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Meeting: 1459th meeting (March 2023) (DH)

Communication from an NGO (IFÖD) (15/12/2022) in the case of DINK v. Turkey (Application No. 2668/07).

Information made available under Rule 9.2 of the Rules of the Committee of Ministers for the supervision of the execution of judgments and of the terms of friendly settlements.

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Réunion : 1459^e réunion (mars 2023) (DH)

Communication d'une ONG (IFÖD) (15/12/2022) dans l'affaire DINK c. Turquie (requête n° 2668/07)
[anglais uniquement]

Informations mises à disposition en vertu de la Règle 9.2 des Règles du Comité des Ministres pour la surveillance de l'exécution des arrêts et des termes des règlements amiables.

RULE 9.2 COMMUNICATION

in the Dink v. Türkiye (no. 2668/07)

by

İFADE ÖZGÜRLÜĞÜ DERNEĞİ (İFÖD)

15.12.2022

An independent non-governmental organization specialized in defending and promoting freedom of expression

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15.12.2022

Rule 9.2 Communication from İfade Özgürlüğü Derneği (“İFÖD”) in the case of *Dink v. Türkiye* (no. 2668/07)

1. The submission is prepared by **İfade Özgürlüğü Derneği** (“İFÖD” – Freedom of Expression Association), a non-profit and non-governmental organization which aims to protect and foster the right to freedom of opinion and expression in Türkiye. The aim of this submission is to update the Committee of Ministers (“the CoM”) with regard to the execution of the general measures stemming from the case of *Dink v. Türkiye*.¹
2. This submission starts with a brief background of the case and a summary of the findings of the Court in *Dink v. Türkiye*, followed by the core findings of the CoM at its latest meeting on the execution thereof as well as the Action Plan submitted by the government and İFÖD’s observations on the implementation of the judgment. İFÖD will discuss the problems in relation to the failure of the Turkish authorities to protect journalists from assaults against their physical safety, as well as to prevent and effectively investigate such acts committed by the state authorities and private individuals. In this respect, İFÖD will inform the Committee of the recent developments involving the current influx of the acts of harassment and intimidation against journalists, providing up-to-date examples to demonstrate the existence of the lack of a state policy to put an end to such misconduct, which constitutes non-compliance with the Committee’s suggested general measures.² In doing so, the disparity between the government submissions to the Committee of Ministers and the accurate assessment of the degree of freedom of expression in Türkiye, specifically regarding journalism, will be provided.

Background

3. Fırat Dink was a Turkish national of Armenian descent. He was the publication director and editor-in-chief of Agos, a bilingual Turkish-Armenian weekly newspaper published in Istanbul since 1996. Dink was sentenced to six months imprisonment for *denigrating Turkish identity* in breach of article 159 of the former Criminal Code in relation to his writings in Agos.³ He was murdered on 19.01.2007.
4. On 14.09.2010, the European Court ruled that the right to life (substantial and procedural aspects), the right to freedom of speech, and the right to an effective remedy in conjunction

¹ *Dink v. Türkiye*, no. 2668/07, 14.09.2010.

² CM/Del/Dec(2018)1324/21

³ The Turkish Penal Code at the time, Law no. 765 was abolished on 01/06/2005.

with the right to life were violated.⁴ The Court pointed out that the murder of the journalist was linked to the backlash of his articles caused among the ultranationalists. In addition to that, Dink's conviction of denigrating the Turkish identity exacerbated the nationalist sentiments which paved the way to his assassination. In this regard, the Court decided that the authorities failed to perform their positive obligation by not providing the necessary protection for Fırat Dink against the attacks of extreme nationalist groups and not creating a favourable environment for the expression of opinions without fear.⁵

The Committee of Ministers 1324th meeting, (18-20 September 2018)⁶

5. Within the context of the execution of the Court's judgment, the Committee of Ministers, in its last meeting of September 2018, urged the authorities **(a)** to provide detailed information on the general measures taken with a view to protecting the right to life of journalists when they face a real and imminent threat to their lives, **(b)** to provide the information already requested and in particular to inform the Committee of any measures taken to ensure that journalists have immediate access to protective measures and to provide up-to-date statistical information regarding the safety of journalists in Türkiye; **(c)** encouraged the authorities to consider legislative or other measures to enhance the safety of journalists and protect their professional activities and also to cooperate actively with the Council of Europe Platform for the Protection of Journalism and Safety of Journalists by promptly reacting to alerts posted on the platform concerning threats and violence against media professionals in Türkiye.

The July 2022 Action Plan of the Government

6. The Government submitted an action plan on **05.07.2022** regarding the implementation of *Dink v. Türkiye*. In its submission, the Government provided some updates on individual measures, quoted several legislative documents, and referred to two Constitutional Court judgments.
7. The Government, referring to two judgments of the Turkish Constitutional Court and providing a scarcely explained legal framework on personal protection requests, claimed that similar violations had been since prevented. The Government further stated that the case of *Dink v. Türkiye* was an isolated incident. It was also argued that further improvements would be accomplished via training and awareness-raising activities aimed at judges and prosecutors, in accordance with the execution of the principles laid down in the Human Rights Action Plan of 02.03.2021. According to the Government, the introduction of the individual complaint to the Turkish Constitutional Court mechanism in 2012 and the two sample judgments of the court, as well as the translation of the judgment to Turkish was alleged to be illustrative of the compliance of Türkiye with the general measures of the *Dink v. Türkiye* decision.
8. As will be explained below, contrary to the Government's arguments, İFÖD claims that threats against the physical safety of journalists in Türkiye continue. In this respect, the Action Plan requires a close examination as it omits to demonstrate the facts about the extent of the hostility

⁴ Ibid, operative part.

⁵ Ibid, para. 137, 138.

⁶ DH-DD(2018)658.

towards journalists in Türkiye and address the question of implementation of the general measures prescribed by the Committee.

İFÖD's Observations

9. The legislative measures mentioned in the government submission do not relate to context-sensitive precautions against violence aimed at journalists as a result of the exercise of their professional activities. Contrary to the Committee's suggestions in its last meeting, the Government failed to comprehensively acknowledge the intertwined relationship between journalists' freedom of expression and the harassment they experience for practicing their profession.
10. In its submission, the government claims that Provincial Protection Commissions that are operating in connection with the local governors may provide the necessary protection for the individuals, and in case the Commission refuses the applications, individuals may object against such decisions with the Central Protection Commission of the Ministry of Interior. In addition to that, the Government refers to two separate regulations namely the "Regulation on Protective Services" and the "Directive on Protection Services" without stating the date and numbers of these legal documents. İFÖD would like to note that referring only to the titles of these documents is not enough to access such legal documents. When İFÖD searched these legal documents over the online legal database by the provided titles, İFÖD simply could not access the content of these documents. As will be mentioned below, İFÖD managed to obtain extremely limited information on the legal framework referred to in the Government's submission. Consequently, İFÖD could not assess further the scope of referred legal documents. In this regard, the Government should be invited to provide the date and number of the referred documents and preferably the full text of such legal documents submitted to the Committee of Ministers.
11. Moreover, as suggested by the Government, individuals who face a violent threat may apply for the referred protection services, which are of a general nature. However, the Government did not present any further information showing the effectiveness of these measures and did not discuss the specific measures that the relevant documents contain for threats posed in the context of journalistic activities.
12. In order to provide effective legal safeguards to prevent journalism-affiliated violence, it is without a doubt that information on the extent of such acts must be available to the authorities and be under the scrutiny of the civil society in Türkiye. The lack of such data indicates that Türkiye does not have the necessary legal framework to be able to provide up-to-date statistical information regarding the safety of journalists, as was suggested by the Committee in its 1324th Meeting.
13. In addition to the lack of official data, the legal deficiencies are exacerbated by the confidentiality of the related regulations on personal protection services. The fact that the regulation for protection services is not available to the public and therefore inaccessible and unforeseeable, impedes the potential victims' ability to inform themselves about the possible ways and means for protecting their safety. Inevitably, the secrecy of the whole process renders

it impossible for civil society to exercise oversight. Moreover, the legal framework mentioned in the government submission fails to meet the legality requirements of accessibility and foreseeability, as they are ranked as classified⁷ and cannot be accessed by the citizens. The only official information available on the Internet as to the content of the Regulation on Protective Services is found in a parliamentary record dated 17.09.2001 which states that the said regulation, adopted with a prime-ministerial approval on 16.09.1995 was not published in the Official Gazette as it was ranked as classified.⁸ Therefore, the Government should be invited to provide the referred “Regulation on Protective Services” and “Directive on Protection Services” to the Committee for further evaluation on whether the Turkish Authorities have adequate legal safeguards to protect journalists for their journalistic activities.

14. According to the Guidelines annexed to the Recommendation CM/Rec(2016)4 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the protection of journalism and the safety of journalists and other media actors, *“the legislative framework, including criminal law provisions dealing with the protection of the physical and moral integrity of the person, should be implemented in an effective manner, including through administrative mechanisms and by recognizing the particular roles of journalists and other media actors in a democratic society.”* The lack of a journalism-specific legal framework leads to the formulation of such misconduct as ordinary criminal activity and holding the requests made by the journalists and media organs up to the same standards as regular claims. As a corollary, safety concerns expressed by a journalist in the context of intimidation due to their investigative activities may not be seen as of enough severity in the overall scheme of an ordinary criminal environment. However, the establishment and advancement of a democratic society depend inextricably on the freedom of the press, which should be protected and upheld with the specific aim and mindset to accomplish this goal. The context-blind approach to the protection of journalists hampers the possibility of assessing correctly the violence against journalists in Türkiye as it does not differentiate between the risks based on the identity of the victims or their role in society.
15. The Human Rights Action Plan mentioned by the government, even though it was adopted after the 1324th meeting of the Committee, falls behind the suggested general measures drastically. The Human Rights Action Plan, allegedly aimed at fostering human rights, only entails the abstract goal of taking measures *“to lay down the ‘safety of journalists’”*.⁹ The Plan does not specify or defer to any other legislation regarding what concrete measures and types of protective systems were put in place or will be put in place in the future to protect journalists.

⁷ For the legislation referred to in the Government’s submission see p. 42 of the list of legislation in force or enacted by the Ministry of Interior Affairs at https://icisleri.gov.tr/ortak_icerik/www.icisleri/mevzuat/mevzuat_strateji_.pdf. By the date of this submission, the link is unavailable. For the web archived version see, https://web.archive.org/web/20211023140715/https://icisleri.gov.tr/ortak_icerik/www.icisleri/mevzuat/mevzuat_strateji_.pdf.

⁸ For the parliamentary record of 17.09.2001 see <https://www5.tbmm.gov.tr/tutanaklar/TUTANAK/TBMM/d21/c069/b129/tbmm210691290118.pdf>

⁹ See Human Rights Action Plan of Türkiye, 02.03.2021, p. 57 at https://inhak.adalet.gov.tr/Resimler/SayfaDokuman/5320211949561614962441580_insan-haklari-EP-v2_eng.pdf

In fact, the implementation schedule¹⁰ of the Action Plan barely refers to the “safety of journalists” and Activity 4.1.e. only states that “measures will be taken” without stating in detail what measures will be taken by the Ministry of Interior which is according to the Plan responsible for the safety of journalists. Finally, neither the plan nor the associated schedule indicate a timeline for the Government’s “plan to protect the journalists”.

İFÖD’s Comments on the Constitutional Court Judgments Submitted by the Government

16. The two Constitutional Court judgments annexed to the government’s submission fail to exhibit any improvements on the implementation of the general measures adopted at the 1324th Meeting of the Committee.
17. The Constitutional Court’s *Rahil Dink and others* judgment¹¹ cannot be seen as the implementation of the general measures as it did not address the specific context of the Dink assassination as relating to the journalistic activities of the deceased and the failure to fulfill the duty of the state to protect journalistic freedom of expression. Even though the murder of Dink was induced by the ultra-nationalist reaction to his publications, that aspect of the circumstances of the case was not taken into consideration by the Constitutional Court in the *Rahil Dink and others* judgment. Therefore, the judgment cannot be seen as a step toward setting a precedent for future violations of this sort.
18. The second sample judgment submitted to the Committee is the Constitutional Court’s *Elif Mutlu and Ferhat Mutlu* judgment.¹² The case of *Elif Mutlu and Ferhat Mutlu* do not relate to the general measures enumerated by the Committee as it relates to the suicide of a teenage girl in the child protection system. Although the procedural dimension of the right to life was found to have been violated by the Constitutional Court, the interlink between the journalistic freedom of expression and the right to life was not considered in either of them. Therefore, *Elif Mutlu and Ferhat Mutlu* judgment does not entail any relation to the attacks on media and journalism while being primarily preoccupied with the right to effective investigation of the deceased’s family. By all means, this judgment cannot be regarded as demonstrative of an effective protection and redress mechanism for the attacks on journalism and the protection of freedom of expression.
19. İFÖD argues that, in a similar way to the preventive mechanisms, the prosecution phase and the human rights adjudication at the Constitutional Court level need to analyze the contexts in which journalists face violence so as to publicly and effectively manifest intolerance against such actions. As was mentioned by the Committee in its 1324th meeting, Recommendation CM/Rec(2016)4 highlights that “*the absence of such effective measures gives rise to the existence of a culture of impunity, which leads to the tolerance of abuses and crimes against journalists and other media actors. When there is little or no prospect of prosecution, perpetrators of such abuses and crimes do not fear punishment.*” An analysis by the public authorities establishing the causal relationship, if any, between journalistic freedom of

¹⁰ See Action Plan on Human Rights and Implementation Schedule, April 2021, at https://insanhaklariylemplanı.adalet.gov.tr/resimler/Action_Plan_on_Human_Rights_and_Implementation_Schedule.pdf

¹¹ *Rahil Dink and others*, App No. 2012/848, 17.07.2014.

¹² *Elif Mutlu and Ferhat Mutlu*, App No. 2013/3711, 07.01.2016.

expression and threats to physical safety must be conducted so as to disclose and address such systemic problems in the future. The sample judgments indicate the lack of such efforts on the part of Türkiye and cannot be considered to be implementing the measures suggested by the Committee. Finally, it must be added that the Constitutional Court decisions, although important for finding violations of important fundamental rights, do not count as “preventative measures” nor do they establish the Government’s policy with regards to safety of journalists.

İFÖD’s Comments on the News and Statistics

20. With regard to the Government’s claims that the murder of Dink was an isolated incident and that the overall environment in the country is favorable for the safety of journalists, İFÖD would like to provide the Committee with some recent news and developments that concern this very issue and demonstrate that journalists are under constant and even increasing threats against their physical wellbeing coming from state and non-state actors alike.
21. This phenomenon is evident in the alerts created by the CoE Safety of Journalists Platform. There are 184 active alerts concerning Türkiye since 2015 and 39 of these alerts were generated due to attacks on the physical safety and integrity of journalists. In addition to that over the years, the Government replied to only six of these 39 alerts. Out of the **39 active alerts concerning attacks on the physical safety and integrity of journalists in Türkiye, 17 are classified as coming from the State, 15 as coming from non-state actors**, and seven are yet unknown. (**Annex-1**) There are also 38 other alerts under the category of “Harassment and intimidation of journalists”. Similar to the case of Hrant Dink, in seven of the 38 alerts, the journalists were harassed or intimidated by private individuals (**Annex-2**). All seven alerts are clear examples of the threats that the journalists received for performing their journalistic duties. Regarding the source, four out of seven alerts were classified as unknown, two as coming from non-state actors, and one as from the state. The Government did not submit any reply to these alerts.
22. Notwithstanding, based on the statistics in the CoE Safety of Journalists Platform, there are six alerts in the category of “impunity for murder” and one of them is Hrant Dink’s case. The Government did not reply to any of these six alerts and none of them is resolved. (**Annex-3**). The remaining five alerts are regarding the murders of journalists Uğur Mumcu, Jamal Khashoggi, Rohat Aktaş, Naji Jerf and Saaed Karimian. In this regard, İFÖD would like to draw the Committee’s attention to the Government’s claim that Dink’s assassination was an isolated incident. Under the title “**Isolated Nature of the Violation**” of its submission, the Government stated that Dink’s assassination was planned and committed by FETÖ/PYD terrorist organization, and therefore, it cannot be attributed to security forces. No need to say, the Government’s argument cannot be perceived as the state’s duty to prevent offences against individuals was lifted just because FETÖ/PYD terrorist organization was involved. In addition to that the alerts on the CoE Safety of Journalists Platform especially under the “impunity for murder” category illustrate that impunity is a long-lasting problem in Türkiye, and the case of Hrant Dink is therefore not an isolated incident.
23. In this regard, İFÖD would like to note that certain controversial incidents could not be brought to light even after decades. The case of **Uğur Mumcu** is among such cases. On 24.01.1993,

Uğur Mumcu, a popular investigative journalist was murdered outside his home in Ankara. Although 29 years passed, the primary suspect charged with planting the bomb under Uğur Mumcu's car, could not be arrested.¹³ Recently, on 23.05.2021, the infamous mafia leader Sedat Peker who is known for his whistleblowing YouTube videos and Twitter posts, claimed that the former Turkish Interior Minister Mehmet Ağar was involved in the murder of Mumcu.¹⁴ Despite the serious accusations, the authorities did not initiate any investigation.

24. It should be also emphasized that the world-shaking murder of Saudi Arabian journalist **Jamal Khashoggi** in Türkiye is also among the alerts of Safety of Journalists Platform. Jamal Khashoggi has been a vocal opponent of the Saudi government led by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. On 02.10.2018, Jamal Khashoggi disappeared after entering the Saudi consulate in Istanbul.¹⁵ Turkish authorities later reported that Jamal Khashoggi was murdered in the Saudi consulate, his body was torn apart and taken outside of the consulate. According to Turkish authorities, shortly after the murder, the suspects left the country. The Saudi suspects were tried in absentia until 07.04.2022. Istanbul 11th Assize Court (case no. 2020/120) decided to transfer the proceedings to Saudi Arabian courts. The Ministry of Justice approved the transfer although there is not any bilateral agreement between Türkiye and Saudi Arabia on the transfer of proceedings from one to another country. Shortly after the decision, the representatives of Jamal Khashoggi filed a case before the administrative courts for the abolition of the approval, however, Ankara 14th Administrative Court dismissed the case.¹⁶
25. Finally, the case of **Rohat Aktaş** is also among the incidents that raise serious concerns over the authority's efforts to lead an effective investigation. Between 2015 and 2016, Turkish military forces intervened in Cizre following the terrorist attacks of PKK/YPG. Cizre is located in the southeast of Türkiye, and the majority of the population is Kurdish. The authorities declared a curfew in the area. At the time, Aktaş was the news editor and reporter for the Kurdish-language daily Azadiya Welat. On 22.01.2016 while he was working, he was shot in the arm. In the beginning, he was in touch with the editorial board, however, on 04.02.2016, the board did not hear from him again.¹⁷ Later, his corpse was found between 140 bodies taken outside of Cizre. Like other investigations on the civilian deaths in Cizre, the investigation with regards to the death of Rohat Aktaş was dismissed by the public prosecutor.¹⁸
26. In addition to the data and cases assessed through the CoE database, İFÖD would like to present a number of examples of recent assaults towards journalists. On 10.05.2019, Yavuz Selim Demirağ, who is known as a critical journalist working for the Yeniçağ newspaper, was

¹³ For more information see. <https://fom.coe.int/en/alerte/detail/107636504:globalSearch=false>

¹⁴ Cumhuriyet Gazetesi, "Why was Uğur Mumcu murdered? Sensational accusation from Sedat Peker", 23.05.2021, at <https://www.cumhuriyet.com.tr/haber/ugur-mumcu-neden-olduruldu-sedat-pekerden-flas-iddia-1838486>

¹⁵ BBC, "After announcing the Khashoggi murder to the world how did Türkiye, come to the point of handing over the case to Saudi Arabia?" 07.04.2022 at <https://www.bbc.com/turkce/haberler-turkiye-61021439>.

¹⁶ Bianet, "Court dismissed Cemal Kaşıkçı appeal against 'Ministry of Justice'", 20.04.2022 at <https://m.bianet.org/bianet/hukuk/260752-cemal-kasikci-itrastina-mahkemeden-adalet-bakanligi-reddi>

¹⁷ Committee to Protect Journalists, "CPJ concerned for safety of injured journalist trapped in Turkish city", 04.02.2016, at <https://cpj.org/2016/02/cpj-concerned-for-safety-of-injured-journalist-tra/>

¹⁸ Gazete Duvar, "Investigation Commission request for those killed during curfews in Şırnak", 13.12.2018, at <https://www.gazeteduvar.com.tr/politika/2018/12/13/hdp-sirnak-vekilleri-yasaklarda-olenler-icin-arastirma-komisyonu-istedi>.

attacked by a small group of individuals with sticks and baseball bats due to a speech in a live broadcast.¹⁹ The attack drew the attention of the opposition parties as well. İYİ Party Leader Meral Akşener condemned the attack on Twitter by stating that *“This vile attack was made on the freedom of the press and expression. They can’t and won’t intimidate us!”* Subsequently, in an interview published on 02.07.2019, Demirağ stated that prior to the attack, he was subjected to six other intimidations. The trial involving the perpetrators with much delay only started on 22.09.2022 at the Ankara 36th Criminal Assize Court.²⁰

27. Moreover, on 15.01.2021, Orhan Uğuroğlu was attacked by a group of individuals. Earlier that day, Uğuroğlu had published an article criticizing the government for the increasing cost of living on the Yeniçağ newspaper.²¹ In his statement taken by the police, Uğuroğlu stated that the aggressors yelled at him stating *“We come from the Nationalist Movement Party. Don’t criticize the Nationalist Movement Party. The nationalists will hold you accountable for this”*.²² Uğuroğlu continued to be subjected to threats even after the attack.²³
28. On 08.03.2021, well known journalist Levent Gültekin was attacked in the city center of Istanbul by a group of almost 25 individuals. Gültekin was attacked and also received threats through the social media platforms for stating that *“Türkeş²⁴ has spread the disease of nationalism and racism into the minds of millions of children of this country, and that nationalism has darkened the lives of millions of young people by making them oddly believe ‘we love this country more than anyone else’. I know that they are also experiencing great disappointment just like I do.”*²⁵ Following Gültekin’s complaint, the case was trialed at the Bakırköy 47th Criminal Court of First Instance. On 23.03.2022, only two of the perpetrators were sentenced to 11 months and 20 days of imprisonment for the crime of injury with full intention. However, the court deferred the announcement of the verdict and the perpetrators did not serve their prison sentence.²⁶
29. İFÖD would like to stress further that the recent examples are not limited to incidents that occurred between 2016-2021. On 12.08.2022, Ebru Uzun Oruç, who conducts street interviews and broadcasts them on her YouTube channel named “Stray Cat”, broadcasted her latest

¹⁹ Evrensel, “Yeniçağ’s Journalist Yavuz Selim Demirağ was attacked in the middle of the street”, 10.05.2019, at <https://www.evrensel.net/haber/379163/yenicag-yazari-yavuz-selim-demirag-sokak-ortasinda-saldiriya-ugradi>

²⁰ Yavuz Selim Demirağ, “We finally found a court for me to face with my potential murderers!”, Yeniçağ, 22.09.2022 at <https://www.yenicaggazetesi.com.tr/katil-adaylarimla-yuzlesmek-icin-nihayet-bir-mahkeme-bulduk-580557h.htm>

²¹ Orhan Uğuroğlu, “AKP’s picture of shame: Lock on baby food”, Yeniçağ Newspaper, 15.01.2021 at <https://www.yenicaggazetesi.com.tr/akpnin-utanc-tablosu-bebek-mamasina-kilit-407305h.htm>

²² Gazete Duvar, “Second attack on the same day at Ankara: Yeniçağ’s representative Orhan Uğuroğlu was beaten” 15.01.2021, at <https://www.gazeteduvar.com.tr/ankarada-bir-gunde-ikinci-saldiri-yenicag-temsilcisi-orhan-uguroglu-darbedildi-haber-1510378>

²³ Orhan Uğuroğlu, “Bahçeli’s announcement is the villain of the piece!”, 22.01.2022, at <https://www.yenicaggazetesi.com.tr/saldirilarin-musebbibi-bahcelinin-ilanidir-407368h.htm>

²⁴ Alparslan Türkeş is a Turkish politician known as the founder of the [Nationalist Movement Party](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nationalist_Movement_Party). For more information see. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alparslan_T%C3%BCrke%C5%9F.

²⁵ OdaTV, “Another attack to a journalist once again the suspect is Nationalist Movement Party”, 08.03.2022 at <https://www.odatv4.com/siyaset/levant-gultekine-saldiri-08032153-203361>

²⁶ Independent Türkçe, “Two defendants who attacked journalist Levent Gültekin were sentenced to 11 months and 20 days in prison with remission” 23.03.2022 at <https://www.indyrturk.com/node/488411/medya/gazeteci-levant-g%C3%BCltekin-sald%C4%B1ran-iki-san%C4%B1%C4%9Fa-ceza-indirimi-ile-11-ay-20%C5%9Fer-g%C3%BCn>

interview in which she asked the opinions of the citizens on the pro-government Nationalist Movement Party's Leader Devlet Bahçeli.²⁷ Subsequently, Oruç shared a post stating that she was threatened due to her latest video.²⁸ A high-level Nationalist Movement Party member, Nevzat Ünlütürk, was among the people who commented on the video. Ünlütürk stated on her Twitter account that *"She doesn't have a lugmark! The owner is unknown, and probably not sterilized...This stray cat needs to be sterilized!"* A day after this post, Oruç was attacked by two armed individuals in the middle of a street.²⁹ Following the attack, an investigation was initiated, two perpetrators were interrogated and after the initial interrogation, they were released.³⁰

- 30.** On 12.08.2022, another incident took place in the central Anatolian city of Karaman. Since recent municipality elections, Karaman is governed by the Nationalist Movement Party. Allegedly, the construction machines owned by the municipality were operating in an unlicensed construction. The local news website "Karaman's Voice" published an article involving these allegations and shared a video of the construction machines. Shortly after this news, three people, the provincial head of the oppositional Deva Party, the owner of the news website Karaman's Voice and the independent deputy candidate, while sitting together were attacked by nine individuals along with the provincial head of the Nationalist Movement Party due to the article published on Karaman's Voice.³¹
- 31.** Notwithstanding, the harassment and intimidation did not cease even when Turkish journalists continue their profession abroad. On 07.07.2021, journalist Erk Acarer was attacked at his home in Berlin due to an article he wrote on 03.07.2021 in which he discussed corruption and drug trafficking allegations involving a Turkish businessman.³² Following the attack, Erk Acarer shared his state of health and details of the attack on his Twitter account. He wrote that the perpetrators threatened him in Turkish by stating *"stop writing about people's family and values or we will do the worse"*.³³ There was also a subsequent attack involving Erk Acarer on 20.07.2021.
- 32.** In another recent incident, on 19.03.2022, journalist Ahmet Dönmez was attacked in Stockholm, Sweden. The attack and intimidation took place after Dönmez's YouTube broadcast in which he brought forward allegations of a mafia network having affiliation with the Minister of Internal Affairs.³⁴ Following the broadcast, on 19.02.2022, Ahmet Dönmez was

²⁷ For the interview see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vDBbvdPMEY&feature=youtu.be>

²⁸ Sol, "The reporter of the channel named Stray Cat and those who attacked her husband are released", 15.08.2022 at <https://haber.sol.org.tr/haber/sokak-kedisi-kanalinin-muhabiri-ve-esine-saldiranlar-serbest-345292>

²⁹ International Journalists, "MHP targeted, Stray Cat' Youtube channel team attacked" 13.08.2022 at <https://internationaljournalists.org/tr/mhp-hedef-gosterdi-sokak-kedisi-youtube-kanali-ekibi-saldiriya-ugradi/>

³⁰ For more information see <https://fom.coe.int/en/alerte/detail/107637919;globalSearch=false>

³¹ Sözcü, "A group of Nationalist Movement Party members attacked Head of DEVA Party Karaman Province", 12.08.2022 at <https://www.sozcu.com.tr/2022/gundem/mhpli-grup-deva-partisi-karaman-il-baskanina-saldiridi-7303812/>

³² Erk Acarer, "From 'FETÖ stock market' to drugs lead, Why do all roads lead to İzmir?", Birgün Newspaper, 03.07.2021, at <https://www.birgun.net/haber/feto-borsasindan-uyusturucuya-neden-butun-yollar-izmir-e-cikiyor-350461>

³³ Birgün Newspaper, "Attack on BirGün writer journalist Erk Acarer", 07.07.2021 at <https://www.birgun.net/haber/birgun-yazari-gazeteci-erk-acarer-e-saldiri-351001>

³⁴ For the YouTube broadcast see "The rise of Soylu's Mafia, Ayhan Bora Kaplan" 16.02.2022 at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z66f5xgDoU>

first threatened via a Whatsapp message , and approximately a month after the threat message, Dönmez was attacked and beaten up by two individuals in the middle of a street.³⁵

33. The reports and cases submitted to the CoE database as well as more recent examples provided by İFÖD show that the Government's Action Plan falls short of addressing the Court's decision in *Dink v. Türkiye* to create a safe environment for journalists to work without fear and retaliation for their work.

Conclusions and Recommendations

34. İFÖD considers that problems observed by the European Court in the case of *Dink v. Türkiye* remain and they have not been properly addressed by the Turkish authorities. Impunity for murdered journalists remain a serious concern and attacks on physical safety and integrity of journalists continue together with harassment and intimidation of journalists within Türkiye and abroad.
35. The Turkish Authorities deliberately disregard the structural problems observed by the Court and the Committee of Ministers arising from the lack of legal safeguards to protect the journalists for their journalistic activities.
36. İFÖD recalls that the legal framework referred to in the Government's submission, namely "Regulation on Protective Services" and "Directive on Protection Services" are not available to the public. Therefore, İFÖD recommends the Committee to ask the Government to present the legal framework protecting journalists against threats, harassment, and intimidation linked with their journalistic activities.
37. Moreover, İFÖD recommends the Committee to ask the Government to provide detailed data and actual examples from the application of the "Regulation on Protective Services", "Directive on Protection Services" and the operation of the Central Protection Commission of the Ministry of Interior.
38. Recalling the findings and recommendations of the Council of Europe's "Implementation guide on "How to protect journalists and other media actors?"³⁶
- a. The Government should be invited to cooperate with the Council of Europe Platforms to take preventive measures for the protection of journalists.
 - b. Bearing in mind impunity is unacceptably high in Türkiye and cases of journalists remain unresolved, the Government should be called to comply with the European standards to carry out effective investigations and tackle impunity.
 - c. The Government should be advised to carry out a follow-up activity including but not limited to alerts on the CoE Safety of Journalists Platform.

³⁵ T24, "He was threatened with "I'll cut your head off"; journalist Ahmet Dönmez was attacked in Sweden", 19.03.2022 at <https://t24.com.tr/haber/kafani-kestiririm-senin-diye-tehdit-edilmisti-gazeteci-ahmet-donmez-isvec-te-saldiriya-ugradi.1021932>

³⁶ DGI(2020)11.



39. İFÖD also recommends the Committee to ask the Government to provide examples from recent judicial practices showing that the criminal law has a deterring effect on the intimidation and harassment against journalists.
40. İFÖD considers that there has been no progress achieved with regard to providing necessary legal safeguards for the protection of journalists against harassment and intimidation.

İFADE ÖZGÜRLÜĞÜ DERNEĞİ
Osmanağa Mah. Hasırcıbaşı Cad.
No:24/4 Kadıköy/İSTANBUL
Kadıköy V.D. 4700644051
Kütük No: 34-235/076

İfade Özgürlüğü Derneği – İFÖD (Turkey)

Web: <https://ifade.org.tr> Twitter: @ifadeorgtr

İfade Özgürlüğü Derneği (İFÖD) has been set up formally in August 2017 to protect and foster the right to freedom of opinion and expression. The Association envisions a society in which everyone enjoys freedom of opinion and expression and the right to access and disseminate information and knowledge.

Türkiye

No. 79/2015

Turkish Police Puts a Gun to TV Journalist's Head

No State reply yet

Created 05 Oct 2015

Partners: EFJ/IFJ

Attacks on physical safety and integrity of journalists 

Source of threat: State

Level 2 

DGI

15 DEC. 2022

SERVICE DE L'EXECUTION
DES ARRETS DE LA CEDH

On 4 October 2015, at Silvan in Diyarbakır (Turkey), special police forces have threatened, intimidated and beaten TV journalists working for DIHA news agency and Gün TV. A footage shared by citizens on social network shows a police officer putting a gun on Özgür Gün TV cameraman Murat Demir's head. Police detained Demir as well as DIHA reporter Sedat Yüce after seizing their cameras.

Additional information

[Pictures of the attack published on Twitter](#)

[Article published by newspaper 'Today's Zaman': 'Video shows police putting gun on journalist's head in curfew town'.](#)

Türkiye

No. 11/2015

Attacks and Intimidation on Journalists Covering Workers' Strikes in Turkey

State replied

Updated 24 Sep 2015 · Created 17 Jul 2015

Partners: EFJ/IFJ

Attacks on physical safety and integrity of journalists 

Source of threat: Unknown

Level 2 

RESOLVED

Journalists for the daily Evrensel Gazetesi and the news channel Hayat TV were attacked and threatened on 29 and 30 June 2015 for reporting on labour-related protests. Unidentified individuals attacked and threatened reporters with kidnapping because they were covering strikes by workers in the metal industry. In what appeared to be an attempt to intimidate and threaten, explosions went off at the home of Arzu Erkan, member of the IFJ/EFJ affiliate (TGS) and correspondent for Evrensel Gazetesi in Kocaeli. Other freelance correspondents for Evrensel and Hayat TV have also received threats. The TGS General Secretary, Mustafa Kuleli, condemned these threats, saying that: "All the attacks and pressures must stop immediately, journalists and media workers must not be intimidated for doing their reporting."

Additional information

EFJ statement: Attacks on journalists covering labour issues are unacceptable

State reply

28 August 2015

Response of the Turkish Government

Letter from the Permanent Representation of Turkey to the Council of Europe

Türkiye

No. 6/2015

Newspaper Raided and Birgün Journalist, Onur Oncu, Detained

No State reply yet

Updated 16 Jun 2015 · Created 01 Jun 2015

Partners: EFJ/IFJ

Attacks on physical safety and integrity of journalists 

Source of threat: State

Level 2 

RESOLVED

On 26 May 2015, police in Istanbul raided the office of Gelecek gazetesi (newspaper) located in Kadıköy Serasker Caddesi and targeted staff journalists and media workers with tear gas and plastic bullets without giving any explanation. Journalist Onur Oncu working for the daily newspaper BirGün was among the five people arrested. He is still kept in detention by the authorities. The TGS (Journalists Union of Turkey, member of the EFJ and the IFJ in Turkey) issued a call to the authorities to immediately release its member.

Additional information

[Evrensel Article: Police Attack Newspaper - 5 Arrested \(in Turkish\)](#)

[EFJ Tweet: BirGün journalist @onuroncuu detained since 2 days by Turkish police should be set free immediately, says @tgs_org_tr](#)

[TGS Tweet: İki gündür haksız yere gözetiminde tutulan üyemiz @onuroncuu ve diğer meslektaşlarımız derhal serbest bırakılsın.](#)

Türkiye

No. 38/2015

Turkish Special Operations Team Attacks Journalists Covering the Transfer of Injured Police Officer to a Hospital

State replied

Updated 30 Nov 2015 · Created 13 Aug 2015

Partners: EFJ/IFJ

Attacks on physical safety and integrity of journalists 

Source of threat: State

Level 2 

RESOLVED

On 12 August 2015, a Special Operations team in Turkey attacked journalists who were covering the transfer of an injured police officer to a hospital in the Mardin province. In video footage, the team is shown yelling at journalists, "You are all militants!" before opening fire on them. In the Nusaybin district of the Mardin province of southeastern Turkey, a government office was attacked with the use of rocket launchers and weapons. A Special Operations police officer got injured and a member of the PKK was killed. The Special Operations team attacked journalists covering the transfer of the injured police officer to Mardin State Hospital. The team opened fire in front of the hospital and assaulted the journalists. Two journalists were wounded during the operation and policemen allegedly confiscated a journalist's photographs and broke his camera.

Additional information

Article published on the news website Bianet.org: "Special operations team attacks journalists, opens fire in hospital"

Video footage of the attack (in Turkish): "Nusaybin'de Özel Harekat polisleri gazetecilere saldırdı"

State reply

15 September 2015

Response of the Turkish Government

Letter from the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Turkey to the Council of Europe

Türkiye

No. 17/2015

DIHA Journalist Cüneyt Yavuz Injured in Tear Gas Canister Attack During Clashes Between Police and Protesters

State replied

Updated 27 Aug 2015 · Created 31 Jul 2015

Partners: EFJ/IFJ

Attacks on physical safety and integrity of journalists 

Source of threat: State

Level 1 

On 26 July 2015, Cüneyt Yavuz, a journalist working for Istanbul-based Kurdish news agency Dicle Haber Ajansı (DIHA), was injured in the leg by a tear gas canister fired by the riot police during protests in the Istanbul neighbourhood of Gazi. Police reportedly prevented ambulances from accessing the area, causing Yavuz to wait around an hour for treatment. Riots broke out between police and protestors during the funeral of a member of the leftist group who was killed two days before and the journalist was believed to have been targeted in an attempt by the authorities to curtail media reporting on the event.

Additional information

[Press release published on Mapping Media Freedom "Turkey: Journalist wounded during clash between police and protestors"](#)

State reply

27 August 2015

Response of the Turkish Government

[Letter from the Permanent Representation of Turkey to the Council of Europe](#)

Türkiye

No. 13/2016

IMC TV Reporter Refik Tekin Shot in the Leg at Cizre

No State reply yet

Updated 10 Feb 2016 · Created 21 Jan 2016

Partners: EFJ/IFJ

Attacks on physical safety and integrity of journalists 

Source of threat: State

Level 1 

According to local reports, 10 persons including IMC TV reporter and cameraman Refik Tekin have been wounded on 20 January, 2016 by unidentified members of special forces active in Cizre (Southeast of Turkey). Tekin, who was reporting along with other colleagues the situation from the ground for the last 38 days, is now suffering from bullet in his left leg.

UPDATE

10 February 2016

According to local press reports, after Refik Tekin, a Diyarbakır-based cameraman with the pro-Kurdish outlet İMC TV, was shot in the leg while reporting on clashes in Cizre, on 20 January 2016, the authorities issued an order for him to be questioned on suspicion of being a member of a terrorist organisation and a police guard was stationed outside his hospital room. Upon his discharge, he was allegedly questioned by police who asked what he was doing in Cizre and what was his job. Following his testimony, he was released by the police. The journalist is not aware of an ongoing investigation against him. Tekin was first taken to Cizre State Hospital, then transferred to Mardin State Hospital for treatment. According to the journalist, on the way to both hospitals officers assaulted and insulted him, including hitting him on his injured leg. Tekin filed complaints about the alleged treatment after the shooting and against his assailants. He has not heard from police since filing the complaints.

Additional information

[Press release from EFJ/IFJ: "Stop threats and violence against journalists and academics in Turkey"](#)

[Article published on IMC TV website \(in Turkish\): "İMC TV kameramanı Refik Tekin Cizre'de vuruldu"](#)

[Article published on Diken website \(in Turkish\): "İMC TV: Kameramanımız Refik Tekin, Cizre'de vurularak yaralandı"](#)

Türkiye

No. 8/2015

LGBT Journalist Beaten by Police Officers

State replied

Updated 13 Sep 2016 · Created 09 Jun 2015

Partners: EFJ/IFJ

Attacks on physical safety and integrity of journalists 

Source of threat: State

Level 2 

RESOLVED

LGBT journalist Michelle Demishevich (T24) has been beaten on 1 June 2015 by plain clothes police officers in front of the Belgian Consulate in Istanbul. Demishevich was attempting to attend a press statement given by Sümeyye Erdoğan, the daughter of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. The journalist has filed a complaint with the police, according to an article posted by her employer T24. The following days, the EFJ has received a second complaint from Demishevich who was harassed and targeted by an Islamist online magazine because of her origin and sexual orientation.

RESOLVED

13 September 2016

In the immediate wake of the incident, an investigation was opened against the police officers involved. On 13 September 2016, the partner organisations of the Platform declared this case to be "resolved", concluding it was no longer an active threat to media freedom.

Additional information

EFJ Article: 'Growing pressure on journalists in Turkey before the elections'

State reply

27 August 2015

Response of the Turkish Government

Letter from the Permanent Representation of Turkey to the Council of Europe

Türkiye

No. 89/2015

Journalist Beyza Kural Briefly Detained and Threatened with Violence by Police While Covering Protest

State replied

Updated 13 Sep 2016 · Created 12 Nov 2015

Partners: EFJ/IFJ

Attacks on physical safety and integrity of journalists 

Source of threat: State

Level 2 

RESOLVED

Beyza Kural, female reporter for Bianet, was covering a public protest on 6 November 2015 in Beyazit (Istanbul) when police handcuffed her from behind and briefly detained her. Kural was set free thanks to the intervention of other journalists and protesters who were around. According to Bianet, police officers tried to seize the card of her camera and shouted, referring to the result of the elections, that "From now on nothing will be like before, we will teach it to you".

RESOLVED

13 September 2016

Journalist promptly released after presenting her card. On 13 September 2016, the partner organisations of the Platform declared this case to be "resolved", concluding it was no longer an active threat to media freedom.

Additional information

[Article by Bianet: "Parliament to Discuss Police Violence on bianet Reporter"](#)

[Article by Bianet: "Detainment Effort by Handcuffing Behind bianet Reporter Beyza Kural"](#)

State reply

11 January 2016

Response of the Turkish Government

Letter from the Permanent Representation of Turkey to the Council of Europe

Relevant CoE instruments

29 February 2016

Factsheet on media coverage of protests and demonstrations

Türkiye

No. 77/2015

Hürriyet Journalist Ahmet Hakan Threatened and Attacked

State replied

Updated 13 Sep 2016 · Created 04 Oct 2015

Partners: EFJ/IFJ

Attacks on physical safety and integrity of journalists 

Source of threat: Unknown

Level 1 

RESOLVED

Ahmet Hakan, a prominent columnist for the daily newspaper Hürriyet and a TV host on CNN-Türk, has been physically attacked on 01/10/2015 by four assailants outside his home in the Nişantaşı district of Istanbul. The journalist, who has previously faced death threats, was admitted to hospital after sustaining injuries to his ribs and nose. A video footage on Hürriyet's website shows the perpetrators began following his car immediately after he left his office. The newspaper's headquarters were attacked twice last month by pro-government demonstrators

RESOLVED

13 September 2016

Seven suspects were identified and an investigation was launched against them. The attack was publicly and swiftly condemned by the then Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu. On 13 September 2016, the partner organisations of the platform declared this case to be "resolved", concluding that it was no longer an active threat to media freedom.

Additional information

[EFJ Europe's reaction on Twitter: 'Daily attacks on journalists in Turkey must stop'](#)

[Aljazeera report: 'Prominent Turkish journalist injured in gang attack'](#)

State reply

17 November 2015

Response of the Turkish Government (information provided by the Ministry of Justice)

Letter of the Permanent Representation of Turkey to the Council of Europe

Follow-ups

01 October 2015

Secretary General Jagland condemns attack on Hürriyet journalist Ahmet Hakan

Statement by Thorbjørn Jagland

01 October 2015

PACE President expresses concern at attack on Hürriyet columnist

Statement by Anne Brasseur

01 October 2015

OSCE Media Freedom Representative condemns attack on journalist Ahmet Hakan, and calls for improved safety of journalists in Turkey

Statement by Dunja Mijatović

Türkiye

No. 71/2016

Newsrooms Seized by Military and Journalists Attacked during Coup Attempt

No State reply yet

Updated 25 Mar 2019 · Created 18 Jul 2016

Partners: EFJ/IFJ

Attacks on physical safety and integrity of journalists 

Source of threat: Non-State

Level 1 

RESOLVED

In the early hours of Saturday 16 July, Turkish soldiers who attempted to overthrow the government seized control of several newsrooms. They took control of the Ankara studios of the state broadcaster, Turkish Radio and Television (TRT) and forced news anchor Tijen Karas to read a televised statement at gunpoint. Tijen Karas said the members of the newsroom were held hostage for hours and were threatened. Soldiers also took over Istanbul offices of Doğan Media Center, which houses several media outlets, including Hurriyet daily newspaper, the English-language Hurriyet Daily News, and the private television stations CNN Türk and Kanal D, holding several journalists and other staff in the building hostage for part of the night. TRT was able to resume broadcasting at about 01:00 BST but CNN Turk remained off air until around 03.30 BST, when soldiers at its studios were arrested. Several journalists were attacked during the clashes. There were other incidents of violence involving supporters of the government. In Istanbul, Selçuk Şamiloğlu, a photojournalist for Hurriyet and the Associated Press was attacked and assaulted by civilians protesting the coup.

RESOLVED

25 March 2019

On 25 March 2019, taking into consideration the verdict issued by the Istanbul 24th High Criminal Court in the trial regarding the raid on TRT building, the partner organisations to the Platform declared this case to be "resolved", concluding it was no longer an active threat to media freedom.

UPDATE

22 March 2019

On 19 January 2019, the Istanbul 24th High Criminal Court issued its verdict in the trial regarding the raid carried out on 15 July 2016 on TRT building. Out of 93 defendants (army officers, non-commissioned officers and six civilian technical personnel) 35 were acquitted, while 23 were given aggravated life sentences for "violation of the constitution" and 35 handed down life sentence under the same charge.

Additional information

News on the EFJ website on "A photojournalist killed and media occupied in Turkey: press freedom was targeted"

News on the IFJ website on "Photojournalist killed and media occupied in Turkey: press freedom under threat"

News on the Mapping Media Freedom website on "Turkey: Military raids TV channels during coup attempt"

Article on the CPJ website on "In Turkey, one journalist killed, several newsrooms seized in attempted coup"

Türkiye

No. 70/2016

Journalist Mustafa Cambaz Killed in Failed Coup Attempt

No State reply yet 1 killed journalist

Updated 25 Mar 2019 · Created 18 Jul 2016

Partners: EFJ/IFJ

Attacks on physical safety and integrity of journalists 

Source of threat: Non-State

Level 1 

RESOLVED

Mustafa Cambaz, a photojournalist with the Turkish daily newspaper Yeni Şafak was killed during the failed coup of Friday 15 July 2016 in Turkey. According to his newspaper, he died of a gunshot to the head when soldiers opened fire on the crowds in the Çengelköy neighborhood of Istanbul in the early hours of Saturday 16 July 2016.

RESOLVED

25 March 2019

On 25 March 2019, taking into consideration the verdict issued by the Istanbul 32th High Criminal Court in one of the 2016 coup attempt trials, including the case of murder of journalist Mustafa Cambaz, the partner organisations to the Platform declared this case to be “resolved”, concluding it was no longer an active threat to media freedom.

UPDATE

22 March 2019

On 10 December 2018, the Istanbul 32th High criminal court issued its verdict in one of the 2016 coup attempt trials. Out of the 114 defendants (riot police officers and soldiers) 34 were sentenced for aggravated life imprisonment for “attempting to overthrow the constitutional order” while 16 were held guilty of “aiding an attempt to overthrow the constitutional order”. Additionally, seven defendants were given two counts of aggravated life sentence and 3 defendants two counts of life sentence for the “deliberate murder” of Mustafa Cambaz.

Additional information

[News on the EFJ website on "A photojournalist killed and media occupied in Turkey: press freedom was targeted"](#)

[News on the IFJ website on "Photojournalist killed and media occupied in Turkey: press freedom under threat"](#)

[News on the Mapping Media Freedom website on "Turkey: Journalist killed in failed coup attempt"](#)

[Article on the CPJ website on "In Turkey, one journalist killed, several newsrooms seized in attempted coup"](#)

Follow-ups

21 July 2016

OSCE Representative "deeply saddened to learn about Cambaz' death" calls "the authorities to do their utmost to ensure journalists' safety and free flow of information during times of crisis".

[Statement from the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media](#)

20 July 2016

Regretting "that journalists were once more victims of violence, at the hands of coup plotters, as well as of citizens resisting them, and that access to several news media on the internet were blocked once more", the Commissioner for Human Rights said that he "will be closely monitoring the situation in the coming days".

[Statement from the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights](#)

Killed journalists

Mustafa Cambaz

Türkiye

No. 54/2019

Journalist Yavuz Selim Demirağ Severly Beaten Up

No State reply yet

Updated 17 May 2019 · Created 15 May 2019

Partners: EFJ/IFJ

Attacks on physical safety and integrity of journalists 

Source of threat: Unknown

Level 1 

On 10 May 2019, in Ankara, Turkish journalist Yavuz Selim Demirağ was violently attacked by a group of unidentified men armed with baseball bats. The assault took place after the journalist, a critic of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, appeared on a TV show in the evening. He was immediately sent to the hospital with a broken nose and brain trauma, according to his newspaper Yeniçağ. Six persons allegedly involved in the attack were arrested and then freed a day later on the grounds that the journalist's injuries were not life-threatening.

Additional information

Statement by EFJ/IFJ: "Turkey: Journalist critical of the government severely beaten-up"

Report by AP News: "Turkish opposition journalist hospitalized following attack"

Press release by RSF: "Attackers freed after beating Turkish columnist with baseball bats"

Follow-ups

17 May 2019

OSCE Media Freedom Representative deplores physical attacks on journalists in Turkey, urges authorities to swiftly bring all responsible to justice

Statement by Harlem Désir

Türkiye

No. 103/2019

Journalist Levent Uysal Wounded in Shooting Attack

No State reply yet

Updated 04 Sep 2019 · Created 04 Sep 2019

Partners: INDEX

Attacks on physical safety and integrity of journalists 

Source of threat: Unknown

Level 1 

On 29 August 2019, at around 1 a.m., journalist Levent Uysal was approached by two people on a motorbike who had been waiting outside his home. They were both wearing helmets and pretended to ask for directions. They shot at the journalist six times, hitting him in the leg. Levent Uysal was hospitalised after the attack. He has said that he believed he was targeted as a result of his work.

Levent Uysal was the owner of Yenigün, a recently closed local newspaper, in the northwestern city of Balıkesir. Uysal told Deutsche Welle that despite the attack and the economic issues he has faced, he would continue his journalistic work by broadcasting via the internet.

The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Harlem Désir, strongly condemned the shooting of Levent Uysal, expressing concern about the multiplication of violent incidents against journalists in Turkey. "This is the sixth grave attack since May this year in Turkey. More needs to be done to ensure that this deeply concerning trend is urgently reversed and that journalists are ensured a safe environment to work in".

Additional information

Article published by Deutsche Welle: "Gazeteci Uysal: Haberlerim nedeniyle saldırıya uğradım"

RSF statement: "Journalist wounded in shooting attack in northwestern Turkey"

Follow-ups

04 September 2019

OSCE Media Freedom Representative strongly condemns shooting of journalist in Turkey, calls for thorough investigation

Statement by Harlem Désir

Türkiye

No. 55/2019

Journalist İdris Özyol Severely Beaten Up

No State reply yet

Updated 11 Dec 2019 · Created 20 May 2019

Partners: EFJ/IFJ

Attacks on physical safety and integrity of journalists 

Source of threat: Unknown

Level 1 

On 15 May 2019, Turkish journalist İdris Özyol was assaulted by unidentified men outside his newspaper's building, Akdeniz'de Yeni Yüzyıl, in Antalya, southwest Turkey. He was hospitalised due to injuries to his head, hands and chest. According to reports, Özyol previously received threats from a local politician, in retaliation to his journalistic work. In a letter addressed to the Turkish President, 20 international media freedom organisations urged him to openly condemn the attacks on journalists and to ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice.

UPDATE

09 December 2019

On 2 December 2019, İdris Özyol was found unconscious in the street in Antalya and rushed to hospital where he was diagnosed with a brain haemorrhage.

Additional information

[Joint letter by 20 media freedom organisations : 'Turkey: International organisations condemn recent attacks against journalists'](#)

[Joint letter to President Erdoğan : "International groups condemn attacks against journalists"](#)

Follow-ups

17 May 2019

OSCE Media Freedom Representative deplores physical attacks on journalists in Turkey, urges authorities to swiftly bring all responsible to justice.

[Statement by Harlem Désir](#)

11 December 2019

Worried about reports that journalist İdris Özyol was found unconscious on the street, OSCE Media Freedom Representative hopes that the investigation will determine the cause of the accident.

[Tweet by Harlem Désir](#)

Türkiye

No. 101/2015

Danish Journalist Nagieb Khaja Assaulted by Turkish Border Police

No State reply yet

Created 07 Dec 2015

Partners: EFJ/IFJ

Attacks on physical safety and integrity of journalists 

Source of threat: State

Level 2 

On 2 December 2015, Danish professional journalist Nagied Khaja was assaulted by Turkish border police when he was crossing the border to enter Syria in order to cover the refugee crisis. On Khaja's Twitter account, the victim posted a picture of himself with a swollen eye covered with bruises. He tweeted, "When I was crossing the border they [Turkish security forces] saw me. I identified myself as a journalist, but they threw me to the ground and kicked me in the head and face several times."

Khaja told local media that he showed the Turkish border guards his press card and told them that he was ready to hand himself over voluntarily. "But they started beating me and when I showed them my press card again they beat me even harder, throwing me to the ground and kicking me in the head and face," Khaja said. Khaja is a freelance journalist and author covering conflicts around the world. He is now in Syria reporting the crisis. The EFJ member in Denmark, DJ, has immediately written to the Ambassador of Turkey in Denmark protesting against the attack. The Turkish authority has responded that they have started an investigation into Khaja's case.

Additional information

[Press release from EFJ/IFJ: "Turkish authority to investigate assault on Danish journalist covering refugees"](#)

[Statement from the Danish Union of Journalists \(in Danish\): "DJ tager skarp afstand fra overfald på dansk journalist i Tyrkiet"](#)

Freelancers

Nagied Khaja

A Danish freelance journalist that specialises in conflict reporting.

Türkiye

No. 61/2019

Turkish Journalists Beaten, Shot by Unknown Groups

No State reply yet

Updated 05 Jun 2019 · Created 03 Jun 2019

Partners: IPI

Attacks on physical safety and integrity of journalists 

Source of threat: Unknown

Level 1 

Between 20 and 25 May 2019, there have been three individual attacks against journalists in cities of Ankara, Adana and Antalya. On 20 May, Ergin Çevik, chief editor of the local news website, Güney Haberci in Antalya, was attacked by three assailants after he reported on corruption allegations in the municipality of Kundu district. The attackers first went to his office asking for his whereabouts, reportedly saying they were bringing "greetings from Kundu". Çevik said that the group found him in a restaurant later and asked "Are you the journalist Ergin?" before assaulting him. On 24 May, another local journalist and the founder of Egemen newspaper in Adana province, Hakan Denizli, was shot in the leg by an unknown gunman in the morning in front of his house. According to local reports, Denizli had previously been targeted and assaulted several times because of his work. Denizli's health is reported to be stable. The most recent attack took place in Ankara, targeting Oda TV columnist and commentator Sabahattin Önkibar on 25 May. Önkibar was stopped by two cars while he was on his way home and beaten up by a group of individuals. Prior to the attack, Önkibar had reportedly commented on television about the mayoral re-election in Istanbul, criticizing ruling AKP-MHP coalition. Four suspects in the attack were taken into custody by police but released on bail on 27 May. On 28 May, the MHP filed a criminal complaint against Önkibar for "constantly insulting MHP leader Devlet Bahçeli whether in his columns or his speeches". MHP leader Devlet Bahçeli earlier published a list of journalists on a paid advert in newspapers, targeting journalists for their critiques of MHP in the run-up to national elections in June 2018. Önkibar's name was among the listed names.

Additional information

Article by IPI : "IPI condemns string of physical attacks on Turkish journalists"

Follow-ups

03 June 2019

OSCE Media Freedom Representative strongly condemns shooting of journalist Hakan Denizli, expresses alarm about dire safety conditions in Turkey.

Statement by Harlem Désir

Türkiye

No. 99/2020

Several Attacks on Local Journalists and Journalists' Associations

No State reply yet

Created 27 Aug 2020

Partners: IPI

Attacks on physical safety and integrity of journalists 

Source of threat: Non-State

Level 1 

Local journalists and journalists' associations have been recently subject of attacks in Antalya, Nevşehir and Bursa.

On 19 August 2020, Şaban Önen, the publisher of Karacabey Yörem newspaper in the city of Bursa, was assaulted in the municipality's truck garage by two business owners – one of whom is reportedly a relative of Karacabey Mayor Ali Özkan of the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) – and two other unidentified persons. Önen was taken to hospital for treatment. According to local media, the reason for the attack were reports on the mayor published by Karacabey Yörem. In an interview, Önen said he knew the assaulters before and filed a complaint.

Another attack on local journalists took place on 25 August in Nevşehir, Central Anatolia. A vehicle belonging to the Nevşehir Journalists Association was set on fire on by several people. Two suspects identified by the security footage were detained by the police. A criminal investigation was opened. Journalists' Federation of Turkey (TGF) Secretary General and Nevşehir Journalists Association Chair Bayram Ekici strongly condemned the attack.

On the same day, unknown individuals opened fire from a vehicle on the home of Yakup Kocabaş, the Gazipaşa correspondent for Dim Media, a local newspaper based in the Antalya province. Windows were shattered in the attack and, while Kocabaş was not at home, his spouse and children survived. Kocabaş said in an interview that the attack might be related to his journalistic work, as Dim Media reports on people who engage in illegal activities. He emphasized that he will not back down despite all this pressure. Police have started an investigation.

IPI Deputy Director Scott Griffen said in a statement: "What remains of independent local journalism in Turkey is already under tremendous political and financial pressure, and these recent attacks only add to a climate of intimidation. Local journalists are particularly vulnerable to retaliation from local powerful figures dissatisfied with the journalists' work. Law enforcement authorities must diligently investigate all such attacks on journalists and hold all those responsible to account, including the masterminds."

Additional information

[IPI Statement: "Series of attacks on local journalists in Turkey"](#)

Bianet article: "Local journalist attacked in Bursa"

Bianet article: "Journalists attacked in Antalya and Nevşehir"

Gazete Duvar article: "Ses Kocaeli gazetesine silahlı saldırı"

Türkiye

No. 165/2021

Yeniçağ Correspondent Orhan Uğuroğlu Assaulted

No State reply yet

Updated 20 Jan 2021 · Created 19 Jan 2021

Partners: IPI

Attacks on physical safety and integrity of journalists 

Source of threat: Non-State

Level 1 

On 15 January 2021, Orhan Uğuroğlu, a Turkish TV commentator and Ankara correspondent of the daily Yeniçağ, was attacked as he was about to get into his car outside his home in Ankara. Yeniçağ reported that three unidentified men approached the journalist from behind in a car and tried to run him over. Uğuroğlu managed to escape with a minor injury to his elbow. Photos of the injury were published in the media. The attack was quickly reported and Uğuroğlu gave a statement at the police station. Yeniçağ reported that according to Uğuroğlu's initial statement, the assailants had demanded he stop criticising the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP), a far-right political party which is in alliance with the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP). "We are coming from the MHP. Do not criticise the MHP. The nationalists will ask to account for this", they reportedly said.

Police later posted on social media that three suspects had been taken into custody and that they were searching for a fourth. Media reported that police were able to identify the attackers from the camera footage in a shop opposite Uğuroğlu's house. On 13 January, two days before the attack, Uğuroğlu had interviewed an opposition figure for his column, whose comments criticised the MHP.

UPDATE

20 January 2021

On 18 January, MHP leader Devlet Bahçeli openly threatened Elif Çakır, Yıldırım Oğur and Taha Akyol, journalists with the daily Karar, in a speech for their critical reporting. He called journalists "rental columnists" and told them not to underestimate the MHP.

Additional information

Duvar English news article: "Opposition politician, journalist assaulted on same day in Ankara".

IPI Statement: "IPI condemns physical attack on Yeniçağ correspondent, calls for thorough investigation".

CPJ Alert: "Turkish journalist Orhan Uğuroğlu attacked in Ankara"

Article published by Yeniçağ: "Yeniçağ Ankara Temsilcisi Orhan Uğuroğlu'na saldırı "

Türkiye

No. 19/2021

Police Attack Journalists with Tear Gas and Rubber Bullets at Istanbul Protest

No State reply yet

Created 04 Feb 2021

Partners: CPJ

Attacks on physical safety and integrity of journalists 

Source of threat: State

Level 1 

On 2 February 2021, Istanbul police in the city's Kadıköy district fired tear gas at journalists covering student protests against a new university rector, and shot at least two members of the press with rubber bullets. Police have detained more than 250 people for their involvement in the protests, according to Reuters. Police shot freelance journalist and documentary filmmaker Kazım Kızıl in the face with a rubber bullet and also shot Murat Erkmén, a camera operator for the pro-opposition broadcaster Halk TV, in the leg with a rubber bullet. Neither journalist wrote that their injuries were life-threatening. According to Halk TV's report, police also attacked Erdiñç Yılmaz, a reporter with the station, who told his employer that he received a swollen knee and injured hand, but did not specify how he was attacked. Videos posted to Twitter by the independent journalism trade union DİSK Basın-İş showed police firing rubber bullets and tear gas directly at a group of journalists and shoving and manhandling freelance journalist Elif Akgül, a member of the union's board. Police also punched Murat Bay, a reporter for the leftist news website Sendika, and damaged his camera.

Additional information

[CPJ Alert: "Police attack journalists with tear gas and rubber bullets at Istanbul protest"](#)

Türkiye

No. 35/2021

Several Turkish Journalists Detained, Physically Assaulted Covering Women's March

No State reply yet

Updated 09 Mar 2021 · Created 09 Mar 2021

Partners: IPI

Attacks on physical safety and integrity of journalists 

Source of threat: State

Level 2 

Turkish police cracked down on the women's march in Kadıköy, Istanbul that was held on 6 March 2021. During the police intervention, several journalists were physically and verbally assaulted by the police. Videos posted on social media show police physically assaulting, shoving, punching journalists and preventing them from reporting the march and police violence. A video shows that a freelance photojournalist Şener Yılmaz Aslan was taken into police custody after being attacked and beaten by a police officer. He was later released under judicial control. Journalist Zülal Koçer reported that even though she declared that she was a journalist, several police officers pushed and prevented her from recording the police use of force against protestors. According to dokuz8HABER reports, a police officer threatened Fatoş Erdoğan, a reporter with the media outlet, to "tear her up into pieces".

Additional information

[Tweet by KRT TV including a video of the incidents](#)

[Video post recording police attack against journalist Zülal Koçer](#)

[BBC Turkish News article: "Büyük Kadın Buluşması sonrası polis müdahalesi: Gözaltına alınanlar var"](#)

[Video posted by Artı Gerçek showing Şener Yılmaz Aslan being taken into custody](#)

Freelancers

Şener Yılmaz Aslan, Zülal Koçer

Türkiye

No. 44/2021

Turkish Radio Host Hazım Özsu Shot Dead by Man Who Disliked His Comments

No State reply yet 1 killed journalist

Created 18 Mar 2021

Partners: IPI

Attacks on physical safety and integrity of journalists 

Source of threat: Non-State

Level 1 

On 9 March 2021, Hazım Özsu, a local radio host for Rahmet FM in Turkey's Bursa province, was shot dead in his home by a man who later said that he disliked some of Özsu's comments in his radio programme regarding religious values. The man said he wanted to "shut his voice down" during a first statement given to the police. According to local reports, the suspect was arrested six days later and is currently in detention awaiting trial. The details of the suspect's initial statement are yet unclear, however, he has confessed to the killing during interrogation.

Additional information

[IPI Statement: "Turkey: Local radio journalist killed by man who disliked his content"](#)

[Article published by Bianet: "RSF denounces killing of radio presenter Özsu"](#)

Killed journalists

Hazım Özsu

Türkiye

No. 36/2021

Journalist Levent Gültekin Targeted, Attacked by a Group of Assailants in front of Halk TV

No State reply yet

Updated 26 May 2021 · Created 09 Mar 2021

Partners: IPI

Attacks on physical safety and integrity of journalists 

Source of threat: Non-State

Level 2 

On 8 March 2021, Levent Gültekin, a columnist and TV programme host, was attacked in front of Halk TV's Istanbul office in Bakırköy as he was entering the station to host his programme. Halk TV later released CCTV footage showing Gültekin being attacked by a group of assailants and being kicked several times while lying on the floor. Gültekin said later that he was not seriously injured, but his fingers were broken while he was trying to protect his face. The journalist indicated that the assault might be the result of his recent criticism of the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP), a junior partner of the ruling coalition. Local news highlighted Gültekin's criticism of deceased ultra-national leader, MHP founder Alparslan Türkeş. The journalist had said Türkeş and his ideology had affected many young people and called nationalism a "disease". Following those comments, MHP Vice-Chair Semih Yalçın targeted Gültekin on social media, calling the journalist "miserable, minority nationalist, so-called journalist and enemy of Turks".

UPDATE

26 May 2021

After Gültekin filed a complaint with the police, the Bakırköy Public Prosecutor's Office opened an investigation into the attack and had three suspects arrested in March. One of them was released soon after. On 3 May 2021, local news reported that two suspects were released from detention at the first hearing of the case. They remain under judicial control.

Additional information

IPI Statement : "IPI strictly condemns assault on Turkish journalist Levent Gültekin"

Türkiye

No. 111/2021

Turkish Journalist Ahmet Atmaca Beaten in Gaziantep

No State reply yet

Updated 11 Jun 2021 · Created 11 Jun 2021

Partners: CPJ

Attacks on physical safety and integrity of journalists 

Source of threat: Non-State

Level 1 

In the morning of 10 June 2021, a group of people attacked Ahmet Atmaca, a reporter for the Demirören News Agency, while he was covering in Gaziantep the case of a man who had recently been killed in a knife fight, according to a report by his employer and a statement by the Gaziantep Journalists Society. While the victim's corpse was being transferred from the morgue, a group of people nearby began hitting and kicking Atmaca, and continued until his colleagues and police intervened, according to those sources, which said that the journalist was hospitalised after the attack and was not in critical condition. Atmaca filed a criminal complaint, and police have opened an investigation, his employer reported.

Atmaca's recent work for the Demirören News Agency includes news coverage of local traffic accidents, government events, COVID-19 measures, and notable deaths. CPJ emailed the Gaziantep police for comment but did not immediately receive any reply.

Additional information

[CPJ Alert: "Turkish journalist Ahmet Atmaca beaten in Gaziantep"](#)

[Article by Hürriyet: "DHA muhabiri Ahmet Atmaca'ya saldırı"](#)

Türkiye

No. 128/2021

Turkish Journalist Mustafa Uslu Beaten, His Equipment Broken

No State reply yet

Created 24 Jun 2021

Partners: CPJ

Attacks on physical safety and integrity of journalists 

Source of threat: Non-State

Level 2 

On 23 June 2021, four people in the Kocaeli province attacked Mustafa Uslu, a reporter for the İhlas News Agency (İHA), while he was covering the authorities' demolition of a ranch owned by the opposition politician Lütfü Türkkan, according to a statement by the Journalists' Society of Turkey (TGC). The attackers hit Uslu, knocked him to the ground, kicked and hit him in the face, and also smashed his camera and drone. Uslu was taken to hospital following the attack. His condition is not severe. Police arrested the four attackers at the scene and identified one of them as Türkkan's nephew İbrahim Hasırcı, according to local news reports. Police ordered Hasırcı's detention pending investigation and released the other three suspects—identified as one of Hasırcı's friends, a ranch employee, and Türkkan's driver—under 90 days of judicial control.

Türkkan, a Member of Parliament for Kocaeli from the opposition front's Good Party (İYİ), wrote on Twitter that he learned of the attack with "great sadness," that he contacted Uslu's family and would compensate them.

CPJ emailed Türkkan and the Kocaeli Chief Prosecutor's Office but did not immediately receive any replies.

Previously, on 10 June, reporter Ahmet Atmaca was beaten in Gaziantep, and on 22 June, reporter İbrahim Akkuş was beaten in the Samsun province, as documented in separate Platform alerts.

Additional information

[CPJ Alert: "Turkish journalist Mustafa Uslu beaten, equipment broken in Kocaeli"](#)

[Article from Bianet: "İHA reporter Mustafa Uslu attacked in Kocaeli"](#)

[Statement by the Journalists' Society of Turkey \(TGC\): "TGC: İHA muhabiri Mustafa Uslu'ya yapılan saldırıyı kınıyoruz"](#)

[IPI Statement: "Authorities must investigate physical attacks on journalists in Samsun and Kocaeli provinces"](#)

Türkiye

No. 126/2021

Journalist İbrahim Akkuş Beaten with Pipe

No State reply yet

Updated 23 Jun 2021 · Created 23 Jun 2021

Partners: CPJ

Attacks on physical safety and integrity of journalists 

Source of threat: Non-State

Level 2 

On 21 June 2021, three employees of a construction company in the 19 Mayıs District of the Samsun province attacked İbrahim Akkuş, a reporter for the daily Yeniçağ, after he reported on allegedly flawed construction by their company, according to news reports. One of the attackers hit Akkuş on the back and head with a pipe. He sustained bruising on his head and back and went to a local hospital to document those injuries, which were not severe, he told CPJ. He also filed a criminal complaint, and authorities arrested and questioned three suspects and then released them pending investigation. The attackers filed a counter complaint against Akkuş, accusing him of defamation and attacking them with pepper spray during the confrontation, the journalist told CPJ.

On 19 June, Akkuş had posted video and pictures on his personal Facebook account alleging that the construction company had poorly built a local municipal building. Akkuş frequently posts reporting on his Facebook page, where he has about 1,400 followers. In an interview with the YouTube news channel Medya Koridoru, Akkuş said that he was at the municipal building on 21 June to follow-up on his earlier reporting when he was attacked. He had previously reported on the construction site in February, and workers there had threatened him, saying he was lucky that he had come with a politician, Akkuş told CPJ.

CPJ emailed the Samsun Chief Prosecutor's Office and the Bayındırlar Construction Corporation, which is in charge of the construction site, for comment, but did not immediately receive any replies. Akkuş told CPJ that he is worried about his safety but stands by his reporting.

Additional information

CPJ Alert: "Journalist İbrahim Akkuş beaten with pipe in Turkey"

IPI Statement: "Authorities must investigate physical attacks on journalists in Samsun and Kocaeli provinces"

Türkiye

No. 130/2021

AFP Photojournalist Bülent Kılıç Detained while Covering Pride March

No State reply yet

Created 28 Jun 2021

Partners: IPI

Attacks on physical safety and integrity of journalists 

Source of threat: State

Level 2 

On 26 June 2021, AFP photojournalist Bülent Kılıç was forcefully detained after being pushed to the floor by police officers while covering the Pride March in Istanbul. In videos from the march, Kılıç was heard saying "I can't breathe", while the police officers pressed knees on his back and his throat. Kılıç was taken into custody and released three hours later after his initial statement was taken. He said he would file a criminal complaint against the police officers due to the disproportionate use of force.

Many other journalists who were covering the march were reportedly targeted by the police violence on Saturday. Videos taken by journalists and citizens report several attempts by the police to prevent journalists from taking footage while requesting to see press cards.

Since April 2021, a Security General Directorate (EGM) directive instructs police officers to "take necessary action" to stop persons who are taking audio and visual recordings of public demonstrations in case the officers are being prevented from performing their duty, which is the subject of a separate Platform alert.

Additional information

[IPI Statement: "I can't breathe': Turkish photojournalist brutally detained while covering Istanbul Pride March"](#)

[Duvar English news article showing video footage of Kılıç's detention](#)

[Statement by the Turkish Journalists Association : "Basının nefesini kesemezsiniz!"](#)

[CPJ Alert: "Turkish police assault and detain AFP photographer Bülent Kılıç while covering Istanbul Pride march"](#)

Türkiye

No. 145/2021

Several Journalists Injured by the Police while Covering Protests

No State reply yet

Updated 22 Jul 2021 · Created 22 Jul 2021

Partners: IPI

Attacks on physical safety and integrity of journalists 

Source of threat: State

Level 2 

On 20 July 2021, at least 20 reporters and photojournalists were assaulted, beaten and shot at with rubber bullets by the police while covering the commemoration and protests in Istanbul and Izmir for the 33 people killed in a 2015 suicide bomb attack by the Islamic State (ISIL) in the city of Suruç, according to local reports. Freelance reporters Emre Orman, Yasin Akgül, Zeynep Kuray and Ozan Acidere, and photojournalists Fatoş Erdoğan of Dokuz8 News, Bülent Kılıç of AFP and Erdem Şahin of EPA were targeted in Istanbul. Orman was hit by a police officer in the face, Erdoğan's left hand was bashed, several other colleagues were hit by rubber bullets on their legs. Similar incidents were reported from Izmir.

IPI spoke to Orman who stressed that the violence felt like the first all-out attack by the police targeting journalists since the Gezi Park protests in 2013.

Additional information

[IPI Statement : "Several journalists seriously injured by rubber bullets shot by police while covering protests in Turkey"](#)

[Emre Orman's Tweet from the Protests](#)

[Tweet by Dokuz8 News](#)

Freelancers

Emre Orman, Yasin Akgül, Zeynep Kuray and Ozan Acidere

Türkiye

No. 179/2021

Halk TV Reporters Attacked During Live Broadcast from Marmaris

No State reply yet

Created 09 Sep 2021

Partners: IPI

Attacks on physical safety and integrity of journalists 

Source of threat: Non-State

Level 2 

On 5 August 2021, a group of assailants targeted a Halk TV late-night live broadcast hosted by journalist Gökmen Karadağ reporting from Marmaris, where wildfires were raging. Town mayor Mehmet Oktay and Halk TV journalists İsmail Saymaz and Murat Ağirel were guest speakers. Video footage by Ağirel shows that the assailants shouted: "we stop you if you say false [things]." Journalists tried to halt the attack and defend the crew. Halk TV executives later claimed that one of the assailants was reported to be a member of Turkey's ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP).

The attack followed a statement published by the Radio and Television High Council (RTÜK) warning TV channels not to cover the wildfires.

The police released all the suspects after a brief questioning.

Additional information

[IPI Statement: "Halk TV reporters attacked during live coverage of wildfires"](#)

[Murat Ağirel's Video Footage on the Attack on Halk TV Live Broadcast](#)

[BirGün Article: "Halk TV canlı yayınına baskın: Saldırganların tamamı serbest"](#)

Türkiye

No. 178/2021

Journalists Attacked while Covering a Press Statement in Istanbul

No State reply yet

Created 09 Sep 2021

Partners: IPI

Attacks on physical safety and integrity of journalists 

Source of threat: Non-State

Level 1 

On 31 July 2021, reporters Derya Saadet and Ceylan Bulut for Sendika.org; Taylan Öztaş for Özgür Gelecek; Enes Sezgin and Rojin Altay for Mezopotamya News Agency; and Hayri Tunç for Fersude News were attacked by a group of assailants using iron rods while covering a press statement made by the Istanbul Labour Peace and Democracy Forces on the murder of a Kurdish family in Konya, Central Anatolia. Sezgin and Öztaş were briefly detained on the basis of statements by the assailants, and on 1 August, brought to the Peace Court. they were released under judicial control after their statements were taken. No assailant was reported to have been arrested or prosecuted.

Additional information

IPI Statement: "Turkey: Journalists beaten with iron rods while covering protest over Kurdish murders"

Evrensel Article: "İstanbul'da bir grup sopalarla HDP'li gençlere ve gazetecilere saldırdı"

Türkiye

No. 234/2021

Editor Özcan Saraç Jostled and Threatened by Deputy Mayor

No State reply yet

Created 14 Dec 2021

Partners: IPI

Attacks on physical safety and integrity of journalists 

Source of threat: State

Level 2 

On 5 December 2021, Özcan Saraç, the publisher and editor-in-chief of the local news outlet Ereğli Haberleri, in the Province of Konya, was jostled in the street by a Deputy Mayor of the City of Konya's Ereğli District, Hüseyin Yazar (National Movement Party – MHP). Street CCTV shows Yazar walking away after jostling Saraç and turning around to say something. According to Saraç, the attack was linked to critical articles on the Mayor of Ereğli, Hüseyin Oprukçu (MHP), and the policies implemented by the municipality. He also said that Yazar threatened him with death as he walked away. No investigation into the attack has been reported.

Additional information

Article by Gazete Duvar : "MHP'li başkan yardımcısı gazeteciye yumruk atıp ölümle tehdit etti"

Türkiye

No. 11/2022

Turkish Journalist Bilal Meyveci Subjected to Police Violence during Women's March

No State reply yet

Created 31 Dec 2021

Partners: EFJ/IFJ

Attacks on physical safety and integrity of journalists 

Source of threat: State

Level 1 

On 25 November 2021, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, women's movement in Turkey held the annual rally in Istanbul. During the march police used rubber bullets, teargas and excessive force against women and members of the media. Artı TV's Bilal Meyveci was beaten by the police and prevented to cover the women's march despite repeated attempts at showing his press card to show that he is a journalist, leaving him injured and his equipment broken. Media and Law Studies Association in Turkey filed criminal complaint against the police for "deliberate wounding", "violation of right to work and employment", "damaging goods", "abuse of power". A medical report proving the beating as well as a report on the broken equipment were put in the annex to the complaint.

Additional information

Twitter by DiSK Basın-İş

MLSA Article: "MLSA'dan gazeteci Bilal Meyveci'ye yönelik polis şiddetine karşı suç duyurusu"

Türkiye


No. 75/2022

Turkish Journalist Güngör Arslan Killed in an Ambush

No State reply yet 1 killed journalist

Created 22 Feb 2022

Partners: EFJ/IFJ

Attacks on physical safety and integrity of journalists 

Source of threat: Unknown

Level 1 

On 19 February 2022, Güngör Arslan, owner, editor-in-chief, and columnist of the daily Ses Kocaeli, was killed in a gun attack in front of his newspaper's editorial office in the city of Izmit. Arslan was shot by an assailant in the chest and in the right leg and succumbed to his wounds in the hospital.

Kocaeli region governor, Seddar Yavuz, said the authorities had arrested a suspect in connection with the journalist's killing and recovered the weapon believed to have been used in the attack. According to media reports, the suspect said in his first statement that "two people had instigated him to commit the crime."

Arslan was regularly threatened for his reporting over corruption cases, bribery, and clientelism in his media. Threats escalated into action in April 2020, when a group of unidentified attackers opened fire at the offices of the newspaper. In an article published the day before his death, Arslan reported on corruption allegations against Kocaeli Mayor Tahir Büyükakın, from the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP). The Journalists' Union of Turkey (TGS), said that Arslan's killers wanted to "silence him" and urged investigators to identify and detain the masterminds behind the killing.

The authorities confirmed there's an ongoing investigation into the murder.

Additional information

EFJ-IFJ Statement: "Turkey: Journalist Güngör Arslan killed in an ambush, suspect arrested"

CPJ Statement: "Turkish journalist Güngör Arslan killed"

OSCE Media Freedom Representative Statement: "OSCE Media Freedom Representative Teresa Ribeiro appalled by killing of Turkish journalist Güngör Arslan, urges swift justice"

Killed journalists

Güngör Arslan

Türkiye

No. 112/2022

Journalists Umut Yaygır and Özcan Saraç Attacked and Taken to Hospital

No State reply yet

Created 31 Mar 2022

Partners: IPI

Attacks on physical safety and integrity of journalists 

Source of threat: Non-State

Level 2 

On 28 March 2022, the journalists Umut Yaygır and Özcan Saraç, who own a local website in Konya's Ereğli district, were attacked at a restaurant in the district centre by an ultranationalist group known as "Idealist Hearths". The journalists were taken to Ereğli State Hospital for treatment.

According to the daily Sözcü, the journalists said that the head of the Ereğli "Idealist Hearts", affiliated with the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP), was among the 10 to 15 people who attacked them.

Yaygır commented the attack from hospital, saying: "Today we became victim of an ugly attack. We are currently under treatment at Ereğli State Hospital", and adding: "We do not have serious health problems, but it was stated that we should remain under observation for a while as a result of the blows we received on our body". Yaygır stated that the perpetrators of the attack are known: "Teams of our police department have started the necessary investigation. The reason why we are here is the news we have made in order to protect the interests of the people of Ereğli. [...] We now leave it to the discretion of our people [to determine] who gave the order. Everyone should know that for the defence of the people of Ereğli, we will die if necessary, but we will not turn away from this path". Saraç said: "We were attacked with fists. They even broke the water glasses on the table where we were eating and attacked us. There are scars especially in our head area and various places. After the incident, I called MHP Ereğli District President Musa Yılmaz, but he did not answer the phone. Likewise, they verbally abused our other journalist friends. As we said, we will continue to ask the truth. They attack in this way because they cannot answer our questions".

Additional information

Article from Cumhuriyet: "Umut Yaygır ve Özcan Saraç'a yemek yedikleri sırada saldırı"

Article from Evrensel: "Konya'da bir grup ülkücü, yerel gazetecilere saldırdı"

Türkiye

No. 141/2022

Mob Raids Turkish TV Broadcaster Deniz Postası, Beats Journalist Azim Deniz

No State reply yet

Created 19 Apr 2022

Partners: CPJ

Attacks on physical safety and integrity of journalists 

Source of threat: Non-State

Level 2 

On 9 April 2022, a mob of about 50 people raided the office and studio of the TV broadcaster Deniz Postası in Kayseri, and attacked Deniz, a host at the station.

The attackers locked the door to the outlet's newsroom, trapping journalists inside, and proceeded to the station's studio where they punched local businessman and politician Sedat Kılınç, Deniz's guest on his show. Deniz said he tried to intervene to protect his guest, and the people then punched him in his face and on his head. He added that neither he nor Kılınç were seriously hurt in the scuffle.

The Kayseri police released a statement on Saturday saying that six suspects were in custody related to the incident. Prosecutors have released the six suspects on 10 April.

In Deniz's daily talk show "Ramazan Sohbetleri" (Ramadan Talks), he frequently hosts businesspeople and politicians to discuss daily news. He said that the attackers seemed to have targeted Kılınç, and the journalist was attacked after he intervened to protect his guest.

Kılınç, a businessman and politician serving as an alderman on the Kayseri city council, recently resigned from the Nationalist Movement Party.

Additional information

CPJ Alert: "Dozens raid Turkish TV broadcaster Deniz Postası, beat journalist Azim Deniz"

Türkiye

No. 149/2022

Journalists Assaulted by Istanbul Police on May Day

No State reply yet

Created 27 Apr 2022

Partners: IPI

Attacks on physical safety and integrity of journalists 

Source of threat: State

Level 2 

On 18 April 2022, at least twelve journalists, including six women, were restrained and assaulted by the police while trying to cover a press statement in commemoration of the "1 May 1977 Massacre", an attack on left-wing protesters that killed more than 30 people. In Istanbul, the police disrupted the commemoration, organised by the Peoples' Democratic Congress (HDK) and the People's Democratic Party (HDP) Istanbul branch. According to news reports, the journalists were battered and not allowed in the area where the statement was made, although they showed their press credentials. Artı TV reporter Meral Danyıldız, dokuz8news reporter Fatoş Erdoğan, Yol TV reporter Özge Doğan, Etkin News Agency (ETHA) reporter Elif Bayburt, Jin News reporter Rozerin Gültekin and Cumhuriyet reporters were among the journalists concerned. On her Twitter account, Danyıldız posted video footage documenting the police intervention, adding: "This is the battle of us journalists to do our work. [...] This is the case even though I have repeatedly said 'I am a journalist'. It has become a routine for us not to be allowed to film or take pictures of the events. If the press remains silent, that means nobody can be heard".

Additional information

[Meral Danyıldız on Twitter](#)

[Article from Gazete Duvar: "1 Mayıs Deklarasyonu'na polis saldırısı: 26 kişi gözaltında"](#)

[Statement by the Coalition For Women In Journalism \(CFWIJ\): "Turkey: Police Restrain, Physically Assault Journalists Covering Labor Day Press Briefing"](#)

Türkiye

No. 183/2022

Istanbul Police Beat, Tear Gas, Detain Journalists Covering Public Protest

No State reply yet

Created 07 Jun 2022

Partners: CPJ

Attacks on physical safety and integrity of journalists 

Source of threat: State

Level 1 

On 31 May 2022, at least six journalists were detained by Istanbul police while covering a public gathering commemorating the 2013 Gezi Park protests near Taksim Square in the Beyoğlu district, according to news report. The police detained the journalists and others while attempting to break up the gathering and released them on the next morning.

Meltem Akyol, a reporter for Evrensel, told CPJ that she and five other journalists taken into custody were manhandled by officers and handcuffed from behind, adding that the six plan to file a joint criminal complaint. Gökay Başcan, a reporter for BirGün, told CPJ that officers tightly cuffed his hands behind his back and held him for two hours in a police van. The journalist shared photographs of his injured wrists on Twitter. Ozan Demiriz, a reporter for Halk TV, told CPJ that officers hit and kicked him in detention, resulting in fingernail marks on his arm. Dilan Polat, Sevda Doğan, and Derin Aydoğdu work for Flash TV, according to the news website Bianet, though CPJ was unable to confirm what role they have at the outlet.

In addition, police officers hit Erdinç Yılmaz, a reporter for Halk TV, in the head with a shield while he was on the air covering the gathering, according to a video by the outlet. Reporter Engin Açar and camera operator Umutcan Yitük for TV TELE1 went to a hospital after officers beat and used tear gas on Açar and kicked and threw Yitük to the ground, as the outlet reported. Yitük told CPJ that he and Açar were injured, though not seriously wounded, and they filed a criminal complaint. Hayri Tunç said officers used tear gas on him and the AFP photojournalist Bülent Kılıç.

Additional information

CPJ Alert: "Istanbul police beat, tear gas, detain journalists while breaking up public protest"

Freelancers

Hayri Tunç

Türkiye

No. 233/2022

Two Freelance Journalists Assaulted while Investigating Waste Treatment in Adana

No State reply yet

Created 01 Aug 2022

Partners: IPI

Attacks on physical safety and integrity of journalists 

Source of threat: Non-State

Level 2 

On 27 July 2022, freelance journalists Vedat Örüç and Elif Kurttaş who were investigating a lead related to imported waste treatment across the Industrial Recycling Plant in the southern city of Adana were physically assaulted by recycling company workers. The journalists were attacked while taking photos of the plant by workers of two industrial recycling firms, Akbulut Recycling and Akgül Recycling. Örüç later shared photos demonstrating slight injury marks on his neck. The journalist also said they were verbally attacked and unwillingly kept at the plant by company officials, including an executive. Journalists reported they plan to seek an official assault report from the hospital and to press charges against the assailants.

Additional information

[Evrensel News Article: "Adana'da haber takibi yapan iki gazeteci alıkonularak darbedildi"](#)

[Tweet by Vedat Örüç](#)

[IPI Statement: "Two freelance journalists assaulted while investigating waste treatment in Turkey"](#)

Freelancers

Elif Kurttaş, Vedat Örüç

Türkiye

No. 244/2022

YouTube Journalists of Sokak Kedisi Tv Attacked by Assailants Armed with Guns after Receiving Threats by Ultra-Nationalists

No State reply yet

Created 17 Aug 2022

Partners: IPI

Attacks on physical safety and integrity of journalists 

Source of threat: Non-State

Level 1 

On 13 August 2022, journalist Ebru Uzun Oruç and cameraman Barış Oruç were attacked by two armed assailants on the street in Istanbul after publishing an episode on the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) leader Devlet Bahçeli. The journalists filed a complaint to the police. Uzun Oruç stated that they were attacked by two assailants who escaped after people around intervened to stop the assault. After an initial investigation based on CCTV footages, the police found that there were four people involved in the attack, including one acting as a driver and one as a watchman. The two assailants identified by the police were briefly detained and released after the initial interrogation. The police said to the reporter that the assailants claimed in their statements that they attacked because they were annoyed by the journalists who allegedly "glared at them". Uzun Oruç added that they received messages online saying: "I hope you've learned your lesson now" after the attack. Prior to the attack they have received thousands of threats through social media after publishing an episode of their interview series titled "Seni Sorduk (We asked about you)" which featured MHP leader Bahçeli. Uzun Oruç underlined that they were openly targeted by a number of MHP officials on social media and the majority of the threats under these posts were leading to a number of accounts related to ultra-nationalist groups called "grey wolves". Media freedom organisations called on Turkish authorities for a thorough investigation to hold those responsible to account without delay.

Additional information

[Gazete Karınca News Article : "MHP'lilerin tehdit ettiği "Sokak Kedisi"ne silahlı saldırı"](#)

[Sokak Kedisi TV tweet on the attack](#)

[IPI call on full investigation of the assault](#)

Türkiye

No. 205/2022

Three Photojournalists Detained, Several Reporters Assaulted by the Police while Covering Istanbul Pride Parade

No State reply yet

Updated 17 Nov 2022 · Created 29 Jun 2022

Partners: IPI

Attacks on physical safety and integrity of journalists 

Source of threat: State

Level 1 

At least 373 people were reported to have been detained at the Istanbul Pride Parade on 26 June 2022, including at least three photojournalists covering the demonstration. Several journalists were reported to be physically assaulted and pushed to the ground, many faced fear of a crowd crush as a result of the violent police intervention on the Parade. Among those detained and beaten was Agence France Presse photojournalist Bülent Kılıç, who had also been detained in last year's parade. Kılıç was released after being held for 4,5 hours in the police vehicle. Along with Kılıç, local news reported that the police also detained two DepoPhotos journalists, İlker Eray and Efekan Akyüz whose current status remain unclear. Dokuz8 News journalist Fatoş Erdoğan talked to IPI, reporting that she was among those assaulted by the police, was pushed to the ground, and was slightly injured. She also reported that police hit and damaged their cameras and equipment, and forcefully removed reporters from the demonstration area.

UPDATE

17 November 2022

Efekan Akyüz and İlker Eray were released from custody.

Additional information

[Article from BirGün: "20. İstanbul Onur Yürüyüşü'ne polis müdahalesi: 361 gözaltı"](#)

[Tweet posted by Izel Sezer](#)

[Statement from EFJ-IFJ: "Turkey: Police arrest AFP photographer amid mass detentions at Istanbul Pride March"](#)

Türkiye

No. 262/2022

Syrian Journalist Hussam Hammoud Threatened with Death

No State reply yet

Created 15 Sep 2022

Partners: EFJ/IFJ

Harassment and intimidation of journalists ⓘ

Source of threat: Non-State

Level 1 ⓘ

DGI

15 DEC. 2022

SERVICE DE L'EXECUTION
DES ARRETS DE LA CEDH



The Syrian journalist Hussam Hammoud, a refugee in Türkiye, has been receiving numerous online threats, such as "We will come for you" or "We will come to kill you". On 5 September 2022, France rejected his request for political asylum, which increased his international visibility. Hammoud extensively investigated terrorist movements in Syria and has worked for many years with French and British media (Radio France, Mediapart, Le Monde, France 24, The Guardian or the BBC). He also provided French justice with extended information and evidence against ISIS. The journalist fled Raqqa in 2019 to protect his and his' family's life.

Hammoud also faces deportation from Türkiye to Syria, where he is at risk of torture and death.

Additional information

[Article from Le Figaro: "Le journaliste syrien Hussam Hammoud doit être protégé"](#)

[Dossier from Mediapart: "Hussam Hammoud, un journaliste en première ligne"](#)

[Article from l'Humanité: "Journaliste syrien Hussam Hammoud"](#)

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Türkiye

No. 104/2022

Turkish Reporter Altan Sancar Threatened

No State reply yet

Created 25 Mar 2022

Partners: CPJ

Harassment and intimidation of journalists ⓘ

Source of threat: Unknown

Level 1 ⓘ

On 23 March 2022, shortly after midnight, Altan Sancar, a reporter for the news website Diken and the online Özgürüz Radyo, was driving alone on the road to the Eğil district in the southeastern province of Diyarbakır to visit family, when he stopped as a car was blocking the road, according to news reports and Sancar. Two unidentified men got out of the car and one approached Sancar, who remained in his vehicle, and showed the journalist the handle of a gun tucked in his pants by lifting his jacket up. The man implied Sancar was in dangerous territory and said the journalist should be "smart" before he and the other man returned to their car and drove away.

Sancar covers politics in Ankara, where he is based, and is involved in various documentary work and research projects about minorities in Turkey, the journalist told CPJ, adding that he believes the threat was in retaliation for his political reporting. Sancar filed a criminal complaint with the Eğil Prosecutor's Office and told CPJ that he was concerned for his safety. In 2020, an anonymous Twitter account threatened Sancar that "death will find you" while he was working for the online outlet Artı TV, he told CPJ.

Additional information

CPJ Alert: "Political reporter Altan Sancar threatened at gunpoint in Turkey"

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Türkiye

No. 8/2022

Turkish Journalist Subjected to Online Harassment and Threats after Publishing Statement on Ethical Coverage of Refugee News

No State reply yet

Created 31 Dec 2021

Partners: EFJJ/IFJ

Harassment and intimidation of journalists

Source of threat: Unknown

Level 2

In November 2021, Duvar English editor Neşe İdil faced online harassment and received threats following criticism of news coverage related to sexual abuse and murder of a 16 year old child in Turkey by an Afghan man; approaching the issue from a perspective of femicides in the country and stating that the ethnic identity of the perpetrator would not be relevant to the coverage of the story aside from contributing to xenophobia. İdil received messages on social media attacking her, threatening and wishing for her death and sexual abuse by refugees. Among those who targeted İdil for her statement on coverage of news related to refugees, an earlier article of hers was also cited pointing to the correlation between far right groups and violence against women in Turkey, for which she was claimed to have slandered all Turkish men. Among the comments she received there were also statements claiming that "media organisations operating with international funds are equal to sex-work" and offering to pay her \$100 per hour, as part of sexist comments with abusive undertones.

Additional information

[Neşe İdil's twitter thread \(in Turkish\)](#)

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No. 191/2021

Jiyan News Journalist İdris Yayla Receives Death Threats

No State reply yet

Created 28 Sep 2021

Partners: IPI

Harassment and intimidation of journalists

Source of threat: Unknown

Level 1

On 3 September 2021, İdris Yayla, the publisher and editor-in-chief of Jiyan Haber (Jiyan News), a newspaper that has been active in Batman since 2015, received death threats in a late phone call operated from a Greek number. Yayla told Mezopotamya News Agency that unidentified persons told him to "shut down the newspaper" and "get a job somewhere else", failing which "they would cut his ears, kill him and dump him to the street". Yayla also said that later that night, he heard five gunshots in front of his house, but did not see anyone when he went out to the balcony. Previously, Jiyan News had received several threats on social media, with photos of bullets and guns. Yayla said he will file a criminal complaint about the latest threat.

Additional information

Article from Evrensel: "Jiyan Haber Gazetesi İmtiyaz Sahibi İdris Yayla ölümle tehdit edildi"

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Türkiye

No. 25/2020

Harassment of Russian Agency Journalists in Turkey

No State reply yet

Updated 06 Mar 2020 - Created 05 Mar 2020

Partners: EFJJ/IFJ ; IPI

Harassment and intimidation of journalists

Source of threat: State

Level 2

On 1 March 2020, police detained three Turkish journalists, employees of Sputnik Türkiye in Ankara and the outlet's chief Turkey editor in Istanbul, Mahir Boztepe. The arrests occurred after a group of protesters in Ankara attempted to break into the employees' homes there; when the employees contacted the police to file a criminal complaint, police detained them and also ordered Boztepe's detention in Istanbul. The four Sputnik staffers were released the following day with no charges brought against them. When police arrested Boztepe, officers also searched Sputnik's Istanbul office and copied journalists' hard drives. According to the Turkish NGO Media and Law Studies Association, the police justified the detentions by citing article 302 of Turkish Criminal Code, a measure aimed at countering threats to the territorial integrity of the Turkish state. Turkish media reports suggest that these events followed the publication on the Sputnik agency's website of an article entitled "The stolen province: why Turkey was given a corner of Syria by France 80 years ago", about the southeastern Turkish city of Hatay.

Additional information

Follow-ups

[Statement from the Russian Journalists' and Media Workers' Union \(JMWU\): "Sputnik Türkiye: Russian Journalists' and Media Workers' Union condemns the use of journalists for political purposes"](#)

[RT news report: "OSCE condemns harassment of Russian agency journalists in Turkey amid reported detention over 'professional activity'"](#)

[Statement from the Russian Union of Journalists \(RUJ\): ""Россия сегодня" обращается в ООН, ОБСЕ и ЮНЕСКО в связи с ситуацией вокруг Sputnik Турция"](#)

[Sputnik news report: "Interpellation de journalistes de Sputnik Turquie, «des actes de pure intimidation»"](#)

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Türkiye

No. 61/2018

Turkish Far Right Leader Threatens 80 Journalists, Pollsters and Academics

No State reply yet

Updated 28 Jun 2018 - Created 27 Jun 2018

Partners: EFJ/IFJ

Harassment and intimidation of journalists

Source of threat: Non-State

Level 2

On June 25, 2018, following the results of the presidential and general elections in Turkey, the leader of the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) Devlet Bahçeli published a video online and inserted a paid advert in national newspapers with a list of 80 journalists, pollsters and academics he said had defamed his party and pledged never to forget what they had done. The Journalists Union of Turkey (TGS) reacted to this campaign by stating that the politician has crossed a red line by accusing journalists of defamation and considered that publishing the list of those critical journalists, pollsters and academics was a way to show them as potential targets for violent actions.

Additional information

[Tweet by TGS \(Journalists Union of Turkey\)](#)

[Article published by Cumhuriyet: "Bahçeli'den tuhaf teşekkür ilanı: Gazetecilerin isimlerini tek tek yazdı"](#)

[Article published by Ahval: "Turkish far-right leader publishes journalist blacklist"](#)

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Türkiye

No. 127/2016

Turkey: Attack on Yeni Çağ Daily Building

No State reply yet

Created 09 Dec 2016

Partners: EFJJ/IFJ

Harassment and intimidation of journalists

Source of threat: Unknown

Level 2

An attack was carried out on the headquarters of Yeni Çağ daily on 8 December 2016. A statement issued by the right-wing daily newspaper, which is known with its affiliation with the opposition wing in the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP), said "a group of 30 people attacked our daily's headquarter building in İstanbul. The aggressors entered inside the building and caused material damage. The aggressors stated to wear masks ran away from the scene". The attack caused heavy damages to the material and the building of the newspaper. Coming to the building following the incident, Turkish police maintained a security cordon on the street where the building is situated.

Additional information

Report published on Mapping Media Freedom platform: "Turkey: Yeni Çağ daily headquarters attacked"

Article published on Bianet website: "Attack on Yeni Çağ Daily Building"

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Alerts

Alerts are submitted by the partner organisations. They document serious threats to the safety of journalists and media freedom in Europe. Alerts are notified to the national authorities, who are invited to **REPLY**, detailing preventive, protective or remedial action taken to address the threat. An alert may be **IN PROGRESS** when positive developments are recorded and **RESOLVED** if the threat ceases to exist or has been remedied.

268

alerts
in 37 countries

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killed journalists

91

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26

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Continued Impunity Following Murder of Turkish Journalist Uğur Mumcu

Impunity Source of threat: State Level 1

No. 206/2021 | Created 28 Oct 2021 | No State reply yet

Türkiye

Masterminds Still not Condemned, Ten Years After the Assassination of Journalist Hrant Dink

Impunity Source of threat: State Level 1

No. 8/2017 | Updated 26 Mar 2021 - Created 19 Jan 2017 | No State reply yet

Türkiye

Saudi Journalist Disappears During Visit to Saudi Consulate in Turkey

Impunity Source of threat: Unknown Level 1

No. 107/2018 | Updated 27 Nov 2020 - Created 05 Oct 2018 | No State reply yet | 1 killed journalist

Türkiye

Journalist Rohat Aktaş, Injured while Reporting in Cizre, Dies

Impunity Source of threat: State Level 1

No. 22/2016 | Updated 11 Jun 2019 - Created 09 Feb 2016 | No State reply yet | 1 killed journalist

Türkiye

Murder of Syrian Journalist Naji Jerf in Turkey

Impunity Source of threat: Unknown Level 1

No. 105/2015 | Updated 02 Nov 2018 - Created 30 Dec 2015 | No State reply yet | 1 killed journalist

Türkiye

Founder and Chairman of the Iranian GEM TV Company Shot Dead

Impunity Source of threat: Unknown Level 1

No. 48/2017 | Updated 11 Jun 2019 - Created 03 May 2017 | No State reply yet | 1 killed journalist