak-İş), climbed the podium to receive his award, he defined the noisy atmosphere that occurred during the movie screening as *“disrespectful to labor”* and expostulated about the guests, including Deputy Prime Minister Bülent Arınç. Receiving his award from Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu, Eroğlu was punched by a person who is allegedly a Hak-İş member, while he was having a conversation with his friends, after the prime minister and deputy prime minister left the hall.[[1119]](#footnote-1119)

24 October, 2014

* Hürriyet daily recently covered the following allegation made by the *Wall Street Journal*’s website in Turkey: “Doğan group initiated meetings for the sale of Hürriyet,” by indicating, *“Wall Street Journal’s website in Turkey speculated in its news story in previous day that the Hürriyet daily has initiated meetings about its sale to another group. This news story is simply a lie. As the flagship of Turkish press, Hürriyet will successfully maintain its identity and position in the future as well”*[[1120]](#footnote-1120)
* According to *Zaman* daily, Michelle Müntefering, a member of the Social Democratic Party and German-Turkish Parliamentary Friendship Group Chairman, said, “*The questions related with law will be put forth and required to be answered”* with regard to the AKP’s new judicial package that limits the fundamental rights and freedoms in which domiciliary visits without a court decision are legitimized with the *“reasonable doubt”* rather than *“concrete evidence.”*[[1121]](#footnote-1121)

30 October, 2014

* After the broadcast ban has been imposed on the news stories related with the killing of three soldiers, the Press Council condemned the incident with a statement: “The extension and persistence of the broadcast ban imposed by the Yüksekova Magistrates’ Court on the news stories related with the killing of three soldiers is nothing but the further expansion of censorship.”[[1122]](#footnote-1122)

31 October, 2014

* The Journalists’ Union of Turkey (TGS) issued a statement regarding the removal of press members with the “*Governorate’s decision*” from Ermenek, where a mining accident has occurred. The statement made by TGS urged the Governorate and Interior Ministry to provide an environment in which press members could work freely. *“Press members have become the voice of workers, who are forced to work to death, and their sad families in the region. It seems that the news made by press members and their efforts for shedding light on the disaster disturb some people. It seems that they are afraid of any interrogation related with those who are really responsible for the disaster. As long as our people fail to clearly see these facts, the same sufferings will occur again. As a result, we won’t let any veil to be drawn over the facts in Ermenek.”*[[1123]](#footnote-1123)

3 November, 2014

Touching upon a meeting and declaration of the National Security Council (MGK) for Zaman daily, Democratic Left Party leader Masum Türker said, “The term ‘legal-looking illegal structures’ covered by the MGK’s declaration target all of the non-governmental organizations.”[[1124]](#footnote-1124)

5 November, 2014

* As part of his contacts in Norway, Minister for European Union (EU) Affairs and Chief Negotiator Volkan Bozkır met with Minister for EU Affairs Vidar Helgesen. Replying to questions regarding the freedom of press in Turkey, Bozkır said, “Some imprisoned journalists are in jail not because of what they have written or said. They are three for bearing arms or due to other crime they have committed. A few of them are arguable, but most of them were tried and imprisoned with a court decision.”[[1125]](#footnote-1125)

6 November, 2014

* New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) Executive Director Joel Simon wrote an article to criticize President Erdoğan’s stance towards journalists. Underlining that Turkey is a country that until recently was the world’s leading jailer of journalists, Simon stressed in his article that governments have employed a variety of tactics “to marginalize, isolate or disrupt” the work of the media.[[1126]](#footnote-1126)

7 November, 2014

The Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (AKPM) has decided to establish a commission to carry out a two-year research about the “police violence against peaceful demonstrations” in Turkey and Ukraine.”[[1127]](#footnote-1127)

* Parliament’s Plan and Budget Commission CHP group spokesman Rahmi Aşkın Türeli said that the pressure on press was the biggest obstacle preventing a real democracy from taking roots in Turkey, adding, “The existence of real democracy in a country could be mentioned, if only a free press existed there.”[[1128]](#footnote-1128)

8 November, 2014

* The US-based Wall Street Journal reported the following in a news story written by its Turkey correspondent Marc Champion: “The European Union criticized Turkey sharply over the rising number of prosecutions against journalists.”[[1129]](#footnote-1129)

11 November, 2014

* Maja Kocijancic, a spokesperson for the European Commission, criticized the media accreditation issue, saying, “The maturity of democracy in a country can be judged based on the state of the freedom of the media and respect for it.” Referring to the Progress Report which was released on October 8, Kocijancic said that the government was responsible for issuing a press card, granting the status of an accredited journalist, and the “excessively strict requirements to obtain it” contributed to self-censorship. In addition to findings in the Report, she said, “The freedom of expression is one of the essential foundations of the European Union. The European Union is committed to respect freedom and pluralism of the media, as well as the right to information and the freedom of expression. The Commission pays a lot of attention to this issue during accession processes with candidate and aspirant countries. The state and maturity of democracy in a country can be judged based on the state of the freedom of the media and respect for it.”[[1130]](#footnote-1130)
* Speaking at the first meeting marking On the Way to Freedom to Publish Project, which was implemented by Turkish Publishers Association with support from the European Union, Ahmet Ümit said that the society has been divided into two categories, namely, “those who are in favor and against the government” and the same division was evident in the field of art as well. Furthermore, Ümit described the implications of a pro-censorship stance on society as “ordinary fascism.”[[1131]](#footnote-1131)

12 November, 2014

* Press Advertising Institution Board of Directors’ Representative of Anatolian newspapers Owners Mustafa Arslan stated that many Anatolian-based newspapers have come to the point of closure in the last decade as a result of problems related with official advertisings. “A process aimed at allowing our Anatolian newspapers to survive should be initiated. We are sure that our politicians both in power and opposition are aware of this fact. But relevant measures must be taken immediately with regard to the issue,” Arslan said.[[1132]](#footnote-1132)

13 November, 2014

* As a group has assaulted three visiting American sailors by putting white sacks over their heads in Istanbul, Pentagon Spokesman Steve Warren made a statement, describing the assault as “appalling and disturbing” and adding, “These attackers are a great discredit upon Turks and the Turkish reputation for hospitality. We enjoy a strong relationship with our NATO ally Turkey. We’re confident that Turks will rapidly and effectively investigate the issue.”[[1133]](#footnote-1133)

14 November, 2014

* Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) Executive Director Joel Simon wrote a letter to President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu and Justice Minister Bekir Bozdağ. Making a statement about his contacts in Turkey and the content of letter, Simon said, “The meetings were contentious, with Erdoğan and Davutoğlu expressing displeasure with what they consider to be unfair, partisan coverage of Turkey by the domestic and international media. But we also made progress, securing commitments from the Turkish government to protect journalists under threat, reform laws incompatible with free expression, and allow an independent review of the seven remaining cases of journalists imprisoned for their work in Turkey.”[[1134]](#footnote-1134)

17 November, 2014

* International news agency Reuters, announced to all its subscribers the procedure of accreditation which has been applied on certain media organs by President Tayyip Erdoğan and the AKP government. The article written by Dasha Afanasieva and Humeyra Pamuk claimed that Erdogan's domination of the media, “much of it owned by conglomerates with business ties to the government, has pushedTurkey, which is a candidate for membership of the European Union, towards the bottom of global press freedom rankings.”[[1135]](#footnote-1135)

18 November, 2014

* Speaking to Selçuk Gültaşlı, the Zaman daily’s Brussels representative, Gianni Pittella, the leader of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the EP, made a statement about Turkey’s European Union membership bid. Emphasizing that “the freedom of press is one of the fundamental elements of the EU,” Pittella urged Ankara to “avoid all sorts of censorship attempts,” adding, “Turkey should immediately become a country in which its citizens feel totally free.”[[1136]](#footnote-1136)

26 November, 2014

* “Not a single authority could prevent us from performing our work as journalists. Our duty is to bring the facts to the public attention at large, objectively and impartially,” *daily Cumhuriyet said in a press release related with the broadcast ban imposed on the news from the Parliamentary Inquiry Commission which has been set up with regard to December 17 investigation. The declaration was covered by the daily as it is. Birgün daily also responded to the broadcast ban by captioning the news stories which have been banned for broadcasting.*[[1137]](#footnote-1137)
* The Media Barometer concerning Turkey, prepared by Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) Association’s Representation to Turkey, has been released. According to the report analyzing the media atmosphere in Turkey, Turkey’s media barometer has been rated as 2.1 over *a total of* 5...[[1138]](#footnote-1138)

27 November, 2014

* The Journalists Association of Turkey (TGC) and the Press Council issued a statement concerning the broadcast ban imposed on news stories from the Parliamentary Inquiry Commission with regard to December 17 investigation, saying, *“The broadcast ban on December 17 Commission is censorship.”* The TGC’s statement indicated the following in its statement: *“The ban has tarnished the freedom of press.”* IPI Senior Freedom Advisor Steven M. Ellis also made a statement concerning the issue, saying, *“This gag order, which seeks to pull a veil of secrecy over allegations of corruption, a matter of vital public interest, will undermine confidence in the rule of law and cast further shadow over democracy in Turkey.”*[[1139]](#footnote-1139)
* Speaking on the broadcast ban imposed on the news stories from Parliamentary Inquiry Commission, Today’s Zaman Executive Editor Bülent Keneş said, *“As soon as we heard about the ban, Today’s Zaman reported that it would not comply with such an illegal ban.”*[[1140]](#footnote-1140)
* Speaking to Cumhuriyet daily about an investigation opened against him as a result of his note “Army… Do your Work…” that he posted on his personal Facebook account during a tour to the province of Ordu [synonym of the word “army”], Tuncer Yığcı, an actor from Ankara State Theater, said, *“To put it in a humorous way, Ordu has done its work. In an atmosphere in which barbaric attempts are conducted against arts in Turkey, the theater movement has become a national matter. As a result, I urge entire Turkey to do it work.”* Director General of State Theaters Nejat Birecik has requested that an investigation is opened against Yığcı.[[1141]](#footnote-1141)
* Paris-based Reporters without Borders (RSF) condemned the broadcast ban imposed on the news stories from Parliamentary Inquiry Commission. RSF made a statement, describing the broadcast ban as an *“unmeasured political censorship.”*[[1142]](#footnote-1142)
* Sözcü, Evrensel, Yurt, Today's Zaman dailies and certain Internet newspapers reported that they would not comply with the decision of broadcast ban related with testimonies to be made by four former ministers to the Parliamentary Inquiry Commission about the alleged corruption and bribery on December 17, stating that they reject the broadcast ban on their news stories.[[1143]](#footnote-1143)
* International Organization of Writers (PEN) Norway Secretary General Carl Morten Iversen said, “The ban on reporting on the parliamentary inquiry into corruption allegations concerning four former Cabinet ministers is totally absurd and could not happen in a European democracy,” adding, “This is censorship.”[[1144]](#footnote-1144)
* The broadcast ban imposed on news stories from the Parliamentary Inquiry Commission has been protested by 12 press organizations attached to the G-9 Press Platform as well.[[1145]](#footnote-1145)

28 November, 2014

* Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu made a statement regarding the broadcast ban, saying, “It’s a part of the judicial process, which should not be as any Parliamentary activity. There are some decisions related with confidentiality of the judicial process. As the issue is also involved in this judicial process, it should be evaluated in accordance with its own principles and rules.”[[1146]](#footnote-1146)
* Speaking to Hürriyet daily, Yavuz Kökten, Judge of the 7 Magistrates’ Court which has imposed the broadcast ban, said the following: *“I stand behind my decision. I have imposed a ban in order to prevent the exact coverage of statements. But interpretations and comments could be made; everybody is speaking without reading the verdict.”*[[1147]](#footnote-1147)
* The Press Council has made an application to judge of the Criminal Court of First Instance Number 8 in order to ensure that the broadcast ban is removed. The Press Council made a statement, saying, *“In accordance with judicial decisions of the ECHR, the public’s right to information has precedence over the protection of four former ministers’ reputation and personal rights, when it comes to public interest.”* Judge of the Criminal Court of First Instance Number 8 rejected the objection, ruling that the broadcast ban is legal.[[1148]](#footnote-1148)
* The relatives and lawyers of those who have lost their lives during the Gezi Park protests stressed the unlawfulness in lawsuit processes. Taksim Solidarity issued a press statement along with their families, saying, *“We know and warn that not a single society could tolerate such unlawfulness anymore. We request justice.”*[[1149]](#footnote-1149)
* Star Media Group Chairman Mustafa Karaalioğlu, who has been relieved of duty by Ethem Sancak, was hosted by Akif Beki in the program “Baştan Sona” (All Over) on CNN Türk. Answering the question regarding his removal, Karaalioğlu said that he was *“hurt because of his removal,”* adding, *“We could have been separated through other methods.”*[[1150]](#footnote-1150)

29 November, 2014

* Speaking at the 2 Meeting of Council of Presidents concerning eight federations attached to the Journalists Association and also journalists associations of 70 provinces, Chairman of Journalists Association Nuri Kolaylı said that they have toured Anatolia step by step in order to solve the problems faced by press. *“The freedom of press, as well as the freedom of expression which also covers the freedom of press, are indispensable today. In modern democratic societies, people’s right to information is possible through the freedom of press and expression,”* Kolaylı said.[[1151]](#footnote-1151)
* The shadow rapporteur of Christian Democrats, the largest group in the European Parliament (EP), stated the theory explaining corruption allegations as an attempted judicial coup d’état was *“very ridiculous.”* German Deputy Renate Sommer said, *“It is absolutely not convincing and very ridiculous. It sounds very ridiculous. Where is the proof for that? It is easy always to accuse others for your own mistakes. Politicians always say, 'We are wonderful people, we have white jackets.' To me it sounds ridiculous.”* [[1152]](#footnote-1152)
* The Internet and freedom of expression was discussed in the last day of the Conference on Individual Application which was organized by the Constitutional Court and the European Council in Antalya. Professor Yaman Akdeniz, a lecturer at Bilgi University who has ensured the cancellation of bans on Twitter and Youtube through the lawsuits he has filed in the Constitutional Court, said that the relevant units have not delivered him the information about block on access to websites, although he has made legal requests since 2009 within the scope of the “right to information.” Professor Akdeniz said that although the official statistics were not available, it was estimated that access to a total of 60,000 websites have been blocked in Turkey, including 18,000 websites in 2014, adding, *“The official statistics regarding the block on access have not been published since May 2009. I made an application in order to be informed on the issue in December 2009, but it was rejected. The administrative court also rejected my objection. When it was rejected, I applied to the Council of State . The case has been underway for five years. I just wanted to know the number of websites blocked in Turkey.”[[1153]](#footnote-1153)*
* Felicity Party leader Mustafa Kamalak said that the broadcast ban, which has been imposed on the news stories from the commission investigating the alleged corruption and bribery by four former ministers from the AKP, was a violation of the freedom of press. *“The revelation of facts cannot be prevented with such pressures. The most important characteristic of truths is that they are revealed sooner or later,”* Kamalak said.[[1154]](#footnote-1154)
* A group of approximately 100 members of CHP Kocaeli youth branches protested the broadcast ban imposed on the alleged corruption involving four former ministers, investigated by the Parliamentary Inquiry Commission, by marching on streets and displaying banners that read “Tapes are verified, now what will you do?” “Week of December 17-25, week of fighting corruption” and “We promised uncle Recep, we will call him to account!”[[1155]](#footnote-1155)

30 November, 2014

* CHP Istanbul deputy Professor Aydın Ayaydın brought forward the criteria to which the advertisings and announcements of public banks and the companies influenced by public are distributed to the Parliament, and submitted parliamentary questions to be answered by Deputy Prime Minister Ali Babacan in written. Ayaydın asked whether political orders are taken or not instead of the access and activity criteria in their preferences of advertisings and announcements and claimed that media institutions are discriminated. Furthermore, Ayaydın said that the public’s power and facilities were used as the carrot and stick, which was against the claims on impartial and free press.[[1156]](#footnote-1156)
* A 60-page report prepared by PEN Norway with regard to free expression in Turkey wrote, *“Military influence diminished, Erdoğan’s oppression increased.*”[[1157]](#footnote-1157)
* In an interview with the Zaman daily, Reporters without Borders (RSF) representative to Turkey Erol Önderoğlu answered a question regarding the situation of media in Turkey. *“The positive atmosphere that emerged in 2002 has turned to another direction as from 2006,”* said Önderoğlu, adding, *“The journalists were facing the detention threat against militarism. Now they are facing the employment threat.”*[[1158]](#footnote-1158)
* Cumhuriyet daily columnist Orhan Bursalı wrote the following in his article: “In the past, the ‘Security’ used to remove the news stories that they didn’t like from newspapers and leave their spaces blank. Then the readers would understand that those blank spaces were referring to censorship. We are experiencing thousands of varieties of censorship during the period of RTE.” Bursalı listed such censorship in 15 items briefly as follows: taking the desired ban decision with a court order; the limitations, penalties and media blackouts imposed by the The Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK); “Hello Fatih“ application; media pooling; ensuring a change of owner; the ‘red phone” by ministers; direct targeting of columnists and criticisms against columnists; system of intimidation against bosses; application of hitman columnists; othering the newspersons; targeting the columnists; utilizing the means of financial and tax control over bosses and the efforts aimed at bringing them into line; silencing the opposition with taxes; politics of taming the media bosses who also operate in the public sector and making things difficult for them; punishments through preclusion from participating in tenders and filing a lawsuit against everybody who tries to speak up.[[1159]](#footnote-1159)
* Pelin Batu said the following with regard to her dismissal from Milliyet daily: “I guess it happened because of my articles regarding Davutoğlu. I’ve been turning my mind to Davutoğlu for a few months especially because of dishonorableness occurring in the Middle East. I was often criticizing him in my articles.”[[1160]](#footnote-1160)
* “The humor has not decelerated even in the bloody days prior to September 12,” said a reporter, asking, “How would you describe today’s atmosphere of fear?” In response to the reporter’s question, eminent actor Şener Şen said, “The fear has been spread like an epidemic. I believe that it’s being done on purpose. Obviously, today’s ruling party which has been in power for the last 12 years also played a role in this regard. The studies regarding the arts and free thinking have been turned into something scary. In such cases, the greatest danger is self-censor. Think about the TV channels; they have gone beyond the scope of their duties in order to survive and protect themselves.”[[1161]](#footnote-1161)

1 December, 2014

* Speaking in Adana regarding the broadcast ban imposed on news stories related with allegations on corruption, CHP leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu said, *“I’m asking the judge who has imposed the broadcast ban: Are you the protector of corrupt officials? How could you put the Parliament’s will in pledge? If you are a judge, learn how to behave like a judge.”*[[1162]](#footnote-1162)

2 December, 2014

* According to survey results from the “Internet Security and Trust” which was conducted in 24 countries by the Global Survey on Internet Security and Trust (CIGI-IPSOS), a think-tank with its headquarters in the Canadian capital city of Ottawa; 77 percent of Turkish Internet users are worried about the censorship applied by the government.[[1163]](#footnote-1163)

3 December, 2014

* After the rejection of an objection to the broadcast ban which has been imposed on news stories from the Parliamentary Inquiry Commission, CHP Group Deputy Chairman Levent Gök stated that they have made an individual application to the Constitutional Court, requesting that the broadcast ban is lifted.[[1164]](#footnote-1164)
* CHP deputy leader Ercan Karakaş reacted to the removal of an exhibition opened by the Artists Association of Antalya with *“the attempts made by Antalya Metropolitan Municipality”* and a crackdown by the police, and also criticized censorship on a book entitled *Abim Deniz (My Brother Deniz)* byCan Dündar. *“The AKP has been oppressing the artists whom it considers against the authoritarian regime that it wants to establish and also censoring the arts. Furthermore, the municipalities governed by AKP and the partisan media are as good as the government with regard to the issue,”* said Karakaş.[[1165]](#footnote-1165)
* According to the 2014 Corruption Perception Index Report by Transparency International, the biggest fall was in Turkey in the 2014 Corruption Perception Index.[[1166]](#footnote-1166)

4 December, 2014

* The think-tank Freedom House described the status of Internet freedom in Turkey in 2014 as “not free.” Turkey fell six places in the Internet Freedom 2014 report and became one of the two countries with the highest fall in the index.[[1167]](#footnote-1167)
* Denizli Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office applied to the Magistrates’ Court in order to prevent the distribution of declarations related with a forum to be organized by the United June Movement. The Magistrates’ Court accepted the request related with the collection of declarations that are distributed in front of a park in Denizli, indicated that the brochures consisted of anti-government expressions and ruled that the declarations must be seized on grounds that the “offense has been committed, there was reasonable doubt and they had evidential value.” Criticizing the decision, the United June Movement said, “We will not give in to the gradually increasing oppression imposed by the AKP.”[[1168]](#footnote-1168)

5 December, 2014

* CHP Afyonkarahisar deputy Ahmet Toptaş reacted to the Security Package which has been started to be discussed at the Sub-parliamentary Commission on Internal Affairs, saying, *“Considering the appointment of bureaucrats in public sector by the AKP, the period of appointing gendarme commanders by bringing a document from a district or provincial head of the AKP will start. How will the citizens trust them and expect them to provide security?”*[[1169]](#footnote-1169)

6 December, 2014

* A survey conducted by the Pew Research Center, a US-based research agency, reported that Turkey was one of the countries in which *“concerns over corruption have increased the most.”* According to survey results covering 20 countries, 37 percent of interviewees believed in 2007 that *“a very big problem derives from the corrupt political leaders in Turkey”* and this rate increased by 25 points to climb to 62 percent in 2014.[[1170]](#footnote-1170)

9 December, 2014

* HDP deputy Hasip Kaplan said that the statement of opposition which has been lodged on budgetary proposal was not printed, as it covered the terms Kurdish and Kurdistan, and thus criticized the incident, saying, *“You will print our statement of opposition tomorrow. Otherwise we will put on a scene during the budget talks to be held tomorrow.”*[[1171]](#footnote-1171)
* As a result of an application made by *Kanal A* to ensure the cancellation of memberships of RTÜK members Ali Öztunç and Süleyman Demirkan who have been elected through the CHP quota, it was decided that the commission to consist of AKP members would question the mentioned members. Ali Öztunç of the CHP reacted to the situation by saying, *“They let the fox guard the henhouse.”*[[1172]](#footnote-1172)
* Such media organs as *Zaman, Bugün, Taraf dailies and Cihan News Agency* have been prevented from following a press conference which was jointly organized in Ankara by Higher Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini, European Commissioner for Enlargement Johannes Hahn and EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides and attended by Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu and EU Minister and Chief Negotiator Volkan Bozkır. As the EU officials reacted to the incident, another press conference was held in a few hours for press members who have been prevented from following the previous press conference due to the accreditation process.[[1173]](#footnote-1173)
* Chairman of Journalists Association of Antalya Mevlüt Yeni said, *“The required attempts have been made with regard to assailants before the university and hospital management”* following the incidents that occurred at a car park in Medical School of Akdeniz University. *“The journalists are neither alone, nor unprotected. I hope such an incident will not occur again,”* said Yeni.[[1174]](#footnote-1174)
* Oya Özarslan, President of the Board of Directors of Transparency International Turkey, made an evaluation about the published 2014 Corruption Perception Index report. *“Considering the developments that have occurred in one to one and a half years in Turkey, the result is no surprise. There is a decline both in the fight against corruption and democratization processes. These are the factors nurturing the corruption perception. The freedom of expression and free press and judiciary are the prerequisites of fight against corruption. Otherwise it would be impossible to prevent corruptions,”* said Özarslan.[[1175]](#footnote-1175)
* The members of young student wing of the Worker’s Party known as the Vanguard Youth made a statement in front of *Yeni Akit* daily building, responding to the headline “Leave the Ak Saray, Look at Atatürk OÇ” (Which could be either the Atatürk Forestry Farm, or S…of a B…) which was covered by Yeni Akit daily against criticisms about the Presidential Palace. An official from the daily poured a bucket of water over the protestors who have been chanting slogans, and thus provoked the group. The group members displayed the banners that read “Vanguard Youth is coming, AKP supporters go to the US” and changed the following slogan: “Atatürk’s young people are on duty.” The Organization Director of Yeni Akit daily Nuri Karahasanoğlu used a microphone to shout at protestors along with officials from the daily, saying, “Communist dogs! Go to Moscow!” Yeni Akit columnist Ali İhsan Karahasanoğlu replied to the group, saying, “Let your boss come here!”[[1176]](#footnote-1176)

10 December, 2014

* As a reaction to the removal of composer and pianist Fazıl Say’s works from Presidential Symphony Orchestra’s program, former Director General of State Opera and Ballet and maestro Rengim Gökmen has withdrawn from his duty as a maestro that he was supposed to perform during a concert aimed commemorating İsmet İnönü by the Presidential Symphony Orchestra.[[1177]](#footnote-1177)

12 December, 2014

* Concerning the claims made by a *Twitter* user, known by the pseudonym “Fuat Avni,” that an operation would be held against media, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Journalists Association of Sakarya and Member of the Executive Board of Journalists Federation of Turkey Sezai Matur said that the collective detentions against press have not occurred even in periods of coup d’états and defined it as a terrible attempt. “I hope these allegations are not true,” said Matur. The Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) Bursa deputy Necati Özensoy said, *“If what are told is true, then the situation is desperate. The occurrence of such operations is not a coincidence during the anniversary of operations against corruption. Unfortunately they are seeking revenge.”* The Great Union Party (BBP) leader Mustafa Destici said, *“We consider the operations against people by some people as anti-democratic. We also want everybody to stay out of it.”*[[1178]](#footnote-1178)

13 December, 2014

* The claims made by a *Twitter* user known by the pseudonym “Fuat Avni“ that an operation would be held against media were covered by the Britain-based The Independent daily and the US-based news portal Mashable. Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) Executive Director Joel Simon said, *“We are keeping a close eye on Turkey, where rumors are flying of possible mass arrests, including journalists.”*[[1179]](#footnote-1179)
* After a *Twitter* user known by the pseudonym “Fuat Avni“ has claimed in his *tweet* that 400 persons, including approximately 150 opponent journalists, would be detained in police raids, a statement was made by the Press Council and Journalists Association of Turkey. President of Press Council Pınar Türenç said, *“It’s worrying that the detention of journalists has been turned into an ordinary incident.”* Chairman of Journalists Association of Turkey Turgay Olcayto underlined the following: *“The ruling party is getting more oppressive day by day.”*[[1180]](#footnote-1180)

14 December, 2014

* A joint statement made by the Journalists Association of Turkey and the Journalists Union of Turkey stressed that the detention of journalists was an intervention in the public’s right to information and learn the truths, adding, *“The freedom of press and expression cannot be punished.”* The Press Institute also condemned the operations of December 14 as follows: *“The operations of December 14 which has started with police raids on the Zaman daily and Samanyolu TV and continued with the numerous detentions of our colleagues have created concerns in terms of democracy and freedom of press in Turkey.”*[[1181]](#footnote-1181)
* European Commission Spokesperson Maja Kocijancic said, “We are very concerned about reports reaching us from Turkey about detained journalists and media representatives.” The raid is very troubling, European Parliament (EP) President Martin Schulz said via Twitter on “#ÖzgürBasınSusturulamaz [The free press cannot be silenced].[[1182]](#footnote-1182)
* Journalist Hasan Cemal said that he was in solidarity with officials from Zaman and Samanyolu which had to face operations by the government. “Finally the truth and freedom always win,” said Cemal via *Twitter*.[[1183]](#footnote-1183)

15 December, 2014

* Yusuf Kanlı, *Press for Freedom* project coordinator for the Journalists Association, said the following about the operations against Zaman and STV media groups: *“It’s impossible to yield results through these raids. Now is the time of solidarity. The profession experts should stand in solidarity, support each other and overcome all of these difficulties together in such a difficult day of the profession.”*[[1184]](#footnote-1184)
* The operations against Zaman daily and STV have been largely covered by the foreign press as well. Reuters reported in its news story with an “Urgent” code that Executive Editor of Zaman daily Ekrem Dumanlı said, *“President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan pointed to the operation two days ago.”* The German DeutscheWelle daily announced the operation with following headline: *“Operation against parallel structure.”* BBB gave the following headline: *“Turkey arrests: Raids target Gülen-linked critics of Erdoğan”* and touched upon the *“tension”* between President Erdoğan and Fethullah Gülen.[[1185]](#footnote-1185)
* Concerning the raids on “parallel structure,” CHP leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu said, “The address and identity of the oppressed should not be asked for. We are criticizing the raids on journalists and newspaper s, just like we did in the past. The press should be free and capable of writing comfortably and fearlessly.”[[1186]](#footnote-1186)
* Judge Mehmet Karababa, who has pulled an unpublished book by Ahmet Şık off the shelves, described the operation as censorship. “The strictest censorship on press is the state of controlling the news stories and information before they are published. The press members’ coverage of news and information under the pressure of unemployment, detention and arrest is considered an absolute censorship,” said Karababa.[[1187]](#footnote-1187)
* Touching upon the raids on Zaman daily and Samanyolu TV, Chairman of Journalists Association of Artvin Tolga Gül said, *“The raids on the press are concerning to us,”* adding, *“The efforts aimed at oppressing and censoring the press members would not suit to a contemporary and modern constitutional state.”*[[1188]](#footnote-1188)
* Cem Özdemir, Co-Chairman of the German Green Party, described the operation of December 14 as *“a new wake-up call in terms of further distancing Turkey from democracy.”* Hannes Swoboda, former Chairman of the Socialist Group in European Parliament, said the following via Twitter: *“Recent actions in Turkey against journalists: a further setback for democracy.”*[[1189]](#footnote-1189)

16 December, 2014

* An article written by Simon Tisdall and published in The Guardian daily criticized the “December 14 operation“ against the “parallel structure“ and described Recep Tayyip Erdoğan as a paranoid autocrat.”[[1190]](#footnote-1190)
* Nazmi Bilgin, Chairman of the Journalists Association (Ankara), condemned the raids on Zaman daily and Samanyolu Media Group and detention of journalists. Stating that the free press cannot be silenced, Bilgin said, *“We might not agree with them with regard to their opinions and thoughts, but we are defending their right to express their opinions and we will continue to do so all the way.”* Bilgin also reacted to the issue of “reasonable doubt.”[[1191]](#footnote-1191)
* The reporters and representatives of national and local newspapers from Burdur responded to the raid on media organs. Chairman of Journalists Association of Burdur Adnan Taraşlı said, *“We face such incidents in each period. I hope it will be the last one and we will not have to suffer from such incidents. Today I’m defending the same opinions that I expressed yesterday. We might be thinking differently. It’s the freedom of press that unites and connects us with each other. The press is free and cannot be silenced or oppressed.”*[[1192]](#footnote-1192)
* CHP deputy İlhan Cihaner claimed that the investigations over the movement of Gülen, including press members, aimed at hiding the role played by AKP in previously committed offenses, adding, *“Putting the blame of recent unlawfulness only on the movement by claiming ‘it has been done by the movement’ does not remove the AKP’s political responsibility. Both the AKP and movement of Gülen are mainly responsible for the Ergenekon process and the Tahşiyeciler case. Although these claims have been made for many years, they are carried out at a time when the government wants to draw a veil over on graft investigations.”*[[1193]](#footnote-1193)
* Speaking at a meeting on “People who Guide Turkey“ along with members of the Young Businessmen Association of Turkey (TÜGİAD), CHP leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu said that the law was not dependent on any person, situation, belief or identity, claiming that Turkey has been gradually dragged into a dictatorial regime. *“The people of a country, where the right to information is not exercised and the press is not free, cannot be free, either,”* said Kılıçdaroğlu. Stating that the democracy will keep abreast of human rights and freedoms, Kılıçdaroğlu said, *“So the laws will be enacted in line with a person’s orders… This is not democracy. It’s not in line with democracy to say that those who vote for me ‘are the national will’ but those who don’t ‘are the national will’.”*[[1194]](#footnote-1194)
* Nationalist Movement Party leader Devlet Bahçeli made a statement about the operation of December 14, saying, “Zaman daily Executive Editor, Samanyolu TV Media Group Chairman, scriptwriters of serials, producers, directors, some police officers and chiefs of police have faced serious accusations. Initial results started to be yielded from an amendment made in Article 116 of the Code of Criminal Procedure numbered 5271 with regard to ‘reasonable doubt’ which entered into force through publication in the (repeated) Official Gazette dated Friday, December 12, 2014.”[[1195]](#footnote-1195)
* Turkey ranked the 154 out of 180 countries in the World Press Freedom Index 2014 by the Reporters without Borders (RSF). The report described Turkey as “a country, where around 60 journalists were in detention at the end of 2013, 153 journalists were injured and 39 detained during the Gezi Park protests and editorial independence of media employees is still limited,” adding, “the police violence against journalists that went unpunished one year after Gezi Park protests encourage new attacks.”[[1196]](#footnote-1196)

17 December, 2014

* The incidents that occurred following the operation of December 14 were covered in an article by Nate Schenkkan, Program Officer in Eurasia Programs for Freedom House. “*A European vision for Turkey will never move forward with this government,”* wrote Schenkann, adding, *“It is time to freeze the accession process, and to prepare for a Turkey that remains outside of Europe indefinitely. Those who dream of a democratic future for the country need to start thinking differently about how to support the cause.”*[[1197]](#footnote-1197)
* CHP Denizli deputy İlhan Cihaner reacted to the attempt at cancellation of memberships of RTÜK members Ali Öztunç and Süleyman Demirkan who have been elected through the CHP quota on grounds of “violation of confidentiality,” asking, *“How could the RTÜK members dare to attempt to carry out a research on and dismiss the members elected by the Parliament both legally and ethically?”*[[1198]](#footnote-1198)
* The US Secretary of State made a written statement, issued a call for the Turkish government regarding the raids on media organs in Turkey and voiced its concerns about the detention of media representatives. *“Suggesting a dissenting opinion is not the equivalent of conspiracy or betrayal,”* the statement said.[[1199]](#footnote-1199)

18 December, 2014

* Turkish-American Friendship Association of the Illinois State Congress, USA, described the raid targeting the free press on December 14 as “an assault on democracy.” Senator Pamela Althoff and lawmaker Jack D. Franks, co-chairmen of the Friendship Association, criticized the “operation of December 14” in an article published in the US-based Chicago Tribune daily. *“Turkish government’s actions are a direct assault on democracy and an attempt that disturbs every modern society,”* wrote Althoff and Franks.[[1200]](#footnote-1200)

19 December, 2014

* Speaking at the “Relationship between Law and Economy: The Public Welfare Dimension of Liberties” panel, organized by the Transparency International and the Consulate General of Sweden in Istanbul, MIT economist Daron Acemoğlu said that the growth was based not on leaders, culture or geography, but on institutions, adding, *“There a mixture of inclusive and extractive institutions in Turkey. Turkey’s economic and political institutions have always been characterized by a ‘sultan state.’ This can only be overcome by more political participation of the masses and a rise in public demands for more human rights, freedom and transparency.”*Speaking at the same panel, lawyer Gönenç Gürkaynak said, “The main basis of all sorts of rights is the freedom of expression.”[[1201]](#footnote-1201)
* Turkey ranked the 10 among the countries with the highest number of detained journalists in a special report prepared by the US-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) for 2014.[[1202]](#footnote-1202)
* A protest was staged in front of the courthouse in Adana, Eskişehir and Kilis for journalists who have been detained as part of the operation of December 14.[[1203]](#footnote-1203)
* Tarman Azzam, President of Consultative Committee of the Journalists Association of Indonesia, made a statement concerning the operation of December 14, saying that he was concerned by the incidents that occurred in Turkey and worried by the operation. *“We have experienced the things currently happening in Turkey during the period of dictator Suharto. But the Indonesian press has survived all of his oppressions by further gaining strength,”* said Azzam*.*[[1204]](#footnote-1204)
* The court decision about the operation of December 14 has been covered by the foreign press as well. “A Turkish court kept a media executive and three other people in custody in a case which President Tayyip Erdogan has defended as a response to ‘dirty operations’ by his enemies,” Reuters reported. The French AFP covered a claim reported by TRT Haber in its new story with an “urgent” code. “The Turkish court has issued an arrest warrant for Erdoğan’s enemy Gülen,” said the AFP. “The investigation has been condemned as a blow against Turkey’s freedom of press. Erdoğan has rejected criticism from abroad,” Associated Press news agency reported.***[[1205]](#footnote-1205)***

20 December, 2014

* Emma Sinclair-Webb, senior Turkey researcher Human Rights Watch (HRW), criticized the decision related with the operation of December 14, saying, *“Keeping journalists in custody on dubious terrorism charges without clear justification harms media freedom and is likely to further dent Turkey's international reputation.”*[[1206]](#footnote-1206)

21 December, 2014

* Participating in a march which has been organized in order to protest the operation of December 14 in Los Angeles, Hollywood star Bruce Davison also criticized the incidents in Turkey and likened them to a witch hunt conducted by Wisconsin Senator McCarthy in the US in 1950s. Criticizing the raids on the Zaman daily and Samanyolu TV, Davison said, *“A similar process has occurred in our country as well. People have been judged and questioned because of their opinions and beliefs. We have lost a great many of things in that process.”*[[1207]](#footnote-1207)

23 December, 2014

* President Erdoğan has accused the Reporters without Borders (RSF) of conducting a campaign against him in his statement about a report released by the RSF. Stating that the report issued by the RSF criticizes Turkey and ignores the violations by Israel, Egypt and EU members, Erdoğan claimed that the organization was applying double standard. The RSF has stated that it was ready to share details of 117 attacks and threats covered by its report with Erdoğan. RSF Secretary General Christophe Deloire issued a written statement, saying, “Do we need to point out that RWB is an independent and impartial NGO whose findings are based on precise methods and facts it can support? The Turkish president’s comments show yet again that he thinks a conspiracy lies behind every criticism. His accusations against us betray the same hostility to pluralism that he shows towards Turkish journalists who are not fortunate enough to please him.”[[1208]](#footnote-1208)
* The claims involved in the lawsuit for mental anguish totaling TL 100,000 that has been filed by President Erdoğan against CHP leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu on grounds of *“grave insults against personal rights”* were partially accepted by judge İsmail Aysal, who has ruled that Kılıçdaroğlu must pay TL 10,000.[[1209]](#footnote-1209)
* After release of the news story related with an application made by AKP deputy Mustafa Ataş for houses built by the Housing Development Administration of Turkey (TOKİ) for the “*low-income group”* in Çemişgezek district of the province of Tunceli in recent months, journalist Ferit Demir claimed that his wife working for the Health Ministry has been relegated to another province.[[1210]](#footnote-1210)

24 December, 2014

* According to the “public security report” released by the media agency Interpress covering such incidents as murders, injury, seizure and pick pocketing for the year 2014, it was found out that the number of news stories in the press with regard to public security has increased by 15 in 2013, when compared to 2014 in a research covering approximately two thousand national, regional and local newspapers and magazines. It was seen that the number of news stories related with public security increased from 500,000 to 600,000 in 2014, including 66,442 stories regarding investigations over corruption allegations dated December 17-25. It was determined that the news stories related with narcotics and drugs climbed to 64,652 with an increase by 20 percent and thus ranked the second, 39,964 stories regarding theft were covered by the press, the bribery issue came to the fore with 34,234 stories, 30,082 stories concerning murders, 27,254 stories about smuggling and 5,119 stories concerning injuries were published throughout the year.[[1211]](#footnote-1211)
* When Mehmet Demirkol criticized on the program Sports Service on NTV that the German Football Federation notified the Turkish Football Federation that Turkish referees were not welcome by German teams on grounds of the alleged “rigged games” in practice matches in Turkey and the Turkish Football Federation (TFF) has answered in the affirmative and defined the issue as a “disgrace,” the broadcast was cut and a commercial break was initiated. Once the advertisements ended, the program went off the air and a summary of the German league was broadcast.[[1212]](#footnote-1212)

25 December, 2014

* A fashion show to be organized by Yıldırım Mayruk, who has been invited to a fashion event to be held in Baku, was removed from the list. Barbaros Şansal, who has been involved in Mayruk’s fashion shows and known by his activist identity and his support especially for Gezi Park protests, said that the cancellation in the last minute reflected “the AKP’s intolerance towards dissenting opinions.” Speaking to the Sözcü daily, Şansal said, “Although it has been announced, we were removed from this project with an order from Ankara and the AKP. The owner of Aydeniz Holding received a phone call, and thus Yıldırım Mayruk’s collection was removed with an order from Ankara upon a news story indicating that Emine Erdoğan would be participating as well.”[[1213]](#footnote-1213)
* Union of [Turkish Bar Associations Chairman](http://www.milliyet.com.tr/turkiye-barolar-birligi/) [Metin Feyzioğlu](http://siyaset.milliyet.com.tr/sarigul-allah-kimseyi-usta/siyaset/detay/1826115/default.htm) said the following about the detention of a high school student for allegedly insulting President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan: “As a professor of criminal law, I could simply say that there is no legal basis for detention of that child. Under current circumstances, this illegal detention is perceived by us as an effort aimed at pleasing the president. The main purpose of the arrest is to ensure that an example is set for those who intend to raise their voice against the government.”[[1214]](#footnote-1214)

28 December, 2014

* The Spanish El Pais daily covered an article entitled “Turkey rolls back.” The article wrote, “Erdoğan’s authoritarianism causes serious doubts about the future of democracy in the country,” adding, “The checks and balances, freedom of press, independence of judiciary and the rule of law are diminishing in the new Turkey.”[[1215]](#footnote-1215)

31 December, 2014

* ***The professional journalist organizations reacted to the detention of Sedef Kabaş. A statement released by the Press Council said, “The arrest warrant for two journalists who were designated as terrorists has also scared us in the last days of the year. We are still facing difficulties with understanding the ‘journalist hunt’ signals”; the Journalists Association of Turkey said the following in its statement: “The detention of Sedef Kabaş due to her Twitter message is a new example of the efforts aimed at intimidating the journalists. It also increases our doubts about the reasonable doubt would be applied to journalists the most”; the Journalists Federation of Turkey issued a statement as well, indicating, “No one is guaranteed anymore. The entire law, police and security have been designed by this ruling party. They don’t want to hear even one word against themselves. They also bring in every statement.” The Journalists and Writers Foundation stated the following via Twitter: “The current blow against media has been extended up to Sedef Kabaş. This time the reason is not an article, a news story, a movie or a scenario, but only a tweet.”[[1216]](#footnote-1216)***
* “We spent a year in which such fundamental rights as the freedom of expression and the public’s right to information have been exercised without any guarantee and journalists have been crumpled,” wrote Chairperson Pınar Türenç in the 2014 report entitled “A Difficult Year” by the Press Council. Stating that the picture that is seen on the basis of a list of numerous limitations, including censorship, self-censor, accreditations, injuries, gassing, truncheoning, othering, hundreds of unemployed journalists, those whose pens are broken and those who are jailed pending trial and released on conditions of trial without arrest, as well as broadcast bans, a very desperate situation emerges in terms of a democratic rule of law, Türenç wrote, “While all of these censorships, self-censures, accreditations, closure of newspapers and trials hang over our head like a sword of Damocles, it’s impossible for us to talk about a ‘free press.’ [[1217]](#footnote-1217)

## Positive Developments

3 March 2014

* In the KCK Press Case, journalists Ayşe Oyman, Sibel Güler and Dilek Demiral were released on condition of trial without arrest. [[1218]](#footnote-1218)

6 March 2014

* In the trial of Yurt newspaper Izmir reporter Ahmet Çınar about the messages shared on *Twitter* for insulting Prime Minister Erdoğan, Çınar was found not guilty during the first hearing.[[1219]](#footnote-1219) The messages which caused the case to be opened; “Political scientists say that dictators do not resign, but are toppled. Then, he will fall,” “on the 11 June, CNN International informed the world: Tayyip is the new Hitler of Europe”, “The responsible parties for the injuries, deaths, hits and trauma caused by the attacks of the Imam's Army in the last ten days will be held accountable.”
* The verdict of the Izmir 7th Magistrates’ Court was considered as “a verdict separating slander from the right to criticism, opening the way for freedom of expression” by legal experts.[[1220]](#footnote-1220)

10 March 2014

* Journalists Tuncay Özkan, Merdan Yanardağ, Deniz Yıldırım and Hikmet Çiçek, arrested to be tried in the Ergenekon case, were released. The release process developed as follows: Although specially authorized courts and public prosecutors were decommissioned in July 2012, a provisional article stipulated that they were to conclude the cases already opened. As the prosecutors that carried out the 17 December operation and courts approving the action were under the special status and due to the Prime Minister's quote that these were part of “the parallel structure within the government,” the specially authorized courts were disbanded on the 6 March 2014. The prosecutors and judges were reassigned to different locations. In response to the former Turkish Chief of Staff İlker Başbuğ's application to the Constitutional Court regarding the violation of his rights to reasonable judgment, and release during the hearings, investigations and prosecution process in the Ergenekon case, the court decided that article 19 of the Constitution had been violated with verdict no. 2014/912 dated 06.03.2014. [[1221]](#footnote-1221)

4 April 2014

* An investigation was opened in Izmir regarding the report by the Bugün newspaper about the corruption and bribe claims concerning ministers and their relatives. The prosecutor dropped the case stating “it is beneficial for such things to be known.”[[1222]](#footnote-1222)

12 April 2014

* The United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organization (UNESCO) presented an award for “freedom of the press” to journalist Ahmet Şık.[[1223]](#footnote-1223)
* The CHP Bolu group visited Bolu Gündem newspaper, emphasizing the importance of the press for democracy and condemning the pressure put on local newspaper s.[[1224]](#footnote-1224)

14 April 2014

* The “Green Line” established in the Yücebağ area of the Sason district of Batman after a homicide 20 years ago was removed and in the scope of the “Journalists are Training, Batman is Developing” project, 25 journalists were allowed into the area for the first time.[[1225]](#footnote-1225)

19 April 2014

* The Supreme Court of Cassation reversed the verdict for the payment of compensation by *Taraf* former Editor in Chief Ahmet Altan to Prime Minister Erdoğan regarding a libel case opened concerning Altan's column published in 2012 entitled “Alaturka-ness.” The Court of Cassation stated that the Prime Minister “must be able to bear criticism, even that which is serious.”[[1226]](#footnote-1226)

22 April 2014

* Free Journalists Association (ÖGC), situated in Diyarbakır, announced that the *Kurdish Journalist's Day* would be celebrated.[[1227]](#footnote-1227)

27 April 2014

* According to an article published in the Bugün newspaper , the investigation opened about Bugün reporter Ezelhan Üstünkaya's article regarding CHP leader Kılıçdaroğlu's announcement of tapes in the party group meeting was closed without prejudice. The prosecutor issuing the verdict emphasized public information and freedom of the press, referencing European Court of Human Rights verdicts.[[1228]](#footnote-1228)

8 May 2014

* Journalists Füsun Erdoğan and Bayram Namaz who were arrested eight years ago during the Gaye operation and sentenced to life in prison due to membership of the MLKP terrorist organization, were released.[[1229]](#footnote-1229)

12 May 2014

* All of the seven who were arrested in the scope of the “KCK Press Committee“ case were released.[[1230]](#footnote-1230)
* The first general meeting of the Journalist's Confederation, to which approximately 20,000 journalists, 73 journalist's unions and 8 journalist's federations have become members, was carried out in Ankara with the participation of 144 delegates.[[1231]](#footnote-1231)

16 May 2014

* The case opened against a mother and her two children for banging pots and pans during the Gezi protests, for disturbing the peace, was concluded. The court decided that the actions of the defendants did not constitute an intentional crime and found them not guilty.[[1232]](#footnote-1232)

26 May 2014

* In the scope of the 25 anniversary activities of the Atatürkist (Kemalist) Though Association, Aydınlık newspaper and *Ulusal Kanal* were presented with the “Free Voice of the Press award.[[1233]](#footnote-1233)

27 May 2014

* The compensation and reproach case opened against the TGRT Tv network in regard to the news item broadcast about Izmir Journalist's Association and Turkish Journalist's Federation Chairman Atilla Sertel during the Gezi Park protests was concluded in favor of the latter. The court ordered the TGRT network to broadcast the reproach verdict during the TGRT main news bulletin.[[1234]](#footnote-1234)

2 June 2014

* The Ankara Republican Head Prosecutor's Office decided that there was no requirement to obtain permission in advance for meetings and demonstration marches and therefore “participating in an unauthorized demonstration” would not constitute a criminal action.[[1235]](#footnote-1235)

4 June 2014

* Diyarbakır Metropolitan Municipality Co-Mayer Gülten Kışanak met with Free Journalists Association President Serdar Altan and delegates, stating “freedom of the press is the source of freedom of thought.”[[1236]](#footnote-1236)

19 June 2014

* In the scope the *Journalists are Training, Batman is Developing* project implemented by the Batman Journalists and Broadcasters Association, supported by the Social Solidarity Program (SODES) implemented by the Ministry of Development, journalists who had completed a photography training received their certificates at a ceremony held at the [Tüpraş](http://www.haberler.com/tupras/) facilities.[[1237]](#footnote-1237)

20 June 2014

* As a result of appeals by Inci authors, incicaps.com, which was blocked by TİB on the 6 June was reopened for access.[[1238]](#footnote-1238)

21 June 2014

* The Turgutlu Republic Prosecutor’s Office decided that “KCK activities” should be considered under the “freedom of thought and expression” and that there was “no reason for prosecution.” [[1239]](#footnote-1239)

24 June 2014

* The Frist Presidents Board Meeting of the Journalists Confederation was held in Siirt. In the conclusion announcement after the meeting, the use of “language of peace” by journalists in the solution process was emphasized.[[1240]](#footnote-1240)

25 June 2014

* While speaking to Hazal Özvarış of *T24*, *Hürriyet* columnist İsmet Berkan stated regarding his messages on social media saying that he had seen the footage of the Kabataş events, “it was my mistake; I shouldn't have sent those *tweets*. I realized that I made a mistake. I shouldn't have said anything before confirming.” Abdülkadir Selvi had written that a veiled woman had been attacked by a group of 80-100 during the Gezi protests and in his column in the Radikal newspaper , İsmet Berkan had written that he had seen the footage. [[1241]](#footnote-1241)

26 June 2014

* *The Constitutional Court* judged that the decision to confiscate and burn the copies of the book *Kurdistan Revolutionary Manifesto* during the publication process, written by Abdullah Öcalan while in jail was “a violation of rights.” The Constitutional Court decided that the judgment had “violated the freedom of expression and publication.”[[1242]](#footnote-1242)
* 11 trainees receiving photography training in the scope of the “Journalists are Training, Batman is Developing” project implemented by the Batman Journalists Association, completed the last part of the course with a trip to Izmir.[[1243]](#footnote-1243)

27 June 2014

* To draw attention to transgendered individuals murdered, stabbed and mutilated, the LGBT Solidarity Association organized a “But Trans Beauty Contest” with the slogan “Without You We Are Alone.” [[1244]](#footnote-1244)

30 June 2014

* In the scope of the Safe Traffic Project implemented by the World Health Organization and supported by the Journalists Association, a Safe Traffic Project News Workshop was held and various newspaper and TV reporters took part in the Ankara event.[[1245]](#footnote-1245)

3 July 2014

* In the collective case opened in Antalya regarding the Gezi protests, the court opted for a not guilty verdict. The verdict, referencing the European Convention of Human Rights, stated that “meetings and demonstrations are a constitutional right.”[[1246]](#footnote-1246)

12 July 2014

* In response to the Mousul hostage issue, Presidential candidate Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu stated “freedom of press is vital; to cover up issues, to impose a press prohibition is not acceptable.”[[1247]](#footnote-1247)

16 July 2014

* *The Constitutional Court* accepted that the statement of the website Habervaktim.com targeting lawyer Sinem Hun and the Kaos GL Association “Sinem Hun, registered to the Ankara Bar Association and representing the perverted organization named Kaos GL” was “hate speech based on sexual orientation.” With this admission, hate speech based on sexual orientation has been recognized for the first time by the *Constitutional Court*.[[1248]](#footnote-1248)

24 July 2014

* Turkey Youth Council Batman Provincial President Mekan Görük, in a statement regarding the anniversary of the lifting of press censorship, said that the press was the eyes, ears and mouthpiece of the people.[[1249]](#footnote-1249)
* In the ceremony held for the 106 anniversary of the lifting of censorship, the traditional “Freedom of Press Awards” were presented by the Turkish Journalists Association.[[1250]](#footnote-1250)
* The *Freedom for Journalists Platform* formed by 94 press vocational organization, organized a social media campaign entitled *“Journalism, Resist”* on the 24 July, celebrated as Struggle for Freedom of Press Day since 2013. The campaign drew attention to the issue of freedom of press and expression in Turkey through social media, with the hashtags #journalismresist, *#ifthepresswasfree* and *#journalistsday*.[[1251]](#footnote-1251)

25 July 2014

* The Press Freedom Award was presented to journalist and author Soner Yalçın by the Izmir Karşıyaka Municipality and the Izmir Journalists Association.[[1252]](#footnote-1252)

31 July 2014

* The punishment of disablement from teaching issued by the Ministry of National Education to a teacher in Bartın who encouraged students to participate in the Gezi Park protests on the social media platform *Facebook* was annulled by the administrative court on grounds of “violation of applicable law.”[[1253]](#footnote-1253)

1 August 2014

* The Council of Europe Convention known as the *Istanbul Convention*, regarding the prevention of violence towards women and interfamily violence and combating these issues came into force. The convention defines violence on the basis of gender (being distinct from biological sexual characteristics and identified as sexual perception in society) as *“a form of torture,”* also stipulating that refugee status must also be considered in gender sensitive terms.[[1254]](#footnote-1254)

5 August 2014

* The year long preparations for the establishment of the World Electronic Press Council Union, an umbrella group aiming to support, develop and achieve auto-control of global electronic and social media freedom were completed. Journalist Hasan Taşkın, making an announcement on the establishment of the World Electronic Press Council Union, said that the paperwork had been submitted to the Ministry of Interior Affairs.[[1255]](#footnote-1255)

7 August 2014

* Press Announcement Organization Director General Mehmet Atalay stated that in the scope of the Internet Law being discussed in parliament, Internet media organizations could be accepted as journalists and Internet media reporters would be able to obtain “yellow press cards.”[[1256]](#footnote-1256)
* In regard to Cihan News Agency Reporters not being accepted in the delegation to meet Minister of Interior Affairs Efkan Ala, despite an invitation, BBP leader Mustafa Destici stated “this blow to press freedom and discrimination between the press is not something that democratic people would be capable of.”[[1257]](#footnote-1257)

18 August 2014

* The strike initiated due to the failure to reach an agreement in the collective negotiations between *Anka News Agency* and TGS ended in hours after an agreement was reached.[[1258]](#footnote-1258)

21 August 2014

* The criminal complaint against journalist Fatih Yağmur due to his coverage of the trucks sent to Syria under MİT protection was concluded with a verdict of no action. The prosecutor rejected the complaint emphasizing press freedom.[[1259]](#footnote-1259)

3 September 2014

* Fenerbahçe Left Wing Supporters Group member Mehmet Sencer Az applied to the Advertising Self-Regulatory Board with a request for Passolig adverts to be discontinued. In justification for this request, Sencer stated *“the formation of the image of supporters not purchasing Passolig cards as people with violent, fanatical and law-breaking tendencies.”* After examining Sencer's application, the Advertising Self-Regulatory Board decided for the discontinuation of Passolig advertisements due to the violation of the article regarding *“respect to personal rights.”*[[1260]](#footnote-1260)

5 September 2014

* In the last session of the “Internet Ungovernance Forum,” organized in Istanbul by the Istanbul Bilgi University for free, safe and open Internet as an alternative to the Internet Governance Forum 2014 also held in Istanbul, Wikileaks founder Julian Assange participated and answered questions through a conference connection from the London Embassy of Ecuador, which had provided Assange with political asylum.[[1261]](#footnote-1261)

13 September 2014

* The 46 Presidents Council Meeting of the Turkish Journalists Federation was held with a large number of participants in Diyarbakır, hosted by the South-eastern Journalists Association. The meeting saw a number of messages of peace and friendship.[[1262]](#footnote-1262)

14 September 2014

* A compensation case brought against Cumhuriyet columnist Can Dündar three years ago regarding his article about the Lighthouse case (Deniz Feneri), described as the *“corruption case of the century”* in Germany but *“absolved”* in Turkey, was dismissed by the court. Can Dündar made the following statement on his *Twitter* account *“They had sued me for my Deniz Feneri article. Three years later, the court dismissed the case. The judgment: 'the duty of the press is to report'“.*[[1263]](#footnote-1263)

17 September 2014

* CHP leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu's decision to watch the Beşiktaş - Asteras Tripolis match to be played on the 18 September 2014 together in the stands with the Çarşı Group was announced, stating *that Kılıçdaroğlu “is offering support to the supporters group charged with* *attempting a coup d'etat to bring down the government during the Gezi protests*.” [[1264]](#footnote-1264)

18 September 2014

* A women known as D.K. who was stabbed in Erzurum for wearing *“leggings”* and sitting back in another man's car, complained to the prosecutor's office against DHA reporter Hümeyra Pardeli, who had reported on the incident. The Republican Prosecutor dismissed D.K.'s complaint citing “freedom of press” and decided for no further action against reporter Pardeli.[[1265]](#footnote-1265)

19 September 2014

* The Supreme Court General Penal Board judged that the actions of a person who threw stones at police during a demonstration in Diyarbakır could be considered a form of *“expression of views,”* citing ECHR verdicts.[[1266]](#footnote-1266)

22 September 2014

* In the case opened in Izmir at the Izmir 22 Penal Court of First Instance against 29 defendants for inciting and provoking the people to break the law during the Gezi Park protests through *tweeting*, with a potential jail sentence of three years, in which the Prime Minister at the time and current President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan was named as an injured party, the court found 27 of the defendants not guilty, ordered Egemen Çiynekli to pay a fine of 8,100 TL and separated the file of Efecan Karakaş, who had an arrest order pending.[[1267]](#footnote-1267)
* The World Electronic Press Council Union, an umbrella group aiming to support, develop and achieve auto-control of global electronic and social media freedom was recognized with official status with the permission of the Cabinet of Ministers.[[1268]](#footnote-1268)

23 September 2014

* President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and his son Bilal Erdoğan filed a complaint for slander against journalist and author Soner Yalçın. In both investigations regarding Soner Yalçın, it was decided that no further action was necessary.[[1269]](#footnote-1269)

25 September 2014

* *The Constitutional Court* accepted the request of the Republican Peoples Party to debate the annulment and removal from force of some of the articles of the omnibus law. Some of the articles involve the provision of censorship rights to the Presidency of Telecommunication and Communication.[[1270]](#footnote-1270)

26 September 2014

* Mardin Governor Mustafa Taşkesen called İlke News Agency reporter Salih Keskin, who had been subject to violence from hospital employees who had previously been reported to have beaten a teacher accompanying a relative at a private hospital in Mardin. Governor Taşkesen said *“it makes us sad to hear about such things in Mardin, the city of tolerance,”* condemning the attack and wishing Keskin a speedy recovery.[[1271]](#footnote-1271)

27 September 2014

* Upon the order of Şanlıurfa Governor İzzettin Küçük, a press lodge with beds, an Internet connection, computers, toilets and showers was established for reporters within the camp established for Syrian refugees in Suruç.[[1272]](#footnote-1272)

29 September 2014

* The Ankara Republican Head Prosecution Office decided not to take further action in the investigation of graffiti at the Ankara Batıkent High School such as *“the murderous state will answer”* and *“war until the fall of oligarchy.”* The head prosecutor considered the slogans under 'freedom of expression'.[[1273]](#footnote-1273)

1 October 2014

* A 17 year old, held under observation and then released upon the claim that he had participated in 1 May demonstrations in Izmir, won the case opened with legal representation for the cancellation of a 356 TL fine issued by the Traffic Branch Directorate for *“the obstruction of traffic and signage”* during the demonstrations.[[1274]](#footnote-1274)

2 October 2014

* *Aydınlık* columnist Mustafa Mutlu was absolved on any wrongdoing in the case regarding an article opened by Prime Minister of the time and current President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, on the grounds of the article being considered within the boundaries of *“freedom of the press.”*[[1275]](#footnote-1275)
* A request submitted by T.S., who had beaten his ex-girlfriend stating that he had been provoked, to remove a related article from *bianet* was rejected by the court.The court's verdict states *“the language of the article, the words used and the form of presentation of the article do not seem to have insulted the personal rights and the court has decided that this verdict should primarily consider the protection of the freedom of the press, freedom of thought and expression*.”[[1276]](#footnote-1276)

2 October 2014

* The Constitutional Court decided for the annulment of the authorities to *“restrict access to websites within four hours”* and *“protect and gather online”* provided to the Prime Ministry TİB by the government with the omnibus law.[[1277]](#footnote-1277)

4 October 2014

* Constitutional Court President Haşim Kılıç[,](http://www.gazeteciler.com/)stated that there was “*an atmosphere of fear”* in Turkey and that “journalists should not give in” in a statement to the IPI-CPJ press freedom delegation.[[1278]](#footnote-1278)

7 October 2014

* In the case opened by FethullahGülen against writer Sevilay Yükselir for the article published in Sabah on the 11 February 2014 entitled “How and why is Gülen living in the US?” and the article published on the 18 February 2014 entitled “Is the 17 December the continuation of Gezi?” on grounds of violation of personal rights and slander, the court dismissed the case for immaterial compensation, stating “the press should not be prevented from commenting on concrete data and criticism, even if the level of commentary borders on slight exaggeration” in the justified verdict.[[1279]](#footnote-1279)

14 October 2014

* In the case opened against university students who were members of CHP for *“insulting Erdoğan and the police officers”* during the passing of a convoy including Prime Minister of the time and current President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, heard by the Istanbul 15 Criminal Court of First Instance, absolved the defendants of any wrongdoing.[[1280]](#footnote-1280)

15 October 2014

* The Media Transparency project implemented by Transparency International Turkey to achieve “media expertise and media literacy on the issues of corruption and transparency” was unveiled to the public at the Swedish Consulate General in Beyoğlu, Istanbul.[[1281]](#footnote-1281)

16 October 2014

* Some of the documentary films retracted from the 51 Golden Orange Film Festival due to the censorship crisis were screened at the Kadıköy Nâzım Hikmet Cultural Centre for three days from the 16 October 2014, under the slogan *“If there is censorship there, we are here.”*[[1282]](#footnote-1282)

21 October 2014

* 18 lawyers who were charged with opposition to the Meeting and Demonstration Marches Law for between 1.5 and 3 years in prison due to their demonstration at the Izmir Courthouse on the 2 September 2013 at the opening of the legal year with banners reading “*Freedom for Jailed Lawyers*” were found not guilty by the Izmir 13 Criminal Court of First Instance.[[1283]](#footnote-1283)

23 October 2014

* *Cumhuriyet* caricaturist Musa Kart was found not guilty of slander of the Prime Minister, libel and violation of the confidentiality of the investigation in the first hearing of the case opened in regard to a caricature published on the 1 February 2014, satirizing the 17 December Corruption Probe.[[1284]](#footnote-1284)
* Academic for Peace published a declaration in support of the Saturday Mothers/Saturday People who were to assemble for the 500 time on the 25 October 2014. In the declaration the academics underlined the “theme of non-punishment” of the responsible parties and called for their colleagues to pledge support to “first and foremost, the Saturday Mothers and all other groups who have felt the brunt of the assault of the state, to add their strength to the struggle.”[[1285]](#footnote-1285)

24 October 2014

* A case opened in Hatay against the board of directors and the honorary board of Hatay Chamber of Physicians for being *“a party and participant in social unrest and treating the injured of the Gezi protests”* was dismissed by the court.[[1286]](#footnote-1286)

25 October 2014

* AKP announced that the “Parliamentary Regulations change” that had previously led to controversy and included “the end of broadcasting of Turkish Grand National Assembly General Parliamentary Sessions except extraordinary sessions on Parliament TV” would be reopened for discussion.[[1287]](#footnote-1287)

27 October 2014

* The Democracy and Development Museum focusing of the 50 years of experience of 9 President Süleyman Demirel in politics was opened with a ceremony in İslamköy, Isparta. The 17 thousand square meter campus collection includes gifts received by Demirel since 1949 as well as 45,000 books, 32,000 newspapers and magazine, 126,000 photographs and some personal effects. In his speech at the ceremony, Demirel emphasized the importance of uninterrupted democracy in Turkey and underlined that if some of the temporary breaches had not occurred, the country would be far more advanced today.[[1288]](#footnote-1288)

29 October 2014

* The Millet newspaper , belonging to the Koza Group, was published for the first time.[[1289]](#footnote-1289)

31 October 2014

* The EU supported *“Publishing Freedom”* project, aiming to contribute to the development of freedom of expression in publishing in Turkey, was unveiled at the Turkish Publishers Association in Istanbul. In his announcement, project coordinator Metin Celal Zeynioğlu said *“the project is designed to increase awareness in the area of publication in the EU accession process.”*[[1290]](#footnote-1290)
* The Supreme Court reversed the decision of a court, ordering Tuncay Özkan to pay Dr. Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu compensation for calling him a “fascist” during the broadcast on the 8 February 2008 of the Tv program “Ceviz Kabuğu.” Commenting on the decision, *T24* writer and former Mazlumder General Secretary Dr. Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu said *“from now onwards we must inform the Turkish public that you may call your counterpart a 'fascist'. The perception that freedom of expression is freedom to insult others is one of the greatest evils ever inflicted on one of the most basic freedoms of human beings.”*[[1291]](#footnote-1291)

7 November 2014

* A law approved by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan regulating electronic commerce will come into force in May 2015. With this regulation, advertisements and promotional messages will not be sent to consumers via cell phone or on the Internet without consent. Companies continuing to send messages will be punished with a fine of 50,000 TL.[[1292]](#footnote-1292)

9 November 2014

* The Ankara 4 Magistrates’ Court passed a verdict stating that blocking of Facebook access is a violation of the freedom of criticism and expression. Prof. Dr. Mehmet Teoman Pamukçu participated in a signature campaign on *www.imza.la* entitled *“no more sexist, homophobic or trans phobic academics at METU”* and the campaign poster was posted to his personal Facebook account. METU Faculty Member Prof. Dr. Faruk Yalvaç applied to the court with a complaint against Prof. Pamukçu, maintaining that the campaign contained slander and insults against him and requesting for Prof. Pamukçu's Facebook account to be blocked. The judge of the Ankara 3 Magistrates’ Court decided without justification for Pamukçu's Facebook account to be blocked instead of the offending content. Upon Pamukçu's objection, the Ankara 4 Magistrates’ Court reversed the verdict to block access to Facebook.[[1293]](#footnote-1293)
* A person known as O.B. opened an immaterial compensation case after being taken into custody with justifiable cause after a search of his house and being released upon a not guilty verdict. After the event, the Muğla 2 High Criminal Court rejected the request for immaterial compensation. After this, the Supreme Court found the verdict to be unlawful and ordered for the compensation to be paid. O.B. had been taken into custody in 2009.[[1294]](#footnote-1294)

10 November 2014

* The 25 contribution to social struggle award, made a traditional event by founding president [Yılmaz Akkılıç](http://www.haberler.com/bursa/), were presented by the Modern Journalists Association, an organization established in Bursa with approximately 500 members. Journalist Soner Yalçın was presented with the *“Freedom of Press Special Award.”* [[1295]](#footnote-1295)

12 November 2014

* The Trabzon Journalists Association formed a women's commission to hear the requests, wishes and complaints of women working at media organizations in the province. TGC President Turgut Özdemir, said that the number of women working in the sector was increasing, adding *“our aim is to empower women working under the umbrella of our organization and contribute to the solution of their professional problems. We also wish to achieve solidarity in the form of social sharing and address the problems of women in the region.”* [[1296]](#footnote-1296)

13 November 2014

* The Radio and Television Supreme Council decided to punish the ATV network for a kissing scene appearing in a series called “Kara Para Aşk” on the grounds of “erotic content” and “being contrary to the development of children.” However, during the voting phase the punishment was not instituted.[[1297]](#footnote-1297)
* [President](http://www.aa.com.tr/tr/mod/tag/cumhurbaskani) Erdoğan President Nazmi Bilgin and members of the Board of Directors at the Çankaya Presidential Residence. [Journalists Association](http://www.aa.com.tr/tr/mod/tag/gazeteciler-cemiyeti) President Bilgin presented Erdoğan with a report prepared by the [Journalists Association](http://www.aa.com.tr/tr/mod/tag/gazeteciler-cemiyeti) entitled “Problems of the Turkish Press - Our Views and Suggestions.” The report underlined; “one of the most important issues threatening the freedom of the press and expression in Turkey is monopolization and lack of unionization, as well as the Press Labor Law No. 212 and the revision of article 8 allowing journalists to be accused as terrorists and prosecuted under the Anti Terrorism Law. [[1298]](#footnote-1298)

17 November 2014

* For the tenth year of the Cooperation Protocol signed between the Antalya Journalists Association and Nuremburg Press Club, a panel entitled “Democracy and Press Freedom in Turkey and Europe” was held.[[1299]](#footnote-1299)
* The Board of Directors of the Ankara Journalists Association visited Deputy Prime Ministry Yalçın Akdoğan. Journalists Association President Nazmi Bilgin presented Deputy Prime Ministry Akdoğan with the report regarding the issues of the Turkish press and samples of the publications of the association, requesting the definition of journalism to be included in the new law. Deputy Prime Minister Yalçın Akdoğan stated that rights granted to journalists would not be rescinded with the amendment of the press labor law.[[1300]](#footnote-1300)

20 November 2014

* Tokat 2 Criminal Court of First Instance judge Mesut Eryılmaz decided for the acquittal of 144 defendants prosecuted without being under arrest, who participated in the Gezi Park protests in Tokat last year, stating that the actions of the defendants fell under the scope of freedom of expression.[[1301]](#footnote-1301)

25 November 2014

* 75 year old Kıymet Peker, stood in front of construction machinery in Edirne to prevent a children's park from being demolished. The Edirne Administrative Court found the demolition of the park to be unlawful.[[1302]](#footnote-1302)

27 November 2014

* Pianist Fazıl Say, who was sentenced to 10 months in jail after sharing a section of the Rubaiyat of Omer Khayyam on Twitter, was absolved of wrongdoing by the Supreme Court Republican Head Prosecutor's Office, who upon examining the case file, adjudged that the 10 month sentence passed down by the local court was unjustified.[[1303]](#footnote-1303)
* Minister of Transport, Maritime Trade and Communication Lütfi Elvan, said that “the systematic illegal bugging has been prevent.” “The legal procedure for monitoring is laid out. No one's conversations can be bugged without the order of a court or judge. If a court decides to listen to someone's conversations, research is carried out to determine to whom the line belongs to and if the court order is related to a specific person. If a missing document or error in procedure is identified, the file is returned to the court. We can say that illegal bugging has been struck a heavy blow. We will form teams to better protect our institutions.”[[1304]](#footnote-1304)

29 November 2014

* The Presidents Board Meeting of the Turkish Journalists Confederation was hosted by the Edirne Journalists Association. Speaking at the meeting, Minister of Health Mehmet Müezzinoğlu said that the freedom of the press was a requirement for the rule of law and a strong democracy. Müezzinoğlu stated *“we need to rescue the press from being seen as a vehicle of attrition or glorification. We can take these steps together. I believe that advances can be made for democracy and the rule of law. Although we may have our differences at time, it is important that we embark into the future together.”*[[1305]](#footnote-1305)
* 9 people charged with opposition to the Meeting and Demonstration Marches Law for taking part in a march held in Beşiktaş for the 1 May celebrations in 2014, for whom jail sentences between one and three years were requested, were found not guilty.[[1306]](#footnote-1306)
* *Twitter* account @turkmucahid, who issued threats to Taraf newspaper columnist Amberin Zaman for her article about ISIS, was closed.[[1307]](#footnote-1307)

3 December 2014

* The documentary regarding the Gezi Park protests, directed by Reyan Tuvi and censored at the Golden Orange Film Festival was shown in Bursa with a special screening at the Bursa Nazım Hikmet Cultural Organization.[[1308]](#footnote-1308)

4 December 2014

* On the 4 December World Miner's Day, mining engineers assembling in front of the Soma District Governorship warned the government that *“if legislation is not changed, miners will continue to die.”*[[1309]](#footnote-1309)

7 December 2014

* The Council of Europe established an online platform where issues faced by media workers such as “death threats,” “physical attacks,” “political pressure,” “censorship,” and “unjustified termination” will be registered by journalism associations as “momentary data.” The project, presented by CHP MP and Council of Europe Media and Information Society Subcommittee Deputy Chair Ayşe Gülsün Bilgehan, aims to involved United Nations (UN) and European Union (EU) bodies simultaneously for dialogue at the higher level. Council of Europe General Secretary Thorbjorn Jagland said *“this platform is the first step to faster action to ensure the security of journalists*.”[[1310]](#footnote-1310)

9 December 2014

* Composer Muammer Sun, whose works were included in the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Presidential Symphony Orchestra program for 2014-2015 as a replacement for Fazıl Say's, asked for his compositions not to be played. Say shared on Facebook in this issue, thanking the composer.[[1311]](#footnote-1311)
* The closure case regarding the Judges Union opened with the Ankara 11 Labor Court on the premise that “vocational unions cannot be established and judges and Republican prosecutors cannot be union founders or members” was rejected citing “failure to open the case within the legally allotted time.” The Judges Union had requested the rejection of the case on grounds of content and procedure. Judges Union President Ömer Faruk Eminağaoğlu, speaking after the verdict was announced, said that the opening of the case was a crime and that according to article 90 of the Constitution, the union was established based on international conventions Turkey is a party to, adding that the government and Ankara Governorship has suspended the Constitution by opening this case. Eminağaoğlu stated “in this age, asking for a union that does not require permission to be established, to but closed is disrespectful to the rule of law,” asking for the Ankara Governorship to be charged with a criminal offence.[[1312]](#footnote-1312)

11 December 2014

* The European Union and Council of Europe unveiled a project together with the Turkish Justice Academy, aiming the “strengthen the capacity of the Turkish justice system for freedom of expression.” The project has a budget of €2.8 million and will end on the 1 December 2016, aiming to train judges and prosecutors to implement precedence set by the European Court of Human Rights and to become more sensitive to the freedom of expression, as well as the sustainability of these issues. [[1313]](#footnote-1313)

16 December 2014

* Films retracted from the 51 Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival due to censorship were screened in Çanakkale in the scope of cultural activities organized by the Çanakkale Municipality, Directorate of Cultural and Social Affairs, under the slogan “if censorship is there, we are here.”[[1314]](#footnote-1314)

17 December 2014

* In the case opened against 35 members of the Beşiktaş supporters group Çarşı, in regard to the Gezi Park protests, for “using force and coercion to eradicate the Government of the Republic of Turkey or prevent the Government from carrying out its duty in part or in full,” the court decided to lift the “injunction preventing the defendants from leaving the country” and “ hear testimony from plaintiff police officers” in the next hearing on the 2 April 2015.[[1315]](#footnote-1315)

18 December 2014

* Cumhuriyet newspaper managing editor Ayşe Yıldırım's objection to the Yüksekova Magistrates’ Court regarding the broadcasting prohibition of the deaths of three soldiers as a result of an armed attack that occurred in Yüksekova, Hakkari, on the 28 October, was found to be justified by the court. The verdict stated that the prohibition of broadcasting would prevent the people from obtaining information regarding the event, in violation with the requirements of moderation in a democratic society.[[1316]](#footnote-1316)

28 December 2014

* Minister of Transportation, Maritime Trade and Communication Lütfi Elvan, stated that the “information and communication” sector was a locomotive of other sectors; “we are starting R&D support. We will provide significant support to software companies active in the information and communication sector, especially small and medium size enterprises.”[[1317]](#footnote-1317)

## Other Developments

5 July 2014

* 243 women's groups, uniting under the *“End to Violence Platform,”* explained that the law changing the Turkish Penal Code would not prevent sexual harassment and attacks or protect women and children, as the changes did not have a deterring effect.[[1318]](#footnote-1318)

11 July 2014

* *Yeni Şafak* Ankara Representative Abdülkadir Selvi, wrote that Ethem Mahçupyan was a part of the team that prepared the vision document for Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.[[1319]](#footnote-1319)

5 July 2014

* The court case against Diyarbakır Lice District Municipal Mayor for BDP, 25 year old Rezan Zuğurli for participating in illegal demonstrations and committing crimes on behalf of the PKK was concluded with a 4 year 2 month jail sentence, as announced in the justified verdict. With reference to the expert report, a person in the group throwing stones at the police was thought to be Municipal Mayor Zuğurli, based on the analysis of the distance between the eyebrows, eyes and nose and mouth.[[1320]](#footnote-1320)

15 July 2014

* Supreme Court 4 Legal Department considered *Sabah* columnist Rasim Ozan Kütahyalı's statement “shameless, lowly, maniac” regarding HDP MP Ertuğrul Kürkçü as falling under freedom of expression.[[1321]](#footnote-1321)

17 July 2014

* *The Constitutional Court* decreed in the Hrant Dink case that the investigation regarding public officials who contributed to the murder through neglect had not “been investigated effectively.” In this regard, the court decided that a “violation” had occurred.[[1322]](#footnote-1322)

19 July 2014

* Many women’s and LGBT groups who called parliament to meet due to the increase in murder cases involving women, marched under the slogans “murder in the marriage” and “massacres everywhere, murderers in your house.”[[1323]](#footnote-1323)

22 July 2014

* Operations were carried out in 22 provinces against police officials who had carried out the 17 and 25 December corruption probes and the investigation regarding the “Tevhid-i Selam” organization.[[1324]](#footnote-1324)

26 July 2014

* Of the 17 people taken into custody in the 22 July operation and appearing before the court with arrest pending, 12 people including former Istanbul Intelligence Branch Director Ali Fuat Yılmazer and former Intelligence Branch Director Erol Demirhan were arrested, while 5 were released.[[1325]](#footnote-1325)

5 September 2014

* Hacker group “Redhack” announced that they had hacked the official website of the Police Directorate General, “egm.gov.tr.” Access to the site was blocked.[[1326]](#footnote-1326)

7 September 2014

* According to TUİK data, the number of newspapers and magazines focused on celebrity, fashion and shopping continued to increase. The number of magazines and newspapers focused on celebrities increased 35% to 186. In the field of written media, the highest number ever of new newspapers and magazines were established in the corporate publishing sector. 106 new corporate newspapers and magazines were launched last year. In this way, the number of corporate publications increased from 228 in 2012 to 334 last year. In written media, the greatest decrease was in the fields of culture, tourism and promotion. In these areas, while 374 newspapers and magazines were active in, this number decreased to 326 last year. The number of newspapers and magazines focused on culture, tourism and promotion decreased 48% last year in comparison with the previous year.[[1327]](#footnote-1327)

9 September 2014

* An article was published in the *Takvim* and *Sabah* newspapers *regarding the “Kimse Yok Mu” association*, claiming that the associations misrepresented the amount of donations gathered to the public and the money was used for other purposes, while basing these claims on the Ministry of Interior Affairs Associations Authority audit report. The “Kimse Yok Mu”association made an announcement in response to these articles, stating that the Ministry of Interior Affairs had not sent them any such report and that the report in question did not exist.[[1328]](#footnote-1328)
* According to an *Odatv* news report, Torunlar İnşaat construction workers, protesting an workplace accident involving a falling lift, in which 10 people were killed, were imprisoned in the building site by Torunlar GYO and threatened with termination. 15 of the 30 workers held in the site came out despite the claims and made an announcement. Afterwards, it was reported that 8 to 10 workers were fired.[[1329]](#footnote-1329)
* The 3H movement (Law, Tolerance, Freedom) protested the loss of gains achieved with the 12 September referendum by walking backwards in Istiklal Avenue. In their press conference, the protestors emphasized that Turkey has fallen in the press freedom, human development and international democracy indexes, stating “our people and cities are becoming more and more pale, just like the democracy promises of the government.”[[1330]](#footnote-1330)

15 September 2014

* A school opened in Diyarbakır, rumored to provide education in Kurdish, was sealed by the Diyarbakır Governorship citing article 42 of the constitution.[[1331]](#footnote-1331)

5 September 2014

* Zaman writer Mümtaz’er Türköne, commenting on President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan’s statement regarding Bank Asya, known for being close to the Fethullah Gülen Movement and reopened for trading on the stock exchange; “The *BDDK* (Banking Regulation and Auditing Board) should make a decision or bear the responsibility,” saying *“Erdoğan is using everything he has, his power, government and people to bankrupt Bank Asya. He was unsuccessful. This means his power has limits. As the President himself has announced that the danger has passed, we can now say ‘get well soon’ to Bank Asya.”*[[1332]](#footnote-1332)
* Claiming that Turkey had turned a blind eye to petrol trading with ISIL and condemned by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the *New York Times* reported that ISIL recruitment in Turkey was high. *In the article entitled “Steady flow of militants from Turkey to ISIS,”* the newspaper published some interviews with ISIL sympathizers and victims in Ankara. [[1333]](#footnote-1333)

17 September 2014

* A group in Diyarbakır reopened a school opened within the Ferzad Kemanger Support Centre belonging to the Bağlar Municipality giving education in Kurdish, which was later, closed down by the Governorship. DBP Provincial Chairperson Zübeyde Zümrüt made a speech in Kurdish to the crowd, condemning the closing of the school and announcing that they would give education in Kurdish.[[1334]](#footnote-1334)
* After the closure of the schools that were supposed to provide education in Kurdish but were not authorized by Ministry of National Education (MoNE), many schools in Izmir, Diyarbakır, Silvan, Hakkari, Şırnak, Mardin, Nusaybin, Yüksekova, Bitlis-Tatvan, Şırnak-Cizre and other towns, cities and areas were attacked, burnt down and protests damaging public property occurred*. “Language is honor, language is existence. We will take care of our existence,”* the destruction of schools was an ironic hypocrisy.[[1335]](#footnote-1335)

2 September 2014

* MoNE censored the word “Kurdistan” in some sections of history books prepared for secondary schools. The same book has omitted Kurds as one of the peoples living under the Ottoman Empire.[[1336]](#footnote-1336)
* AKP Parliamentary Deputy Head Mahir Ünal said that “the potential failure of the United Justice Platform to win the High Council of Judges and Prosecutors Elections and success by the opposing group” would mean that they would consider the elections to be illegitimate. [[1337]](#footnote-1337)
* President of the Judges Union Ömer Faruk Eminağaoğlu made a complaint to the Election Higher Board regarding Justice and Development Party Group Deputy Head Mahir Ünal's comments regarding the elections “if they win we will consider the elections illegitimate,” requesting for the issue to be evaluated and the High Council of Judges and Prosecutors elections to be held in a free and equalitarian manner.[[1338]](#footnote-1338)
* *Cumhuriyet* Editor in Chief Utku Çakırözer wrote “the Government’s roadmap if the High Council of Judges and Prosecutors elections are lost is apparent in Yalçın Akdoğan’s statement ‘our fate is not written by the choice of 12 thousand, but by that of 55 million’.” With these words, Akdoğan is hinting that not only judges and prosecutors, but all voters will go to the ballots. One meaning of this is a referendum to change the constitution.”[[1339]](#footnote-1339)
* *Star* newspaper filled up the empty UN General Assembly hall during President Tayyip Erdoğan’ın speech using Photoshop. In the article, appearing on the first page of the Istanbul addition, the headline was *“he screamed in their faces.”* *Star*’s *filling* of the empty hall using technology was widely discussed on social media.[[1340]](#footnote-1340)

26 September 2014

* The Constitutional Court rejected the application for a compensation case to be opened by CHP [Denizli](http://www.milliyet.com.tr/denizli/" \t "_blank) MP [İlhan Cihaner](http://www.milliyet.com.tr/ilhan-cihaner/" \t "_blank), regarding a [news article](http://www.milliyet.com.tr/" \t "_blank) published in *[Yeni Şafak](http://www.milliyet.com.tr/yeni-safak/" \t "_blank)*
* The Turkish Journalists Association carried out their 72 “Local Journalist Training Seminar” in Sivas together with Konrad Adenauer Stiftung. In the seminar, the popular topics of press freedom and censorship were discussed. It was also said that *“provocative, racists and discriminatory rhetoric was on the rise in news articles and headlines and information was withheld from the public.”*[[1341]](#footnote-1341)
* Kütahya independent MP İdris Bal organized a press conference at the Turkish Grand National Assembly, claiming that AKP Group Deputy Chairman Mahir Ünal had said *“in the case that the HSYK elections are not won by the Unity in Justice Platform representatives, the elections will be illegitimate,”* that the government had made propaganda for this important election like a general or local election, offering concessions for the post election environment.[[1342]](#footnote-1342)
* Minister of Justice Bekir Bozdağ stated regarding the HSYK elections: “unfortunately there is a lot of black propaganda. The parallel media is lying every day for god's sake.,” criticizing some media organizations and adding “we cannot answer every single one lying for god's sake.” [[1343]](#footnote-1343)

28 September 2014

* The regulations regarding the dress code for students studying at MoNE schools was published in the *Official Gazette*. With the regulations, headscarves were allowed for girls from the 5 grade onwards while *“hair dye, body tattoos and make up , piercing, growing a moustache or beard”* was forbidden.[[1344]](#footnote-1344)
* Deputy Prime Minister Yalçın Akdoğan, answering a for the statements of AKP Group Deputy Chairman Mahir Ünal during a live television broadcast, said “if there is a negative or positive result we will sit down and assess the situation. I mean, if we need to do something for the country we will evaluate, but we are not saying that we are not recognizing (results).”[[1345]](#footnote-1345)

1 October 2014

* The Directorate General of the State Opera and Ballet prohibited “leggings, sleeveless t-shirts, shorts, sandals, flip flops, stiletto heels and evening dresses” in the organization.[[1346]](#footnote-1346)

14 October 2014

* According to a *Taraf* article, 4 journalists close to the government “have established a production company on behalf of others and a documentary previously prepared for a religious channel has been sold to TRT.” The article also claimed that the responsible persons have not been investigated.[[1347]](#footnote-1347)

15 October 2014

* At a meeting held at the TGS Headquarters, unemployed journalists gathered to discuss their issues. The announcement made on the TGS website stated that preparations were being made for journalists who had been fired, those who had never been able to practice, censored, able to write but auto-censoring themselves, terminated for being union members, employed for years without security and those who were employed but not able to practice journalism as they wished.[[1348]](#footnote-1348)

16 October 2014

* According to the database of the Committee for the Protection of Journalists (CPJ) on murdered journalists, in the 1990's at the height of the conflict between the army and PKK, 20 journalists were murdered and none of the culprits had been charged to date. The report included a map showing that the murders occurred mostly in the Southeastern Anatolian Region to Kurdish publications.[[1349]](#footnote-1349)

19 October 2014

* Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu spoke to the Committee of Elders. Referring to the protests that erupted on the pretext of Kobane, Davutoğlu said *“we have tweets that invite people to violence, saying 'tonight everyone get their guns and attack here'. These recent events show that it is impossible to separate Suruç from Kobane. Either these borders will become meaningless through peaceful efforts or this pain will be endured.”* Davutoğlu said *“the state of the Kurds is the Republic of Turkey*“.[[1350]](#footnote-1350)

23 October 2014

* 25 year old Hakan Çelik, who went to defend Kobane against ISIL attacks, was killed. A graduate of the Istanbul University Faculty of Communication, Department of Journalism and an intern at Bianet, Çelik was buried in Istanbul.[[1351]](#footnote-1351)
* In order to support the 500 protest of the Saturday Mothers, seeking for justice, *Redhack* attacked the website of the Turkish Human Rights Organization. The website displayed Redhack's messages *“this Saturday, be at Galatasaray Square with a carnation!” and “my mother calls to you.”*[[1352]](#footnote-1352)
* Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu claimed that during the Kobane protests, the “parallel judges and prosecutors” *“*released protestors telling them to continue, to burn and damage property.”[[1353]](#footnote-1353) Speaking at a meeting with party MP's, Davutoğlu said that 2000 had been taken into custody during the Kobane protests and 500 of these had been arrested. “Protests happened at Patnos and Doğubeyazıt. The raged and burned. While the judge in Doğubeyazıt decided for arrest, in Patnos the protesters were released. In many areas in Turkey, judges and prosecutors belonging to the parallel structure somehow said 'go an protest, burn and rage' and released the protestors. We should arrest them to send a message.”[[1354]](#footnote-1354)

29 October 2014

* The hacker group *Redhack* attacked the website of the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, Anatolian Side Parks and Gardens Directorate. Redhack's message said “*while there are 26 different mosques in the surrounding area, it is clear that the reason while the Validebağ Grove is being opened for construction is not for a mosque, but to gain profit!*”[[1355]](#footnote-1355)

31 October 2014

* After the longest National Security Council meeting in the history of the Republic of Turkey, lasting over 10 hours, chaired by Erdoğan at the Çankaya residence, an announcement was published. The announcement reads “issues related to the security of the country, the peace and order of our people have been discussed in depth. Hereby, the efforts to combat parallel structures and illegal organizations that appear to be carrying out legal activities, threatening our national security and disrupting public order, will continue with determination.[[1356]](#footnote-1356)

3 November 2014

* Press Declaration Organization Member of the Board of Directors and Anatolian newspaper Owners Representative Mustafa Arslan and Journalists Confederation Secretary General and Bursa Journalists Association President Nuri Kolaylı met with local press representatives in Sinop, where Mustafa Arslan informed participants that *“new legislation was being issued to allow local newspaper to work in more comfortable way.”*[[1357]](#footnote-1357)

6 November 2014

* Press Declaration Organization Member of the Board of Directors Mustafa Arslan, called on press prosecutors to give punishments to newspapers and magazines filing periodical declarations but publishing whenever they wanted. Expressing that they did not have any limitations of publishing, Arslan said “*we have but one objection. Periodical means a publication that is published with a set schedule. If you have filed a declaration with the prosecutor’s office saying you are a weekly newspaper , you must publish weekly... In brackets, this situation allows pirate newspapers to operate and opens the road to blackmail journalism.”*[[1358]](#footnote-1358)

12 November 2014

* Sacks were placed over the heads of the crew of the American warship USS ROSS (DDG71), returning from a NATO training exercise in the Black Sea and anchored at Sarayburnu, Istanbul, by the Turkish Youth Union. Defined as a “hate crime,” 11 people were summoned to offer testimony, including Labor Party Leading Youth Istanbul Provincial Head Uğurcan Yardımoğlu and Turkish Youth Union Istanbul President Uğur Aytaç. [[1359]](#footnote-1359)

24 November 2014

* Speaking at the KADEM 1 International Women and Justice Summit organized by the Democracy Association and the Ministry of Family and Social Policy in Istanbul, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said “you cannot place women and men equally, this is not compatible with disposition. Their nature, bodies and dispositions are different. You cannot employ a pregnant women and a man under the same conditions. A mother who must breastfeed her child cannot be put on equal footing with a man.”[[1360]](#footnote-1360)
* In an interview with Medyaradar, Nagehan Alçı said “AKP is not a strong party in terms of setting up their own cadres in public offices. AKP draws its power from the people and has established a strong media to protect itself from such attacks.” [[1361]](#footnote-1361)
* The approval of the Second Environmental Impact Assessment Report prepared by the Ministry of the Environment and Urbanization for nickel mining in Çaldağı attracted a strong response. The decision of the Ministry was protested with a meeting organized by the Turgutlu Environmental Platform under the slogan “no to savage mining,” as potentially two million trees would be cut down in Çaldağı for the operation. [[1362]](#footnote-1362)
* Subcontractor workers with membership to Yol-İş, a Türk-İş affiliate union, protested for job security in front of the Directorate General of Highways , for whom they work. Banners bearing slogans such as “subcontracting kills,” “implement the court order for justice,” “we swear we will have our job security” were raised. Turkish Yol-İş Union General Secretary Ramazan Ağar claimed that the government was not providing workers with job security, saying “do you want these people to work for subcontractors, like slaves? Ağar added that the decision of the court has been approved by the Supreme Court, however the Directorate General of Highways has not opened positions for the workers for three years. Ağar mentioned that Prime Minister Davutoğlu had said “workers, do not let go of your rights,” adding that they would not.[[1363]](#footnote-1363)
* Supreme Court President Ali Alkan, speaking about the new judicial package reorganizing the higher judicial institutions, “the changes in the proposal may seriously harm the independence of the courts. How long will this intervention into justice continue?”[[1364]](#footnote-1364)

25 November 2014

* The Ministry of Justice announced that Supreme Court President Ali Alkan's statement was “personal,” saying “everyone knows who is disturbed by the changes foreseen in the proposal for the Supreme Court Law.” In the written declaration, the Ministry stated “this 'personal' statement by the Supreme Court President means that he has given indirect support to the 'parallel structure.'“[[1365]](#footnote-1365)

27 November 2014

* Member of the Ege University Faculty of Science, Space Sciences and Astronomy Department Prof. Dr. Renan Pekünlü was sentenced to two years and one month in jail for “*preventing educational freedom*.” As per penal regulations, Dr. Pekünlü will stay in jail for 4 1/2 months.[[1366]](#footnote-1366)
* Former Star and Akşam Editors removed from duty Mustafa Karaalioğlu, Yusuf Ziya Cömert and Mehmet Ocaktan were announced as columnists at Yeni Şafak, under editor in chief İbrahim Karagül.[[1367]](#footnote-1367)

28 November 2014

* The media black out imposed the day before four former AKP ministers were to testify before the Parliamentary Investigation Commission for corruption charges was protested by Opposition Parties, NGO lawyers and media bodies. [[1368]](#footnote-1368)

30 November 2014

* At a CHP press conference held in a hotel in Adana, during Kılıçdaroğlu's speech the power was cut 20 times for 10 second intervals. After the first cut, Kılıçdaroğlu stopped speaking and waited a few seconds for the power to return. After the second cut, Kılıçdaroğlu said *“electricity may be cut, this is not important friends. Be sure that no one can stop us from speaking.”* [[1369]](#footnote-1369)
* The Constitutional Court evaluated a Individual Application for the 10% election threshold to be removed.[[1370]](#footnote-1370) Whether the 10% threshold will be implemented will be determined within 3 weeks. In regard to the issue, lawyer Cüneyt Toraman who has previously worked on Individual Applications said “the election law cannot be subject to Individual Applications! Even if the Constitutional Court tiptoes around the law and decides for a violation, this verdict will not require a change in the election law.”[[1371]](#footnote-1371)

1 December 2014

* Samanyolu Haber Yayın Hizmetleri AŞ, upon not being invited to the AKP Extraordinary Congress Meeting, held AKP Deputy General Secretary Süleyman Soylu responsible, filing a complaint with the prosecutor's office for *“hate and discrimination,”* while the prosecutor decided for *“no further action.”*[[1372]](#footnote-1372)

4 December 2014

* The Eğitim Sen branch in Antalya protested the new presidential palace by hanging calendars, posters and brochures in all schools in Antalya with the slogan “*illegal palace.”* The Ministry of National Education issued a circular stating that *“the display of publications with political content is prohibited”* and took down the materials. [[1373]](#footnote-1373)
* The investigation permission verdict issued by the High Council of Judges and Prosecutors 3 Department regarding the prosecutors for whom investigation reports suggesting their disqualification from practice due to the 17 - 25 December investigations was approved by HSYK president and Minister of Justice Bekir Bozdağ. The final decision regarding the disqualification from practice as laid out in the investigation report will be given by the HSYK 2 Department.[[1374]](#footnote-1374)
* In an announcement made by the National Security Committee General Secretariat, the following statements were made; “recently it has been identified that articles/commentaries have been made in the press regarding the NSC board meeting of the 30 October 2014 to the effect that all religious communities are considered as illegal groups. These claims are completely unbiased.”[[1375]](#footnote-1375)
* Businessman Rahmi Koç and Koç Holding opened 20 penal cases and 7 compensation cases against the Yeni Akit newspaper for claims that “*Koç Holding played a role in the Gazi protests.”* Koç Holding has opened cases against the newspaper 's editor Ali İhsan Karahasanoğlu, former editor in chief Zekeriya Say and columnists Abdurrahman Dilipak and Ersoy Dede.[[1376]](#footnote-1376)
* A 52 item justice package altering the structure of the Supreme Court and Council of State , abolishing search upon reasonable doubt, partial seizure of assets and the opening ceremony of the judicial year was accepted in the Parliamentary General Assembly.[[1377]](#footnote-1377)
* Former Istanbul Intelligence Branch Director Ali Fuat Yılmazer, arrested in the scope of the operation against the police, made a statement through his lawyer regarding the 'bugging of VIP names' as published in Hürriyet, accepting that lines had been bugged but saying that the bugging was legal.[[1378]](#footnote-1378)
* The HSYK 3 Department discussed the report presented by HSYK Head Investigator Ömer Kara regarding the prosecutors involved in the 17 and 25 December corruption probes. The department decided to conduct an investigation regarding prosecutors Zekeriya Öz, Muammer Akkaş, Celal Kara and Mehmet Yüzgeç and to suspend the prosecutors until the investigation is completed.[[1379]](#footnote-1379)

7 December 2014

* Author Orhan Pamuk was interviewed by Çınar Oskay regarding his new book Kafamda Bir Tuhaflık (a Peculiarity in my Head) for the Hürriyet newspaper , responding the question; “In the book you handle a number of social events. The 6 - 7 September, military coups, Madımak... But not Gezi. Were you afraid that it would detract from the story?” as follows: “It did attract my attention, but I didn't need to put Gezi in the book to talk about freedom of thought. Unfortunately, freedom of thought in Turkey is suffering. What can I say but 'the situation is terrible'? Many of my friends tell me that journalists are being fired. They say so and so was let go from this newspaper . Even the journalists closest to the government are trembling. I have never seen a place where so many journalists are being fired. This is the first point. The second, and worst, is that there is an atmosphere of fear. Everyone is afraid, I can see. They want to say something but are afraid of losing their jobs. This is not normal. Pressure makes brave speakers important. Bravery instead of creative thought is emphasized.”[[1380]](#footnote-1380)

10 December 2014

* Upon the Individual Application of CHP MP's regarding the media blackout imposed by court order for the Parliamentary Investigation Committee established for the testimony of the four ex-ministers, the black out was not lifted as the black out did not “negatively influence” the applicants. [[1381]](#footnote-1381)
* The Diyarbakır 1 Magistrates’ Court implemented the Constitutional Court verdict of the 25 June 2014 and reversed the decision of confiscation and gathering of the book Kurdistan Revolutionary Manifesto, the Kurdish Issue and Democratic Nation Solution by Abdullah Öcalan.[[1382]](#footnote-1382)

12 December 2014

* The Constitutional Court rejected the Individual Application made by vocational chambers, the Ankara Bar Association and NGO's regarding the Presidential Palace on grounds of “personal authorization.” [[1383]](#footnote-1383)
* The objection placed through his lawyer by former AKP MP Feyzi İşbaşaran to the decision for his arrest was denied. The Istanbul 6 Magistrates’ Court found that the Istanbul 5 Magistrates’ Court, which made the decision, did not violate law or procedure.[[1384]](#footnote-1384)

13 December 2014

* Berkan Atılgan was taken into custody after being violently accosted and claimed to have been subject to violence at the Göztepe police station where he had been taken. Obtaining a doctor's report to prove the violence, Atılgan initiated criminal proceedings against the officers.[[1385]](#footnote-1385)
* State Theatres Deputy Director General Nejat Birecik, appointed some of the State Theatre actors to the Presidential Palace to greet Russian President Vladimir Putin who was visiting President Erdoğan. The actors were dressed as Russian authors Tolstoy and Pushkin, without letters of appointment. The appointment letters for the actors were written by Birecik days after the event. It has been claimed that this situation constitutes a “violation” of the State Theatre Establishment Law no. 5441 and the State Officials Law no. 657. In a statement made by some of the actors to Cumhuriyet, they said “next will they appoint us as clowns to take part in their kid's circumcisions? Are we the court jesters? Art and the artist has never been insulted so much,” condemning the event.[[1386]](#footnote-1386)

15 December 2014

* In his statement regarding the 14 December investigations, President Erdoğan responded angrily to the European Union, which had criticized the investigation. In his speech, Erdoğan said; “pressure is being placed upon police officers and prosecutors. When steps are made the EU butts in and makes a statement. What is this statement based on? What to those who have been making Turkey wait at the door of the EU for 50 years know? Those threatening Turkey's security will receive their response. If the EU threatens us with exclusion from the union, this will not stop us. Let the EU keep their wisdom.”[[1387]](#footnote-1387)
* Prime Minister AhmetDavutoğlu, was interviewed by Fahrettin Altun, who asked why “pressure upon the press had been said to be increased” after the 14 December investigations, to which he answered “this is not an investigation regarding journalism activities. The details of the investigation will be revealed during the hearings. However this is not related to journalism, press or publication activities.”[[1388]](#footnote-1388)

16 December 2014

* Additional custody time was requested for *Zaman* Editor in Chief Ekrem Dumanlı, Samanyolu TV Broadcasting Group President Hidayet Karaca an police officers taken into custody during the 14 December investigation[[1389]](#footnote-1389)

17 December 2014

* Citizens gathering in the Istanbul Courthouse complex in Çağlayan to protest the 17 and 25 December 2013 corruption and bribery operation chanted slogans “help, thief,” “don't be afraid, tremble” and “never forget 17/25.”[[1390]](#footnote-1390)
* The documentary entitled “17 - 25 December Coup Attempt” was broadcast on TRT. The documentary only interviewed journalists known to be close to AKP MP's, ministers and the government regarding the 17 - 25 December corruption and bribery probes.[[1391]](#footnote-1391)

18 December 2014

* Claiming that a new probe would be started on the 25 December, *Twitter* user Fuat Avni claimed that a red bulletin would be issued for the capture of Fethullah Gülen in the scope of this operation.[[1392]](#footnote-1392)
* A report concerning the results of a survey prepared by Eurobarometer, the department responsible for public research in the European Union, shows that Turkey faces the new year with negative feelings, that the proportion of people placing trust in the government have decreased and support for EU membership is at an all time low.[[1393]](#footnote-1393)
* President Erdoğan's chief advisor Yiğit Bulutwas claimed to have prepared a news article broadcast on the “Sansürsüz (uncensored)” program on HaberTürk, showing the Tahşiye movement in connection with Al Qaida. The Tahşiye leader's call to armed resistance has been shown as the reason for the 14 December operation by a number of media outlets close to the government, as reported on the *T24* website. [[1394]](#footnote-1394)
* Cezmi Çatalkaya, one of the names taken into custody in the scope of the Tahşiye operation and reported to be under duress in custody to confess to being an Al Qaida supporter, said that he was targeted when he refused to subscribe to the *Zaman* newspaper . “They brought newspapers to my shop, I refused. They sent them to my building and I ripped them up. A friend in the building saw this. They took me to a religious meeting saying that it was a tenants meeting. They asked for protection money. I refused. Then they put me on a list. Afterwards, I was taken into custody.”[[1395]](#footnote-1395)
* The investigation of those arrested in the scope of the 14 December operation for “threats and coercion,” defraudation to deprive of freedom, “slander,” and “membership of armed terrorist organizations” has started at the 1 Magistrates’ Court. [[1396]](#footnote-1396)
* After the Judges and Prosecutors High Board restructuring, with the changes made to the Supreme Court and Council of State Laws, the number of departments and members of higher courts were increased. The HSYK elected 144 new members to the Supreme Court and 33 new members to the State Council. The names of the elected members were published in the Official Gazette dated 18.12.2014.[[1397]](#footnote-1397)

19 December 2014

* Political, Economic and Social Research Foundation Istanbul Coordinator Asst. Prof. Dr. Fahrettin Altun made the statement that the 14 December operation against the Zaman newspaper and Samanyolu TV station cannot be evaluated in the scope of press freedom and that the “parallel state structure is advancing political discourse over freedom of press.” [[1398]](#footnote-1398)
* STV newsreader Asım Yıldırım shared on his Twitter account to President Erdoğan, “Oh Recep T.,” “God damn you,” “servant of Persians, member of the second house, jester, schizophrenic, thief, traitor, swindler, false, religiously appearing savage.” Yıldırım later deleted these messages, which were met with condemnation, saying “STV warned me.” AKP General Headquarters Legal Council Ali Özkaya announced that criminal proceedings had been opened against Asım Yıldırım for his Twitter messages for slander against President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.[[1399]](#footnote-1399)
* TRT News broadcasted a news article reporting that an arrest warrant had been issued for Fethullah Gülen, leader of the Gülen community. The article was retracted shortly after. In a statement made to Hürriyet, TRT sources said: “our editors took the news from the A Haber and Sabah websites before broadcasting. When the information was not confirmed, our managers told us to remove the item from our site.”***[[1400]](#footnote-1400)***
* Pınar Selek, who has been on trial for life imprisonment for the Mısır (Egypt) Bazaar bombing that killed 7 and wounded 127 in 1998, was acquitted for the 4 time. In the first case regarding the issue, that took 8 years to be concluded, the court had released Pınar Selek as it was not certain whether “the explosion had been caused by a bomb or a gas leak,” however the higher court had overturned the verdict. In the latest proceedings, the court had voted unanimously for acquittal with the right to appeal reserved, stating “the doubt should be for the benefit of the suspect and the file did not consist of certain and credible evidence.”[[1401]](#footnote-1401)

20 December 2014

* *Kanal D* General Broadcasting Director Erkin Zincidi, Programming Director Dilek Dağcıoğlu, Corporate Communication Özlem Asmaz and Promotional Director Çiğdem Öz resigned from their positions.[[1402]](#footnote-1402)

23 December 2014

* After the acquittal of Pınar Selek, the prosecutor has objected once more and the file will be reviewed by the Supreme Court Criminal Board.[[1403]](#footnote-1403)

25 December 2014

* The Constitutional Court decided to debate the principle of “reasonable doubt” included in an article of the omnibus law passed two weeks ago in the Grand National Assembly. The court also completed initial debates regarding the cancellation and removal from force of the provisions of the Law Preventing Violence and Disorganization in Sport related to the “Passolig” implementation related to e-tickets upon the application made, and decided to debate the principle.[[1404]](#footnote-1404)
* The investigation prosecutor Hasan Yılmaz of the Istanbul Republican Head Prosecution Office, placed an injunction upon seven taken into custody in the scope of the “parallel structure“ operations in Istanbul before being released, while one person was released without an injunction being placed. In his petition to presented to the Istanbul 1 Magistrates’ Court, Yılmaz stated that the prohibition on exiting the country would be insufficient for the investigations.[[1405]](#footnote-1405)
* The Human Rights Monitoring and Assessment Centre, established by lawyers registered with the Ankara and Istanbul Bar Associations, produced a report on the legal violations in the 14 December operations. The report emphasizes that violated the rights to fair trial and security, the prohibition of torture, freedom to seek rights, the rule of law, the independence of the courts and the impartiality of judges, as defined under the European Convention of Human Rights, the Constitution and Criminal Proceedings Law. As a result of the violations, the report states that the relevant security officers and prosecutors may be held responsible and stand trial. It was also stated that in the violations, the “closed circuit criminal courts of peace and the political intervention into justice in the form of the reasonable suspicion article that came into force 36 hours before the 14 December operation” had been effective. [[1406]](#footnote-1406)
* In a statement made by the Konya Bar Association, the following was issued; “in regard to the “thievery” dialogue that took place during the 17 December ceremonies, a citizen was taken to the police station and testified before the on duty prosecutor before being released; with an external application, the person was referred to the Magistrates’ Court and then released pending trial. However, as the on duty officer had not acted to arrest the person in question, the prosecutor Recep Altun acted rapidly and has been temporarily appointed to the Zonguldak province outside of his desire.”[[1407]](#footnote-1407)

26 December 2014

* The Information Technologies and Communication Board stated that some companies have sought authority to provide landline telephone services (LTS) in order to provide communication services to the “parallel structure“. It was also added that these companies were able to alter LTS communication records, preventing technical tracking. It was reported that some companies having obtained LTS licenses were engaged in fraud. The Information Technologies Board is planning to move against such companies to cancel LTS licenses serving “parallel organization” activities, those abusing their authority and to decrease risk and chaos in telephone communication. In the Information Technologies Board Higher Committee meeting, it was decided that the Electronic Sector Authorization Regulations would be amended. With the change of the regulations, the Board would be able to move against companies serving organization activities, abusing and neglecting their responsibilities and for the control activities to be sound, only a limited number of companies will be issue with LTS licenses.[[1408]](#footnote-1408)
* In regard to the events in Cizre where three people died, including one child, Prime Minister Davutoğlu made a speech in Hatay, making the following statement: “We have noticed the channels used by the parallel structure to exaggerate events and cause chaos in society. All of these events show that those who are disturbed by Turkey's consistency may carry out such activities periodically.”[[1409]](#footnote-1409) Some newspapers known to be close to the Government were observed to be publishing anti-PKK articles even before the events have been investigated.[[1410]](#footnote-1410)

29 December 2014

* The Tracking Hate Speech in the Media study carried out by the Hrant Dink Foundation has published a monitoring report covering the period between May and August 2014, which indicates that content with hate speech has increased 30%. The report shows that Jews were the main target for hate speech, following by Armenians and Christians.[[1411]](#footnote-1411)

## Evaluation

The freedom of the press, thought and the expression of thought is one of the basic principles of democracy, allowing people to make informed decisions and vote accordingly. As with the absence of the freedom of life the other freedoms have no meaning, the lack of the freedom of expression, even with the existence of other freedoms or periodic elections are not enough to prove the existence of democracy. The freedom of press is not only the journalist monitoring developments concerning the public and providing information through the media regarding these developments, but also involves the free of the people to information.

The right of the public to information and commentary making the events in question comprehensible is a basic universal right. The rights of opposition to the government and the expression of these rights through speech, writing, demonstrations or marches or criticism through other means are democratic rights. The unyielding attitude of the government and disproportionate use of police violence against those participating in demonstrations and marches has reached alarming dimensions. The disproportionate use of force by security forces during the Gezi Park protests has appeared in the Examination Board reports of the Ministry of Interior Affairs. However the rights to meetings, marches and demonstrations are in the scope of the freedom of expression and are under constitutional guarantee. The Constitution of the Republic of Turkey contains important provisions for the freedom of expression and press. Article 28 of the Constitution states: “the press is free and cannot be censored. (...) The state will take precautions to ensure the freedoms of the press and information”; article 29 protects the rights of “periodical and non-periodical publication”; article 30 protects “press organizations.”

Apart from offering important guarantees to the public regarding the freedoms of press and expression, the basis and indispensible pillar of democracy, the Constitution also guarantees the “freedom of religion and worship,” “the freedom of thought and opinion” and the “freedom to express and promulgate thought” with articles 24, 25 and 26.

The Constitution openly states that in the case of conflict, international law will prevail over local laws, while the international conventions in question hold the freedom of expression and press as a crucial part of democracy and rejects any restrictions. Indeed, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, referenced at the beginning of this report states that all human beings have the right to expression and opinion regardless of state boundaries, that all are free to express information and thoughts and reach, obtain and spread opinions and thoughts published, with these rights and freedoms being guaranteed.

Another reference document, the European Convention on Human Rights, considers the right to organization as a basic right. As per the related article, no one can be forced to be part of an organization and the right to organization cannot be restricted.

As the Constitution guarantees the rights of expression and press freedom, with article 90 it is stated that duly ratified international conventions will be considered above the law and that these conventions cannot be claimed to be in violation of the Constitution.

Government officials must respect personal rights and freedoms, the basic rights that every human being has from birth, especially the rights related to private and family life, residence and communication. The restriction of basic rights may only be by law and as stated under article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, “in the case that it is a necessary precaution for the protection of national security, public order, national economic welfare, public security, the prevention of crime, the protection of health or morality or the rights and freedoms of others.” The restriction of basic rights and freedoms under certain circumstances may only be for the protection of these freedoms. On this basis, the restriction of freedoms may not be for the purpose of abolishing these freedoms and will not be construed in this way. It has been observed that law makers and implementing parties may not always hold to this basic principle.

The political protection and organization with municipal facilities of demonstrations organized by the government or those defending themes deemed appropriate by the government and the use of overwhelming for during demonstrations criticizing the government or defending political and cultural dimensions deemed inappropriate by the government has become a routine of the country.

The bugging of prime ministers and president telephone calls, often regarding state security, freely producing recordings using state facilities that are served to the public is also unacceptable. However, the principles of accountability and transparent management must also be upheld. Furthermore, it is true that those who are in the public eye, who are administering the state or running for such positions have a much narrower area for private life than an ordinary citizen. Therefore, reports in the media regarding sound and video recordings revealing corruption, patronage, unfair gain and the like, must be assessed in the scope of public information regardless of the form that these recordings were made.

Attempts to keep means of communication under control have been made by governments past and present all over the world. The struggle against this control is the story of democratic development in a sense. This is why political administrations are responsible for transparent and accountable management and must be open to all forms of criticism.

Barriers in front of access to sites like Twitter and YouTube, which have been defended by international law and public opinion and bans of which are condemned as censorship of the freedom of expression and information, were only lifted in April thanks to international pressures and the decision of the Constitutional Court. However, the pressure on printed, verbal and visual communication continued.

Censorship, auto-censorship, repressive tendencies and pressures on journalists and press organizations by both central and local administrations continued throughout the year. Death threats, pressure, derogation efforts and lynching on social media against journalists, authors and intellectuals continued throughout 2014. The year saw many worrying developments in terms of the freedom of press and expression and human rights in particular and democracy in general.

The explanation of a female journalist and author whose piece was censored as it being “normal”[[1412]](#footnote-1412) shows how ingrained censorship and auto-censorship has become. The ingrained nature of censorship and auto-censorship in the printed, visual and electronic media is a threat to democracy. A survey conducted by a renowned research company over the last two years, completed and published in 2014 with the title “Guide to Understanding Turkey“[[1413]](#footnote-1413), shows that 6 of every 10 people think that the media and Internet can be censored. The proportion of people who never listen to music is 24%, while the proportion of those who never read is 45%; the proportion of those who never listed to the radio is 29% while the proportion of those who never read the newspaper is also 29%. More importantly, 96% of respondents reported that they never go to the opera or ballet, 73% never go to concerts, 80% never go to the theatre and 56% have never been to the cinema. This data shows that the government must show special importance to the press and the freedom of thought and expression. Otherwise, according to the data, the social structure is conducive to the eradication of freedoms.

The rule of law, equality before the law, transparent management, accountability and the freedom of press and expression are the basic pillars of democracy. The police raiding a news site reporting on corruption, request for a piece being prepared to not be published and then the closure of the site are signs of a suppressive mentality. Similarly, this atmosphere of fear has reflected in the arts, with the example of the Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival removing the Gezi documentary “Until the Face of the Earth is the Face of Love“ from the program despite being selected by the preliminary jury for containing “insulting material.”[[1414]](#footnote-1414)

The indication of a female journalist with serious accusations for a photograph taken in a border area[[1415]](#footnote-1415) and prominent journalists and authors blaming and defaming each other rather than separating as pro-government and anti-government shows the degree of polarization of the press. The assassination claims against journalists and writers, insults made by the government and some local administrators against journalists and intellectuals, the threatening rhetoric, alienation and indication as targets shows us how sinister circles can be encouraged.

**After the Press for Freedom** project started reporting violations of expression and press freedom, in the 10 months that have passed until December, Turkey has witnessed the consistent restriction of these basic rights. The decisions, practices and legislation passed by the government have led to various complaints. The country has reeled at reports that the government has given direct orders to media owners and managers, intervened into the content of publications, complained about reporters that caused problems to their employers and frequently “appointed” columnists.

It is impossible to reconcile the increasing violence against journalists, the barriers in front of their access to news, harassment and pressure to disclose news sources as well as a top level state official stating *“they need an urgent and immediate operation”*[[1416]](#footnote-1416) with the freedom of expression and the press. Even worse, some journalists are being depicted as opposed or even enemies to be targeted or are left to deal with the issue of personal derogation, leading to the atmosphere of anxiety becoming more common.

The efforts to change the judiciary superstructure, creating unrest in the top level of the judiciary, debates related to “conspiracies” and “combating the parallel structure“, triggered fears that the judiciary and security forces have become dependent on the political powers. Issues experienced with the judiciary, expected to be the guarantor of the freedom of expression and press, led to further pessimism in terms of freedoms. The belief of the government that it is faced with a “parallel structure” conspiracy, organized within the judiciary and security forces, made the use of freedoms all the more difficult. Any opposition or objection to the government's decisions and policies were assessed to be part of this conspiracy by the government, preventing the facilitation of a calm and reliable dialogue. This situation increased tensions in political spheres.

After the pressures placed on general publishing led to the public turning to social media, access to this arena was also restricted with long lasting Twitter and YouTube bans, leading to further anxiety regarding the use of freedoms. Restrictions of access to social media platforms such as Twitter and YouTube were condemned by the international legal community and public and in Turkey, as a restriction of the freedom of expression and information, and the bans were only lifted through international pressure and the decision of the higher judiciary. The decision of the Constitutional Court, taking Individual Applications into account, to lift the bans was condemned harshly by the government and the rhetoric that access would be restricted once more if necessary, increased tensions.

The control upon visual, audio, printed and electronic media continued throughout the year. RTÜK, charged to monitor broadcasting during the local elections in March, the presidential elections in September and subsequent broadcasts, was not observed to adhere to the principle of impartiality. Evidence suggests that the board showed tolerance to pro-government radio and television broadcasts, while frequently penalizing anti-government broadcasting organizations.

The Radio and Television Supreme Council, Presidency of Telecommunication and Communication and Savings Deposit Insurance Fund appeared to be political “instruments” used effectively on the media. RTÜK was effective in policing radio and television broadcasts, while TİB did the same for social media. With the ownership change of Show TV, TMSF, which was particularly active during the crises of 2001 and 2002, showed that it could play a significant role in the turnover of media organizations. These pressures are not reconcilable with the concept of press freedom.

Responding to statements by the EU, USA, national and international journalism associations regarding reports of increased pressure, the government made statements such as “they should mind their own business” and “the developments have no relation with press freedom[[1417]](#footnote-1417)“, insisting on seeing “systematic” pressure on press organizations and the atmosphere of intolerance as the “meddling of external forces” or a “parallel conspiracy.”[[1418]](#footnote-1418)

A limited section of the media in Turkey tried to turn a critical eye, to convey and comment on events, while the majority chose to support the government and turn a blind eye to violations. In this picture, the former were in economic, political and legal trouble, while the latter benefitted generously from public resources according to information provided by the government itself. The government has shown through its policies that it has no boundaries in catering to the interests of the media groups it supports unconditionally.

The freedom of expression is not only a widely embraced and wanted concept that celebrates appreciated ideas, but also involves voicing ideas that will lead to discussion and maybe not be accepted at all, or ideas that will be condemned. The fact that the government provided direct support and public transportation facilities to demonstrations and marches that were organized in line with their own policies and prevented demonstrations and marches that did not “comply with orders or occurred outside the boundaries of orders,” primarily with excessive force, is a glaring double standard. That demonstrators protesting the Gaza attacks were kept away by security forces from foreign missions in Istanbul that Turkey is obliged to protect, while the same group of protestors were allowed to attack and damage the work entitled “Mediterranean” by famous sculptor İlhan Koman has created anxiety.[[1419]](#footnote-1419) These and other developments add to the argument that the law was not implemented equally for all citizens. The approach of the government involving gas and excessive force for one group and tolerance for the other, led to criticism among some civil society organizations and the general public.

While unlicensed construction was knocked down by law, the fact that “palaces” constructed on natural reserves despite court orders was striking in terms of illustrating the double standard. Similarly, although any public official is required to resign from her duty to run for presidential office, the prime minister of the time campaigned using public facilities during his presidential candidacy, disturbing circles upholding the rule of law.

Although all of these developments were explained in this way or that, the belief that all citizens were equal before the law has been replaced by belied that it is important to be close to the political powers. This development caused the perception that the democratic structures that facilitate the freedoms of thought, expression and press, had been eroded.

The events during and after the presidential election show that political order is moving towards a one man show. In the future, political debate is likely to shift towards the Constitution in terms of regime and form of government as we approach the 2015 general elections, while the change in the structure of the High Council of Judges and Prosecutors (HYSK), the guarantor of democracy and freedoms, by referendum in 2010 and then again in October 2014, creates the impression that complaints regarding the independence of the judiciary will continue.

Apart from elections, democracy is only possible with principles, rules and institutions. The rule of law and equality of all before the law is the most important principle. After the presidential election, the delay in the publication of the results in the Official Gazette, seemingly due to the agenda of the ruling party, was a serious lapse of democracy. The statement of the former deputy police chief of the largest province in Turkey, who was arrested in July, also appearing in this report, to the effect of “the wiretapping of journalists is not a situation constituting a crime”[[1420]](#footnote-1420) shows how serious the threats against private life, the freedom of communication and the freedom of expression are in the country.

Pressures on communication means and journalists; that the sacking, resignation and forced resignation of journalists has become commonplace and the response of the government without even the smallest anxiety and in many cases, with pleasure, prevents us from being hopeful for the future. Indicators show that the investigations and arrests against the “parallel structure“ may not be limited solely to this group. The most important evidence is that the ruling party is determined to support all policies that contribute to the “single man” rule. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan seems to have created an environment where he is able to manage events and developments through the government under his absolute control and through institutions that should be independent. The barriers in front of the freedoms of thought and expression are not only the policies and practices of the government, but also those of public institutions that support the government but are supposed to be autonomous. Indicators hint that 2015 will be even more problematic in terms of freedoms.

In terms of the expansion and guarantee of rights and freedoms and the democratization process, the amendment to the CMK on 21.02.2014 replaced subjective criteria and concepts that could lead to violations with more objective ones based on solid evidence, for custody, arrests, searches and confiscations. While the amendments made to the CMK were met positively, with appreciation, after 10 months had passed articles 116, 128, 135, 140 and 153 were amended and reverted to the previous texts, meaning that reforms for harmonization with EU standards had been taken back completely or at least seriously hindered. The searches and confiscations carried out by security forces in what seems to be a response to the calls to the public to occupy the streets, by the administrators of a party, aiming to influence Turkey's policy on Kobane but resulting in the deaths of 48 people, were based on “reasonable suspicion” instead of “evidence” or at least “strong suspicion,” leading to serious anxieties. Indeed, in the operations against places of business and residences of media organizations claimed to be working in connection to the Fethullah Gülen community, “reasonable suspicion” was deemed sufficient and the authorities provided in the new law were utilized. Worries have increased that this approach, reverting previous reforms and also the additional measures package being discussed in the TBMM will make the country an “unsafe” place in terms of freedoms. Although maintaining public order is one of the most basic duties of governments and security forces, this must be achieved without violating democratic norms. It must be accepted that the approach “my prosecutor” or “my judge” casts doubt on the Turkish judiciary, and that the separation of powers is one of the most basic and sensitive points in democracy.

The fact that over 1000 journalists have lost their jobs in the past year due to downsizing of media organizations and Anatolian offices that have shrunk, been combined or closed, has shown once more how crucial job security is for members of the press.

Parties interested in the situation of members of the press, including journalists associations, the Turkish Journalists Union, the Basın İş Union, Arrested Journalists Solidary Platform, Bianet and others, have failed to agree on exactly who counts as a journalist, meaning that the figures reported for jailed journalists varies according to the source. Even though the government says that there are no journalists in jail, and that members of the press who have been arrested or convicted are in prison for “other activities,” as of the 28 December 2014, 21 journalists, including 3 media outlet owners and editors in chief were in jail, having been arrested or convicted. Although there had been a significant decrease in the number of journalists arrested or convicted when compared with recent years, some circles are anxious that the situation may deteriorate rapidly, in the light of developments such as restrictive articles in new laws passed to improve security, the determination of the government to give TİB president the power to use personal authority to uphold Internet bans, even after the reversal decisions of the Constitutional Court and the additional security measures still being debated in parliament.

In the framework of the additional powers granted to the police with the new judiciary package has already led to unwanted results with the implementation of business, residence and bodily searches. With the amendment made to the Criminal Proceedings Law with the omnibus law, security forces which previously required “strong suspicion” to initiate an operation, were provided with the authority to move against suspects upon “reasonable suspicion,” causing anxiety among some media circles. While other journalists being released after being taken into custody, Samanyolu Broadcasting Group President Hidayet Karaca has been imprisoned since the 14 December operations. Journalists such as Tuncay Özkan, Mustafa Balbay and Füsun Erdoğan, who have spent years behind bars, academics, active and retired soldiers all met the decision of the Constitutional Court upon Individual Applications, that “rights had been violated” with joy. Unfortunately, this positive development was marred by the subsequent branding of journalists as “terrorists” and the restriction of their freedom.

Apart from the imposing attitude of political powers, the implementation of the “accreditation” policy regarding the Fethullah Gülen and Service Movement referred to as the “parallel structure“, closed the doors to a significant number of printed and visual media organizations, depriving journalists from reaching sources of news, causing controversy.

As well as the accreditation practice, turning into a weapon for censorship, in November a first was experienced in the history of the republic when the a court order imposed a blackout on an the activities of the Grand National Assembly Investigation Commission. A large part of the media did not recognize the blackout imposed by AKP and acted jointly. This action against censorship by the majority of the press, including the oldest national newspaper *Cumhuriyet*, was an important turning point in the history of the Turkish press. That RTÜK chose to penalize television channels reporting on this stance by the media, shows how serious the organization takes the role of “inspection.”

Accreditation practices of this magnitude have not occurred before, even in time of coup d’états. While the wife of the prime minister visited a place of worship and the prime minister said that “discrimination would end,” the discrimination against journalists, the branding as “unsuitable” of some media organizations and on the other hand, the generous treatment of other media organizations and the provision of all types of opportunities and ease of reaching sources can not be reconciled with the principles of fair governance or the constitutional principle of equal opportunity.[[1421]](#footnote-1421)

A greater worry for the media, even though a significant part of the media has united against the policy of pressure and imposition, is that some journalists have assumed the mantle of prosecutor, judge and even executioner, exhibiting an approach that can be summarized as “they deserved it” in the light of the prior developments.

As the identification and eradication of any “parallel structures” in the state is the duty of the related public institutions, the approach embodied in the phrase “you are either with me or against me” in the empire built on accusations and fear, deepens the already frightening divide of polarization.

The issues faced by the judiciary, expected to be the protector of the freedom of expression and press, deepened causing pessimism in terms of freedoms. The belief and claims of the government that they were faced by the conspiracy of a “parallel structure“ within the judiciary and security forces made the use of freedoms all the more difficult. Any opposition or objection to the government's decisions and policies were assessed to be part of this conspiracy by the government, preventing the facilitation of a calm and reliable dialogue. This increased tension in the political sphere.

The increasing tension, anxiety and polarization during election times threatened the climate of tolerance required for democracy, making the usage of the freedoms of thought, expression and press a greater issue. Indeed, 2014 saw two important elections, being the local elections and presidential elections, where the prime minister changed for the first time after 11 years, increasing tension in politics and leading to government determination to maintain the policy of tension, putting serious pressure on the freedoms of thought and expression. The fact that the freedom of press has been debated so often is proof in itself that there is a situation that we should be worried about.

The rhetoric used by government leaders against international organization, national dissidents and without discrimination, the national and international press, appears to be a barrier in front of the freedom of expression and press. Many pieces of evidence are detailed in our report, which support the doubts of journalists.

Developments such as censorship, auto-censorship, repressive tendencies and pressure put on local and national level journalists and media organizations, assassination reports against journalists, writers and intellectuals, efforts to repress and derogate, social media lynch campaigns and raids by police on news websites and offices and orders and threats to remove articles from circulation are extremely worrying and altogether unacceptable.

Political circles and civil society organizations working to improve democracy in Turkey and allow out country to proudly take its place among the modern democracies have been requesting more freedoms in the framework of a developed constitution, while the guarantees provided by the current text could be shown as an example to countries currently in the process of becoming democratic. Unfortunately, Turkey is undeservedly falling lower in world indexes for the freedom of press and expression.

The issues faced by the Turkish press and possible solutions will be presented in the next section, under the headings “freedom of press and expression,” “legal articles leading to the arrest of journalists accused of being 'terrorists'“, “censorship and auto-censorship,” “monopolization and de-unionization of the press” and “threats to journalists through proposed legislation.”

### Freedom of Press and Expression

The lifting of barriers in front of the freedom of the press and expression is among the necessary steps Turkey must take for democratic development. Moreover, the most important issue in the national press is the freedom of expression. To allow the freedom of information of the people, the freedom of expression and press is indispensible. The freedom of expression is the heartbeat of democracy. The freedom of the press is the most effective vehicle of the rights of the public to information and criticism, as well as being a form of freedom of expression.

The fact that Turkey has fallen in global indexes regarding the freedom of expression and press is an indicator that urgent measures are required in the country. The Journalists Association has emphasized that in proposals to amend the constitution, which arise from time to time, it is crucial that the freedom of expression and press are protected. Proposed amendments to the press law on the pretexts of “national security,” “public order” and “general morality” to limit the freedom of expression and press and the provisions of the current Constitution stipulating that “permits and financial guarantees will not be sought during the establishment of a press organization and that “the means of the press may not be confiscated” should not even be opened for debate.

###### Amendment to the Criminal Proceedings Law

The Criminal Proceedings Law (CMK) is one of the primary indicators of a functioning and valid democracy in a country. The CMK determines whether rights and freedoms may be used or restricted, in the light of international law and the constitution, as well as other legislation. In terms of the expansion and guarantee of rights and freedoms and the democratization process, the amendment to the CMK on 21.02.2014 replaced subjective criteria and concepts that could lead to violations with more objective ones based on solid evidence, for custody, arrests, searches and confiscations.

* Article 91 of the CMK regarding police custody has been amended from “evidence indicating the crime might have been committed” to read “solid evidence that show the suspicion may be founded.”
* In regard to arrests, article 116 of the CMK has been changed from “reasonable suspicion” as justification, to “strong suspicion based on solid evidence.”
* Article 128 regarding real estate, rights and receivables has been amended from “strong suspicion of occurrence” to “strong suspicion based on solid evidence of occurrence.”
* In regard to searches, copying and confiscation of computers, computer programs and storage, CMK article 134 was changed from “permissible in case that no other evidence is available in the investigation” to “in the investigation carried out**, permissible in the case of strong suspicion based on solid evidence** and the unavailability of any other sort of evidence.”
* Article 153 of the CMK restricting the authority of council to examine the criminal investigation file was also amended to allow council to the suspect to examine the complete file during the investigation, while provisions preventing copies from being made were taken out completely. Indeed, in the modern penal system, defense must begin with an accusation. For this reason, the defense, council to the suspect, must have and be in possession of all information and documents regarding the claim and accusation, for fair judgment to take place.

While the amendments made to the CMK were met positively, with appreciation, after 10 months had passed articles 116, 128, 135, 140 and 153 were amended and reverted to the previous texts, criticized by lawyers as a step backwards. The expansion of the scopes of “confiscation” in article 128, “the identification, tapping and recording of communication” in article 135, “tracking by technical means” in article 140 and the reversion of the test “strong suspicion based on solid evidence” in article 116 to the previous text “reasonable suspicion,” as well as the step backwards in article 153 regarding council's access to the investigation file and documentation, has led to anxieties. With the amendment to CMK article 116, the suspect or defendants' person, items, residence, place of business or other properties may be searched if there is reasonable suspicion that the suspect can be apprehended or incriminating evidence can be found. With the amendment to article 153 of the CMK, the prevention of the defense from accessing the investigation file information and documents is a clear violation of the principle of fair judgment.

These amendments to the CMK may result in an increase rather than eradication of barriers in front of the freedom of expression and press, an issue that is already being debated in Turkey. These provisions increase the chance of discretionary targeting.

###### Provisions of the Turkish Penal Code (TCK) and Anti-Terror Law (TMK):

Various provisions of the TCK and TMK that are not reconcilable with the freedoms of press and expression open the door for journalists to be accused of terrorism. Due to these provisions, every journalist may face being taken from her home before dawn and being placed behind bars due to the articles written. This threat may seriously damage press freedom. Based on the definition of “terror” in the TMK, a number of the actions considered criminal and punishable according to the TCK have been included in the scope of the TMK. Considering the provisions of article 5 of the TMK, allowing punishments prescribed in the TCK to be increased by 50%, it is apparent that this legislation is a threat to the freedom of expression and press.

Articles of the TCK 125 to 131 regarding “Crimes against honor” prescribe jail time for violations, constituting a barrier to criticism in the press. For this reason, jail sentences for insults must be abolished. Based on EU and international standards, articles 125 to 131 of the TCK and other related to insults should be removed from criminal proceedings and should not be punished with jail sentences. If any laws have been broken, a reasonable compensation may be paid. This is the principle adopted by EU countries. Turkey should follow suit.

###### Personal Safety:

From time to time, journalists are subject to violence while covering social events. Our colleagues are targeted sometimes by angry members of the public, but more often than not, by security forces.

Since the Gezi Park protests, in many cases, journalists carrying out their duty to observe **various demonstrations** have been attacked by the police. Even more worrying is that security forces have attacked with plastic bullets, teargas and TOMA mounted water cannons containing chemicals despite the press cards, cameras and microphones carried by our colleagues being visible. The security forces have undoubtedly been influenced by government statements that “journalists too can be criminals” and the refusal to admit journalists on duty on behalf of some media groups to government meetings and trips that are open to the press.

These practices, which place journalists' personal safety at risk, constitute openly criminal behavior! Furthermore, interventions using chemical substances and gas are also crimes, as they place our colleagues and citizens lives at risk! These practices are barriers for journalists to freely practice their occupation.

### Censorship and Auto-Censorship

If the freedom of press and expression is not implemented in a country, censorship and auto-censorship can be said to exist. The sacking of journalists due to articles and news items that the government does not like, the implementation of unprecedented tax fines on media groups and the subjective criteria used by the Public Advertisements Authority from time to time in official advertisement distribution lead to typical censorship practices. On the other hand, journalists who are worn down by the constant danger of arrest on charges of “terrorism,” may turn to “auto-censorship.”

The monthly reports produced by the “Press for Freedom“ project, implemented by the Journalists Association, displays many examples of censorship and auto-censorship.

### Monopolization and De-unionization

The de-unionization movement growing with the monopolization of the press and the pressure of the government cause journalists to work without job security. Furthermore, media organizations are illegally employed as subcontracted workers. Those lacking social security cannot possible carry out uncensored and free journalism activities. For this reason, journalists must be encouraged to unionized working life. Furthermore, the press must be accepted as a sector in itself.

In the sector, unfortunately a large number of journalists are paid informally with an amount of their wages not appearing on the payroll, appearing to be working for minimum wage. This practice, that causes journalists to face deprivation when they retire, must be stopped. The appearance of the entire wages of journalists on the payroll is a legal requirement. A part of or the entire wage cannot be paid under “royalty” payments. To prevent press employees from experiencing these issues, these illegal practices must be inspected in a sensitive fashion and the problems must be solved urgently.

In terms of assuring the freedom of expression and press, journalists must have enough income to allow them to live in a way that provides for human dignity, with this income being earned from journalism activities. For this reason, journalists must have been trained in the profession and it is important that they are not engaged in other activities to gain income. The employment of a journalist in a profession other than journalism carries a risk of comprising integrity. This cannot be reconciled with press freedom and leads to the result that the journalist is forced to practice the profession under the effect of external influences.

All of these issues can be avoided with unionized working life and collective employment contracts. The Journalists Association constantly emphasizes that unionized working life for journalists is a constitutional right and encourages our colleagues to demand and utilized their rights.

### Amendments proposed to the labor law

A journalist is an intellectual professional working at printed, visual or electronic mass communication organizations operating under the Press Labor Law, with training in journalism, having the capacities and skills to practice the profession, acting as one pillar of the right to information of the public, following current developments and making news about events, writing articles and columns, taking photographs and footage, conveying continuous developments and crucial events to the general public.

In regard to labor contracts for journalists, topics such as working conditions, salaries, leave and compensation must be regulated with a separate law. The current Press Labor Law no. 5953 covers these topics.

The enforcement of the current Press Labor Law, in terms of principle and implementation, must be audited sensitively. Additional rights to those provided to journalists with this law, may be offered through collective employment contracts. For this reason, it is important for journalists to be members of unions in their working lives. Press labor contracts must be arranged in compliance with the Press Labor Law, while assurances regarding collective labor contracts are also important for journalists.

### Seniority Payments

Journalists are anxious regarding the on-going discussion about eradicating seniority/retirement payments through proposed legislation.

Seniority payments are crucial to journalists and must be maintained as currently enforced by law. In the calculation of seniority payments, an average wage calculated as the annual income of the journalist divided by 12 should be used, on condition that this figure is not lower that the real monthly wage of the employee.

The accrual of 5% late payment interest on unpaid wages and overtime is an important right instituted with the Press Labor Law no. 5953, even though Supreme Court verdicts set precedence for a cut of 80% to 90%. It is important that this practice continues. The inspection of journalism activities must not mean a restriction of the freedom of press and expression. The inspection of journalists by official authorities is unacceptable. These types of inspections leave journalists open to threats and patronage. This threat to journalism will damage the freedom of information of the public as defined under the Constitution.

### Inspection

Journalists may only be inspected by other journalists. This may take place through the journalist’s trade union. For this reason, union membership should be compulsory for journalists. Union based working life will contribute to the freedom of expression and press, preventing journalists from working without social security.

It is also clear that newspaper owners should be journalists by profession. newspaper owners who have other business interests may become the target of political powers due to their activities. The makes media organizations susceptible to censorship and auto-censorship.

## Conclusion

The Journalists Association (Ankara), implementing the Press for Freedom project and other media organizations, unions and related organizations have repeatedly called for legal provisions to prevent the freedom of expression and press and allow journalists to be put behind bars upon charges of terrorism to be abolished.

The monopolization of the press and the pressure and intervention by the governments to journalists and media groups must end, thus lifting the barriers in front of the freedom of expression and press and the right to information.

The policy of laying off journalists and writers because of pieces that the government does not like and the pressure placed on media groups with the threat of unprecedented tax fines must be abandoned.

The de-unionization caused by monopolization in the press and political pressures and the resulting situation where media employees are left without job security and illegal subcontracting must also be eradicated.

The subjective criteria that are used from time to time by the Public Advertisements Authority in the distribution of official adverts must be redefined.

The understanding that considers websites and social media networks as *“a pain”* must change, and serious punishments must not be dished out to television channels that make news the government does not like.

Legislation bringing auditing mechanisms that will leave the press at the mercy of the government and deprive them of their seniority payments must never be instituted.

Journalists should be encouraged to join unions and media bosses must be stopped from employing subcontracted workers.

When the Turkish press frees itself from the influence of the political powers and leaves auto-censorship behind, Turkey will have a *“fourth power*” once more, that has the capacity to complete with the international media. The press has the technology, the drive and the determination to achieve this goal. The expectation is for the political will for this goal to become reality.

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