



A YEAR IN REVIEW

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

MISA

**Media and Law Studies Association
Annual Report**

**2025
Year in Review**

2026

MEDIA AND LAW STUDIES ASSOCIATION

Gümüşsuyu Mah. İnönü Cad. Ankara Palas No:59 D:5 Beyoğlu

İstanbul / Türkiye

info@medyavehukuk.org

www.mlsaturkey.com

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ABOUT MLSA

Media and Law Studies Association (MLSA) is an Istanbul-based non-profit organization dedicated to defending press freedom, freedom of expression, and the rule of law in Turkey. MLSA operates a Legal Unit providing direct legal defense to journalists facing prosecution, a Trial Monitoring unit that tracks freedom of expression trials across Turkey, a digital rights project (FreeWeb), and a journalism mentoring and publications program.

2025 was one of the most consequential years in MLSA's history. Against a backdrop of mass protests following the arrest of Istanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu, a sweeping crackdown on journalists, and an unprecedented wave of detentions and prosecutions, MLSA stood at the frontlines — in the courtrooms, in the prisons, and before international institutions — defending those who document the truth.

OUR TEAM

Veysel Ok
Co-Director

Barış Altıntaş
Co-Director

Emine Özhasar
Head of Legal Unit

Hazal Sümeli
Lawyer

Semra Pelek
Trial Monitoring Coordinator

Esri Bayrak
Projects Manager

Gülhan Çorlu
Finance Manager

72

Court hearings attended

55

Journalists defended

18

Acquittals and non-prosecutions

40

Prison visits

30

Constitutional Court applications

3

ECHR Applications

287

Free speech trials monitored

461

Hearings observed

400+

Press mentions

29

Journalists arrested in 2025

53

Journalists detained in 2025

13

Emergency legal assistance

LEGAL UNIT

In 2025, MLSA’s Legal Unit operated under extraordinary pressure. The year was marked by mass arrests of journalists covering protests, politically motivated terrorism prosecutions, and a surge in pre-trial detentions reaching a six-year high. MLSA lawyers responded at every stage: attending police interrogations, visiting clients in prison, filing constitutional appeals, and representing journalists in courts across Turkey.

KEY OUTCOMES

13 Acquittals	3 Non-prosecution rulings	2 Cases dismissed	2 Charges rejected
9 Convictions (7 postponed)	12 Appeals filed	57 Legal objections	8 Access ban challenges
30 Constitutional Court applications	6 Constitutional Court rulings finding violation	3 ECHR applications lodged	1 ECHR ruling finding violation

MAJOR CASES AND DEVELOPMENTS

The year opened with MLSA defending 19 journalists in 23 court hearings in January alone. The Constitutional Court found violations of rights in six applications filed by MLSA, while the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) ruled in favor of journalist Burcu Özkaya Günaydın — awarding €2,000 in moral damages and €500 in costs — following an MLSA application.

THE İMAMOĞLU CRACKDOWN

The arrest of Istanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu on March 19, 2025, triggered the most turbulent period of the year. Hundreds of thousands protested across Turkey. MLSA defended three journalists arrested while covering the demonstrations who were AFP photojournalist Yasin Akgül, photojournalist Bülent Kılıç and journalist Zeynep Kuray

All three were arrested during early morning raids on March 24, held for two days at the Anti-Terror Branch of Istanbul Police, and released on March 26 following MLSA's objection. MLSA also took up the defense of Swedish journalist Joakim Medin, arrested at Istanbul Airport on March 28 on terrorism and presidential insult charges.



Seven journalists including MLSA clients Kuray, Akgül and Kılıç stood trial and eventually acquitted from the charges in 2025

JOAKIM MEDIN CASE

Joakim Medin, a Swedish journalist who had traveled to Turkey to cover the İmamoglu protests, was MLSA's highest-profile international case of 2025. Medin was arrested on March 28, held at Marmara Prison, and sentenced in April to 11 months and 20 days for 'insulting the president' (the sentence was suspended). He remained imprisoned due to additional terrorism-related charges. Following an appeal by MLSA's Legal Unit, the Istanbul 13th High Criminal Court ordered his release on May 16. Medin subsequently left Turkey. MLSA also filed a Constitutional Court application on his behalf and appealed the suspended sentence. In September, Medin joined MLSA Co-Director Veysel Ok at a press freedom seminar in the Swedish Parliament.



Mr. Medin, right after his release with his lawyers

Mr. Medin was released on May 15 after MLSA's objection to his detention.

HDK INVESTIGATION: JOURNALISTS DETAINED FOR JOURNALISM

On February 18, MLSA clients Elif Akgül and Yıldız Tar were detained in operations against the People’s Democratic Congress (HDK) and arrested on February 22 on terrorism membership charges. Journalist Ercüment Akdeniz, receiving partial MLSA support, was also detained. MLSA lawyers accompanied the journalists throughout police interrogations, court processes, and prison visits. The organization filed appeals and Constitutional Court applications on all their behalf.

Elif Akgül – released June 2 after 101 days in pre-trial detention; first HDK hearing in September; Yıldız Tar – released May 31 when indictment was accepted; subject to weekly police sign-ins and travel ban; Ercüment Akdeniz – released October after 243 days in pre-trial detention.



Journalist Elif Akgül was released on June 2nd, after more than 101 days in detention following MLSA’s objection. Akgül, defended by MLSA Legal Unit, was subsequently acquitted in 2026.



Journalist and KAOS-GL editor-in-chief Yıldız Tar was released on May 30th following MLSA’s objection. Tar, defended by MLSA, is charged with membership to terrorist organization and the criminal proceedings are pending.

LANDMARK CONSTITUTIONAL COURT RULINGS

Following MLSA's appeal in the case of journalist Sedat Yılmaz, Turkey's Constitutional Court issued a historic ruling in August: imposing a secrecy order on an investigation file during pre-trial detention constitutes a violation of the right to liberty and security. This decision marked a significant shift in the court's jurisprudence on access to case files and is expected to benefit future MLSA clients.

Constitutional Court found journalist Neşe İdil's right to fair trial was violated (October)

Constitutional Court found journalist Hayko Bağdat's freedom of expression violated for a 2018 tweet — leading to his acquittal on retrial (November)

Constitutional Court ruled journalist Nedim Türfent's press reporting rights cannot be restricted in prison

ECtHR found Turkey violated journalist Burcu Özkaya Günaydın's freedom of expression for social media posts; awarded €2,500.

STRATEGIC LITIGATION

MLSA also pursued broader structural change through strategic litigation. The Council of State twice annulled the Interior Ministry's 2021 directive banning audio and video recording by media in public spaces — including in a case filed individually by MLSA on behalf of Co-Director Barış Altıntaş. MLSA also challenged RTÜK's internet broadcasting licensing regulation before the Council of State, and filed an application to the Constitutional Court challenging the access ban on KAOS GL, an LGBTI+ rights platform.

ACQUITTALS

Journalist Çiğdem Akbayrak — acquitted of insulting the president (for a 2018 tweet about the Afrin military operation)

Photojournalist Bülent Kılıç — acquitted of charges stemming from 2021 Istanbul Pride March detention

Journalist Ceren Bala Yenilmez — acquitted of defamation charges for retweeting during the 2023 earthquake

Journalist Zeynep Kuray — acquitted of terrorism propaganda

Documentary filmmaker Koray Kesik — acquitted of violating protest law

MLSA client Neşe İdil — acquitted on social media charges

8 journalists acquitted in Saraçhane protest coverage case (November) — including MLSA clients Yasin Akgül, Bülent Kılıç, and Zeynep Kuray

Hayko Bağdat — acquitted on retrial at the very first hearing after Constitutional Court ruling.

TRIAL MONITORING

MLSA’s Trial Monitoring unit documented freedom of expression proceedings across Turkey throughout 2025, providing systematic, independent observation of trials targeting journalists, activists, lawyers, students, politicians, and artists. In one of the most active monitoring years since MLSA’s founding, the unit covered an extraordinary breadth of cases – from landmark terrorism prosecutions to student protest trials to social media-related indictments.



The most common charge against journalists was membership in a terrorist organization, used in 13 cases. Other frequent charges included insulting the President or Prime Minister (including a high-profile cases including against journalist Fatih Altaylı), violations of Law No. 2911 on Demonstrations (used against journalists covering the İmamoğlu protests), disseminating misleading information, and terrorism propaganda.

MONTHLY MONITORING HIGHLIGHTS

January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 443 people including 115 journalists stood trial in 62 cases – 16 journalists acquitted Yüstra Batıhan sentenced to 10 months for ‘spreading misleading information’ over 2023 earthquake reporting Yakup Çetin sentenced to 6 years 3 months for ‘terrorist organization membership’ 11 journalists detained; 9 placed under arrest including Halk TV’s editor-in-chief
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 51 hearings in 38 cases; 48 individuals on trial including 28 journalists 7 acquittals; combined prison sentences of 8 years 9 months in other verdicts 10 Diyarbakır Bar Association members acquitted for April 24 Armenian genocide statement Nevşin Mengü received deferred 1.5-year sentence for YouTube interview
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 63 hearings with 325 defendants – 49 journalists and 33 lawyers among them 12 defendants in detention at start of month including human rights defender Nimet Tanrıkkulu Journalist Merdan Yanardağ sentenced to 1 year 3 months over a YouTube video

April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 40 hearings in 38 cases; 344 defendants including 33 journalists, 14 lawyers, 178 students · Mass case with 90 detained İmamoğlu protesters postponed due to courtroom overcrowding · Journalist Bahadır Özgür sentenced to prison for insulting government at a book fair
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 45 hearings; 56 journalists, 13 lawyers, 37 politicians, 24 activists on trial · 10 verdicts; 7 resulting in acquittals · Lawyer Firat Epözdemir released after four months in pre-trial detention
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 43 hearings; 67 defendants including 25 journalists, 10 students, 24 activists · 4 acquittals; at least 4 journalists released from prison in their hearings · Prosecutor seeks prison sentence for journalist Barış Terkoğlu over İmamoğlu articles
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 20 hearings with 30+ defendants including 14 journalists · 4 acquittals; 5 prison sentences including Delal Akyüz (6 yrs 3 mos) and Ekrem İmamoğlu · Journalists detained in Artvin investigation released following MLSA-led coalition appeal
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Judicial recess; monitoring of access bans and broadcast restrictions continued · RTÜK imposed 5-day blackout on TELE1; court issued stay of execution · Journalist Furkan Karabay remained in pre-trial detention (arrested May 15)
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · hearings; 347 defendants including 94 journalists, 25 lawyers, 152 activists · Halk TV anchor Ece Üner acquitted of insulting the judiciary · Journalist Merdan Yanardağ acquitted of insulting the state
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 25 hearings; 175 defendants including 109 students, 39 journalists, 25 activists · Journalist Asuman Aranca sentenced to 10 months; JINNEWS editor Öznur Değer to 3 yrs 4 mos · Ercüment Akdeniz released after 243 days in pre-trial detention
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 47 hearings; 31 journalists appeared before judges alongside activists, students, lawyers, artists · 8 journalists acquitted in Saraçhane case; journalist Rahime Karvar sentenced to 1 yr 13 mos · Journalist Fatih Altaylı sentenced to 4 years 2 months for 'threatening the president'
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Trial monitoring report released: 560% year-on-year increase in pre-trial detentions in FOE cases · Pre-trial detention confirmed as a punitive tool targeting journalism across Turkey

2025 JUSTICE MONITORING REPORT

On November 28, MLSA launched its 2024–2025 Justice Monitoring Report at an event at the Marmara Pera Hotel in Istanbul. The report revealed a 560% year-on-year increase in pre-trial detentions in freedom of expression cases, documenting how judicial detention has become a punitive instrument rather than a precautionary one. The launch was attended by journalists, civil society representatives, and diplomats from the United States, the Netherlands, Czechia, Switzerland, and Sweden, as well as representatives from Amnesty International, İHD, Heinrich Böll Stiftung, and Friedrich Naumann Foundation.

DIGITAL RIGHTS AND FREEWEB

MLSA’s FreeWeb project tracks internet censorship in Turkey, documenting access blocks, broadcast bans, and the use of vague legal provisions to suppress online journalism. In 2025, internet censorship reached new levels of intensity, particularly following the İmamoğlu protests.



INTERNET CENSORSHIP IN 2025: KEY FINDINGS

According to the year-end FreeWeb Turkey report, ‘national security’ was the most frequently cited justification for content removal. In the first seven months of 2025 alone:

- 1,306 pieces of content blocked
- 3,330 URLs restricted
- Article 8/A of Law No. 5651 used to block 496 items (38% of all content)
- 443 rulings contained vague justifications such as ‘personal rights’ or ‘urgent circumstances’
- 41 rulings contained no stated rationale
- 29 items blocked under Article 9 — a provision annulled by Turkey’s Constitutional Court in 2023

NOTABLE CENSORSHIP INCIDENTS

- Access to Twitter accounts of actors blocked for supporting the İmamoğlu boycott
- BTK proposed new regulation granting national security-based powers to block social media platforms
- Meta faced potential fines for refusing to block protest-related content
- A court banned reporting on journalist Bülent Mumay’s sentence
- Bluesky drew criticism for reportedly restricting protest-related accounts in Turkey
- Journalist Aslıhan Gencay’s article on a high-profile sex tape scandal was blocked one day after publication
- Access blocked to MLSA’s own report on KRT employees halting broadcasts
- A new ‘cybersecurity’ law draft proposed jail terms for those who report on data leaks

MLSA’S LEGAL CHALLENGES TO CENSORSHIP

- Challenged the Roblox access ban (rejected by Turkish court)
- Objected to access block on news about cancellation of İmamoğlu’s diploma
- Challenged KAOS GL access ban at the Constitutional Court
- Filed objections against the RTÜK internet broadcasting licensing regulation at Council of State
- Filed objections and strategic litigation against the ban on media recording in public spaces

ADVOCACY & INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

MLSA’s advocacy work in 2025 spanned solidarity statements, high-level meetings with international institutions, coalitions with Turkish and international press freedom organizations, and representation of Turkey’s media freedom crisis on global platforms.

January — *Council of Europe Visit*: MLSA organized a delegation of journalists and lawyers to the Council of Europe to meet with departments working on human rights and freedom of speech in Turkey. Upon return, delegation member Lawyer Firat Epözdemir was detained at the airport on terror charges.



March — Media Freedom Forum (London): Co-Director Veysel Ok spoke at the Media Freedom Forum on ‘Weaponized Judiciary.’ France 24 interviewed Co-Director Barış Altıntaş on Turkey’s democratic backsliding; The Guardian, BBC, and CNN covered MLSA’s data on journalists arrested during the İmamoğlu protests.

May — European Parliament and Oslo Freedom Forum: Co-Director Barış Altıntaş met with European Parliament Turkey Rapporteur Nacho Sánchez Amor alongside representatives from CPJ, Amnesty International Istanbul, and İHD to discuss press freedom and civil society concerns. Co-Director Veysel Ok spoke at the Oslo Freedom Forum on May 28, describing MLSA’s founding and work.

September — Swedish Parliament: Co-Director Veysel Ok spoke at a press freedom seminar in the Swedish Parliament, joined by released journalist Joakim Medin.

October — IPI World Congress (Vienna): Co-Director Veysel Ok participated in the International Press Institute World Congress, speaking in multiple panel events alongside partners Media Defense.

October — Republic Day Panel (Prague): Co-Director Barış Altıntaş participated in the ‘Turkey, Far and Near’ panel organized by the Vaclav Havel Club Discussion on Republic Day, discussing press freedom, judicial repression, and civil society challenges.

October — German Chancellor’s Dinner: Co-Director Veysel Ok met with German Chancellor Friedrich Merz during his official visit to Turkey, at a dinner discussion on press freedom and the rule of law.

July — BIRN Digital Rights Roundtable: Co-Director Barış Altıntaş participated in the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network roundtable on Reporting Digital Rights and Freedoms.

SOLIDARITY STATEMENTS AND COALITIONS

Led 11-organization joint statement condemning January journalist detentions in the İmamoğlu-related crackdown

Led statement signed by 19 organizations calling for release of journalists detained on February 18

Led 19-organization statement demanding release of journalists detained in the Artvin investigation (July); all 6 journalists released

Joint statement with IPI, RSF, Article 19, SEEMO, and CPJ calling for release of journalist Fatih Altaylı

Led 16-organization joint statement against anti-LGBTI+ legislation (October)

Joined 15 other press groups calling for release of journalist Furkan Karabay (September)

Joined 14 organizations condemning attacks on journalists in Gaza (August)

Visited Istanbul Bar Association in solidarity with İHSDA Human Rights Defenders Solidarity Network

Organized visit to Sözcü TV and Halk TV in solidarity following broadcast bans (July)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RECOGNITION

The European Parliament's 2025 Progress Report on Turkey specifically named three journalists arrested in February — Ender İmrek, Yıldız Tar, and Elif Akgül (MLSA clients) — condemning Turkey's repression of press freedom and acknowledging these journalists were targeted for their work in human rights.

PUBLICATIONS



2025 was a major year for MLSA publications. The organization produced landmark reports, its bi-annual newspaper, and advocacy documents that shaped domestic and international understanding of Turkey’s press freedom crisis.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION UNDER THE SHADOW OF THE CENSORSHIP LAW

Released in February and presented at a panel event on February 28, this report analyzed the impact of Article 217/A of the Turkish Penal Code — the so-called ‘censorship law’ — on press freedom in Turkey. The report documented that thousands of individuals have been investigated under this provision, with journalists facing particularly intense pressure. The panel brought together journalists Candan Yıldız, Evrim Kepenek, TGS Secretary-General Banu Tuna, and press freedom lawyer Enes Ermaner. An English version was released in March.



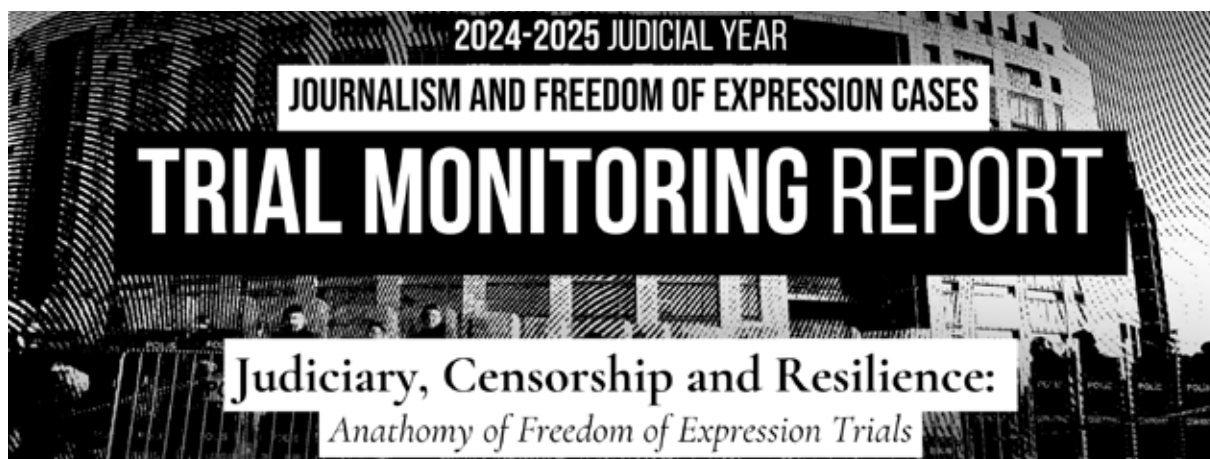
GAZETEMLSA — ISSUE 7

In July, MLSA released the seventh issue of GazeteMLSA, its bi-annual print newspaper. The issue featured in-depth reporting by 15 early-career journalists from MLSA’s mentoring program, covering underreported social stories from across Turkey. The newspaper is a product of MLSA’s commitment to nurturing the next generation of journalists.

VOICES SILENCED

Released in October, ‘Voices Silenced’ is MLSA’s documentation of the mechanisms used to silence Turkish media in 2025. Focusing on the stories of several MLSA clients detained and arrested during the year, it provides a firsthand record of the escalating crackdown on independent journalism and MLSA’s legal defense efforts.

2024–2025 JUSTICE MONITORING REPORT



MLSA’s eighth annual Justice Monitoring Report, launched November 28, 2025, documented a 560% year-on-year increase in pre-trial detentions in freedom of expression cases and provided the most comprehensive account of judicial pressure on journalists in Turkey. The report was widely cited in Turkish and international media.

BLOG AND WEBSITE

Throughout the year, MLSA’s blog published first-person accounts from imprisoned journalists, summaries of key cases, and analyses of legal developments. Notable blog pieces included journalist Elif Akgül’s account of detention (‘Even radios don’t work behind bars’), Yıldız Tar and Ercüment Akdeniz speaking from prison (‘We don’t want to be forgotten’), and journalist Vedat Örüç’s defense of journalism (‘Our journalism cannot be prosecuted’).

EVENTS, TRAININGS & CAPACITY BUILDING

In 2025, MLSA greatly expanded its events programming, running workshops in partnership with ARTICLE 19, the German Consulate, Protection International, and others — focused on press freedom, digital threats, NGO compliance, and the legal environment facing civil society in Turkey.



A high-profile panel co-hosted with the German Consulate in Istanbul, attended by diplomats, journalists, and civil society leaders. Opening remarks were delivered by German Consul General Dr. Regine Grienberger. Keynote speaker Rıza Türmen, former ECtHR judge, was joined by economist and academic Nesrin Nas and Amnesty International Germany Managing Director Christian Mihr. Moderated by Co-Director Barış Altıntaş.

AI & STORYTELLING WORKSHOP (OCTOBER 16–17, ISTANBUL)

A two-day event organized with ARTICLE 19, featuring sessions on storytelling for journalists and civil society, and a generative AI workshop led by journalist and author Gökçer Tahincioğlu. The event brought together journalists and civil society practitioners from across Turkey.

NGO CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM

A signature MLSA initiative in 2025: a series of workshops and simulated audits to help civil society organizations prepare for government inspections — a growing area of risk given increasing state scrutiny of NGOs working on press freedom and human rights.

– May 30 – Full-day NGO capacity-building workshop in Istanbul with Protection International at TGS Akademi; 22 civil society organizations participated; June – Two simulated audits of Istanbul NGOs (Friedrich Naumann Stiftung, Şahintepe People’s Solidarity Association); July 2 – Audit simulation at the Turkish Psychologists Association; July 3 – Audit at the Association of Women Employers and Industrialists (KAİSDER); October 17 – Second NGO audit preparation workshop with ARTICLE 19; November 28 – Ankara capacity-building workshop with ARTICLE 19; civil society representatives from multiple provinces attended. The workshops were led by Certified Public Accountant Samet Güçlü, accountant Can Akgün, and KAOS GL legal coordinator Kerem Dikmen. MLSA Finance Manager Gülhan Çorlu also contributed to on-site audit reviews.

GCC AWARD CEREMONY (JANUARY, DIYARBAKIR)

MLSA won the top prize in the Southeastern Journalists Association’s annual awards for contributions to press freedom. The prize was accepted by MLSA’s Diyarbakır correspondent Deniz Tekin for the report ‘Earthquake news labeled misleading information proves true,’ at a ceremony attended by journalist organization leaders, political representatives, and MPs.

JUSTICE MONITORING REPORT LAUNCH



The launch of MLSA’s 2024–2025 Justice Monitoring Report at the Marmara Pera Hotel drew journalists, civil society representatives, and diplomats from six countries. The event featured an opening address by Co-Director Veysel Ok and a panel moderated by Co-Director Barış Altıntaş, with journalists Diren Yurtsever and Ercüment Akdeniz and documentary filmmaker Koray Kesik. ANKA news agency live-streamed the event.

MEDIA PRESENCE

In 2025, MLSA’s work was cited in over 400 news articles across dozens of national and international outlets. The organization established itself as a primary reference point for press freedom data, legal commentary, and advocacy in Turkey.

400+	20+	50+	Multiple
Press mentions	International Outlets	National outlets	TV/Radio appearances

MLSA was featured by leading international outlets including: The Guardian, BBC, CNN, France 24, BBC Türkçe, DW Türkçe, Der Spiegel, Balkan Insight, and the Eurasian Digital Rights Foundation. MLSA was also cited in the European Parliament’s 2025 Turkey Progress Report. Coverage was particularly intense in March–April during the İmamoğlu crackdown and the Joakim Medin case.

January	· 27 mentions; top stories: Sofya Alağaç trial, imprisoned journalists list, Ayşe Barım case
February	· 53 mentions; top stories: February 18 journalist detentions, HDK operation, press freedom call
March	· 68 local + 9 international mentions; France 24, Guardian, BBC, CNN on journalist arrests in protests
April	· 50+ mentions; Joakim Medin trial, Saraçhane protest journalists, DW Türkçe interview
May	· 71 mentions in 30 outlets; Joakim Medin release, Yıldız Tar indictment, Elif Akgül case
June	· 55 mentions in 25+ outlets; Elif Akgül release, Artvin investigation, Fatih Altaylı arrest
July	· 45+ mentions in 25 outlets; Artvin case, Sözcü/Halk TV bans; Der Spiegel interview
August	· 11+ mentions; Constitutional Court ruling, journalist Ercüment Akdeniz detention coverage
September	· Multiple mentions; Furkan Karabay release calls, Diyarbakır trial, pre-trial detention criticism
October	· 30+ mentions in 19 outlets; HDK trials, LGBTI+ legislation statement, FAZ.net Germany
November	· 43+ mentions in 22 outlets; trial monitoring report, Saraçhane acquittals, 560% pre-trial detention increase
December	· 54+ mentions; Elif Akgül HDK prosecution, Human Rights Day coverage (DW Türkçe), Osman Çaklı detention (Euronews), İstanbul courthouse journalist access ban, FreeWeb 2025 censorship report (T24, Cumhuriyet, OdaTV)

FINAL REMARKS

2025 tested Turkey's journalists, civil society, and those who defend them in ways few years have. The mass arrests following the İmamoğlu protests, the surge in terrorism charges against media workers, the normalization of pre-trial detention as a punitive tool, and the escalation of internet censorship all marked a deepening crisis for press freedom.

Against this, MLSA remained present — in courtrooms, in prison visiting rooms, in parliamentary hearings in Stockholm and Vienna, and in the press. The organization secured acquittals, won landmark constitutional rulings, released critical publications, built the capacity of civil society to withstand state pressure, and ensured that Turkey's press freedom crisis remained visible internationally.

We are grateful to the journalists who trusted us with their defense, to the international partners who amplified our work, to the supporters who make this work possible, and to every MLSA staff member and correspondent who showed up, year after year, to bear witness and to fight back.

Veysel Ok and Barış Altıntaş

Co-Directors, Media and Law Studies Association

Contact & Follow MLSA

Website: mlsaturkey.com

Email: info@medyavehukuk.org

Twitter/X: [@mlsaturkey](https://twitter.com/mlsaturkey)

BlueSky: [@mlsaturkey.org](https://bsky.app/profile/mlsaturkey.org)

Address: Gumussuyu Mh., Inonu Caddesi 59, Beyoglu 34437, Istanbul, Türkiye



M SA

mlsatrkey.com | info@medyavehukuk.org
[@mlsatrkey](https://www.instagram.com/mlsatrkey)