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# FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN THE SHADOW OF CENSORSHIP LAW

REPORT

PUBLICLY DISSEMINATING MISLEADING INFORMATION (TCK M.217/A)

M<sub>Q</sub>SA



# **Freedom of Expression In the Shadow of Censorship Law**

Publicly Disseminating Misleading Information  
(TCK m. 217/A)



2025

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# Media and Law Studies Association

Media and Law Studies Association (MLSA) is a civil society organization that has been active in the field of freedom of expression since 2018. It provides legal support to individuals facing violations of their freedom of expression, particularly journalists, media professionals, and human rights defenders.

MLSA engages in advocacy by submitting regular reports to international organizations, including the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers. Additionally, it organizes workshops for journalists, lawyers, and civil society organizations to strengthen their capacities.

MLSA Legal Unit has provided legal assistance to more than 200 journalists and human rights defenders. It supports its clients at all stages of legal proceedings, from investigations to trials, including applications to the Constitutional Court of Turkey and the European Court of Human Rights.

Since 2018, MLSA has been running Turkey's most extensive trial monitoring program, regularly publishing reports on freedom of the press and expression cases. Through its Trial Monitoring Program, MLSA monitors nearly 300 cases and 700 hearings annually, reporting them in accordance with OSCE standards. To date, it has monitored close to 3,000 hearings, providing valuable insights to media organizations and human rights groups on the state of press freedom and the rule of law in Turkey.

Through the Free Web Turkey project, MLSA monitors internet censorship and restrictions on digital freedom in Turkey. In addition to its legal and advocacy work, it supports civil society organizations by providing legal and institutional assistance through its civil society capacity-building program. MLSA also operates a news platform where independent journalists can publish their work, offering them a space to share their reporting.

Under its GazeteMLSA program, launched in 2019, MLSA provides newsroom experience for young journalists, connecting them with experienced professionals. This initiative aims to contribute to the development of rights-based journalism in Turkey.

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# Introduction

More than two years have passed since the introduction of the controversial “publicly disseminating misleading information” offense, widely referred to as the “censorship law” by press and professional organizations. Since the law came into effect in 2022, thousands of individuals and dozens of journalists have been prosecuted. According to data from the Turkish Parliament’s Justice Committee records, 4,590 people were investigated under this charge in the first two years of its enforcement.

Media and Law Studies Association (MLSA), which has been providing legal support to journalists and monitoring freedom of expression trials since 2018, published this report to document cases and investigations initiated under Article 217/A of the Turkish Penal Code (TCK). The report analyzes the law’s implementation, its outcomes, and its impact on press and freedom of expression using concrete data.

## Findings

According to MLSA data, between October 18, 2022—when the misleading information offense was introduced—and February 2025, at least 93 investigations were launched against: 65 journalists, 11 lawyers, 8 YouTubers/online content creators, 2 politicians, 2 writers, 1 doctor, 1 academic, 1 sociologist

## Law used aggressively against journalists

The censorship law has been used against news reports on almost every issue critical of the government. Investigations and lawsuits under this law have particularly targeted coverage of the earthquake disaster.

Reports and social media posts highlighting negligence in earthquake-hit regions and problems in aid distribution were labeled as “misleading information.” As a result, 19 people, including 14 journalists, faced legal action. Several journalists were detained, some were banned from traveling abroad, and journalist Yüstra Batıhan was sentenced to 10 months in prison for reporting on the distribution of aid materials.

News reports and social media posts about elections, particularly the May 14, 2023, general elections and vote counting, were also frequently prosecuted. Legal action was taken against journalists covering sexual abuse cases and organized crime, including the Yenidoğan Gang and other abuse incidents.

Reports on police violence, human rights violations in prisons, extrajudicial killings, and corruption allegations related to trustee appointments, financial crimes, and public tenders were also brought to court. Critical coverage of Turkey’s Directorate of Religious Affairs (Diyanet) and public institutions was similarly targeted. According to the report, of the 24 lawsuits filed, 11 resulted in acquittals, while one case was dismissed by the court. The remaining trials are still ongoing.

For instance, Sinan Aygül, the first journalist to be arrested and sentenced under the censorship law, was defended by MLSA, and his conviction was overturned by the Court of

Cassation, leading to his acquittal. However, other journalists continue to receive prison sentences for similar charges.

## Background of the law

The offense of “publicly disseminating misleading information” was introduced into the Turkish Penal Code (TCK) as Article 217/A through Law No. 7418, which was published in the Official Gazette on October 18, 2022, and went into effect the same day.

Journalist associations and press organizations strongly opposed the law, arguing that its definition of the crime was vague, lacked legal clarity and predictability, and would restrict press and freedom of expression. They called for the withdrawal of the bill before it was enacted.

Turkey’s main opposition party CHP challenged the law in the Constitutional Court (AYM), seeking its annulment and suspension. However, the court did not take up the case until November 8, 2023, a full year after the law had been passed. In response, press organizations and civil society groups staged a protest outside the Constitutional Court, demanding the law’s repeal. Ultimately, the AYM rejected the appeal by a majority vote, allowing the law to remain in force.

Council of Europe’s Venice Commission ruled that the misleading information offense violates the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and constitutes an interference with freedom of expression.

Meanwhile, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights warned that the law opens the door to new forms of pressure on journalists and human rights defenders, encourages self-censorship, and violates Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which Turkey is a party.

## Methodology

This report covers the period from October 18, 2022, when the “publicly disseminating misleading information” offense came into effect, to February 2025, when the report was prepared. A significant portion of the data presented in the report comes from MLSA’s Trial Monitoring Program, which tracks relevant court cases. Another key source is MLSA’s Legal Support Program, which provides legal defense for journalists and media workers. Additionally, the report incorporates information from media scans and published news reports, as well as insights gathered from interviews with journalists, lawyers, and other relevant stakeholders.



# Overview of investigations and lawsuits

During the reporting period, at least 93 investigations were launched against 67 journalists and writers, 25 human rights defenders, lawyers, activists, political party officials, doctors, and academics, as well as 8 YouTubers and content creators.

Recent investigations and criminal complaints against journalists frequently cite “publicly disseminating misleading information”, alongside other charges such as “insult,” “defamation,” and “violation of personal rights.” The law’s vague and broad wording has made it a widely used tool, reinforcing concerns and criticisms raised by journalist organizations before its passage in Parliament.

The primary reasons for investigations against journalists and writers were their news reports, social media posts, public statements, and remarks made during broadcasts and programs. As of now: 24 investigations are still ongoing, 26 have been dismissed, 29 have led to lawsuits.

A significant number of these investigations and lawsuits have targeted journalists and writers working for critical and opposition media outlets, including BirGün newspaper, Mezopotamya Agency, Gerçek Gündem, Halk TV, Nu Jinha, and JINNEWS.

Among journalists, İsmail Arı, Ahmet Kanbal, and Gökhan Özbek were the most frequently targeted, each facing four separate investigations. Additionally, Oktay Candemir, Mehmet Sıddık Güler, Sayhan Avcı, İsmail Saymaz, Evren Demirdağ, Medine Mamedoğlu, Fırat Bulut, Berkan Gültekin, Uğur Koç, Ruşen Takva, Kayhan Ayhan, and Dinçer Gökçe each faced two investigations.

## Ongoing investigations under TCK 217/A

Investigations against journalists	Count
Lawsuit filed	24
Investigations pending	23
Non-prosecution	39
Grand total	86

Of the 24 ongoing investigations under Article 217/A of the Turkish Penal Code, 16 journalists have been named as suspects in 18 cases. Additionally, 15 lawyers, academics, and politicians have been listed as suspects in six separate investigations.

One of these cases was launched by the Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office, which initiated an investigation into journalist İsmail Saymaz based on a statement from the Presidency’s Center for Combating Disinformation. The investigation was opened ex officio following Saymaz’s remarks on the Halk TV program “Rota,” where he stated that “President Erdoğan showed Bahçeli some footage related to MHP deputies.”

One of the journalists currently under investigation is Rabia Önver, a reporter for JIN-NEWS, who was targeted for her reports on a prostitution and drug trafficking gang in Hakkari. She is being investigated under Article 217/A for “publicly disseminating misleading information.” On September 20, 2024, police raided her home and confiscated her digital materials.

The 16 journalists and writers facing ongoing investigations under TCK 217/A are Gökhan Özbek, who is facing three separate investigations; İsmail Saymaz, who has two investigations against him; Fatih Altaylı, Fırat Bulut, Seyhan Avşar, Sevilay Yılmaz, Zübeyde Sarı, Kayhan Ayhan, who is also facing two investigations; Mehmet Sıddık Güler, who also has two investigations; Furkan Karabay, Özlem Gürses, Rabia Önver, Duygu Kıt, Müyesser Yıldız, Mustafa Bildircin, and Ahmet Kanbal.

In six separate ongoing investigations under TCK 217/A, 16 individuals, including 13 lawyers, have been named as suspects. Istanbul Bar Association President İbrahim Kaboğlu and 10 executive board members are under investigation for their public statement regarding the murder of journalists Nazım Daştan and Cihan Bilgin in Syria. They are accused of “publicly disseminating misleading information” and “making terrorist propaganda.” Lawyers Aydın Mantar and Cemil Çiçek are being investigated for their statement on the death of a doctor who allegedly committed suicide in prison while on trial in the Yenidoğan Gang case. Other individuals under investigation include YouTuber Bircan Yıldırım, geophysics professor Dr. Övgün Ahmet Ercan, and CHP Member of Parliament Tuncay Özkan.

Investigations against those other than journalists	Count
Lawyers	13
YouTubers/Online content providers	5
Civil society workers / human rights defenders	3
News website admins	3
Writers	2
Politicians	2
Sociologist	1
Doctors	1
Academics	1

## Investigations resulting in non-prosecution

In 26 investigations opened under the charge of “publicly disseminating misleading information,” prosecutors ruled that no grounds for prosecution existed in cases involving 39 journalists and media workers. The high number of non-prosecution decisions highlights how these investigations were initiated carelessly and without sufficient evidence. Although the charges were eventually dropped, the legal process itself has placed significant pressure on journalists, making it more difficult for them to practice their profession freely. Being summoned to police stations or prosecutors’ offices for questioning in these investigations has had a chilling effect on press freedom.

BirGün newspaper reporter İsmail Arı was targeted with four separate investigations due to his reporting on government-affiliated business figures, corruption in public tenders, and mismanagement at the Turkish Red Crescent (Kızılay). All four cases against him were dismissed.

Similarly, Evren Demirdař, a reporter for Sözcü newspaper, faced two separate investigations for exposing irregularities in public tenders in Elazığ, both of which also ended in non-prosecution decisions.

Journalists who received non-prosecution decisions include Barıř Pehlivan, řükran Ekinci, Ahmet Sesli, Mehmet Güleř, Mir Ali Koçer, Canan Kaya, Medine Mamedođlu (2 cases), Hüsniye Karakoyun, Mahmut Karakoyun, İlknur Bilir, Aslıhan Gençay, Emre Orman, Oktay Candemir, Ahmet Kanbal (2), Zeynep Kuray, Serdar Akinan, Evren Demirdař (2), Zülal Kalkandelen, İsmail Arı (2), Uğur Koç (2), Berkant Gültekin (2), Emre Yıldırım, Uğur řahin, Dilan Esen, Erdem Avşar, Eray Erollu, Fatih Ergin, Kemal Çelik, Ahmet Çelik, Burak Öztunalı, Ali Güven, Özlem Denizmen, İsmail Arı (4), and Gökhan Özbek.

## Telling the truth as a crime: Investigations by topic

Under Article 217/A, the highest number of investigations against journalists for “publicly disseminating misleading information” were related to earthquake coverage, with 15 investigations opened on this topic. Reports on the earthquake were followed by 12 investigations categorized under “other” news topics, 11 investigations related to corruption, eight investigations concerning complaints filed with the Capital Markets Board (SPK), and seven investigations regarding election coverage.

Other topics that led to investigations included judicial matters, reports on state institutions, sexual abuse cases, environmental issues, police violence, the murders of journalists in Syria, and the Yenidođan Gang, with each of these subjects resulting in between three and five separate investigations. Additionally, journalists were investigated for their coverage of trustee appointments, developments in Syria, and religious communities.

News content	Count
Earthquake	15
Others	12
Corruption	11
Elections	7
News on judiciary	5
News on public insitutions	5
Sexual misconduct	3
News on the environment	3
News on police brutality	3
News on slained journalists	3
Yenidođan gang	3
Trustee appointments	2
Developments in Syria	2
News on religious sects	1
News on criminal organizations	1
Human rights abuses	1

## Investigations over earthquake coverage

Following the February 6, 2023, earthquakes centered in Kahramanmaraş, Article 217/A was widely and systematically used against journalists covering the disaster. Reporters who investigated the government’s crisis management, highlighted negligence, reported on delays in aid delivery, shared stories of citizens trapped under rubble, and amplified the voices of earthquake survivors—both through their news reports and on social media—were subjected to criminal investigations.

A total of 19 individuals, including 14 journalists, faced investigations due to their social media posts, broadcasts, and reports on the February 6 earthquakes. Those targeted included Medine Mamedoğlu, Ahmet Sesli, Mir Ali Koçer, Gökhan Özbek, Fırat Bulut, Rojda Oğuz, Yüsrâ Batıhan, Evrim Kepenek, Hasan Sivri, Ali İmat, İbrahim İmat, Mehmet Güleş, Canan Kaya, İlknur Bilir, Oğuzhan Uğur, Ercan Özdemir, Kaan Kayacan, Veli Saçılık, and Önder Algedik.

## Corruption news resulted investigations targeting journalists

Journalists reporting on corruption allegations involving government-affiliated business figures, public tenders, state institutions, religious sects, and members of the judiciary have faced multiple lawsuits and investigations following complaints filed against them. In particular, BirGün newspaper executives and seven of its reporters were subjected to four separate investigations under Article 217/A due to their reports on corruption and irregularities involving government-linked individuals and the Turkish Red Crescent (Kızılay).

## Digital patrol surveillance

A total of 23 investigations and 10 lawsuits under the charge of “publicly disseminating misleading information” were based on reports prepared through “Sanal Devriye” (Digital Patrol) surveillance activities conducted by law enforcement.

In 2020, the Constitutional Court (AYM) ruled that this practice constituted a disproportionate violation of privacy and personal data protection and stated that only public prosecutors should have the authority to conduct investigations. Despite this ruling, law enforcement agencies have continued to monitor online activity, compile reports on social media accounts, and submit them to prosecutors, leading to numerous investigations.

An examination of journalists facing legal action as a result of Digital Patrol surveillance shows that most work for critical and opposition media outlets. The primary evidence in the lawsuits against journalists Hasan Sivri, Mehmet Yetim, Onur Öncü, Rojda Oğuz, Yüsrâ Batıhan, İdris Yılmaz, Fırat Bulut, Evrim Kepenek, Ahmet Kanbal, and sociologist Veli Saçılık was Digital Patrol reports prepared by law enforcement.

Similarly, the investigations against Ahmet Kanbal, Gökhan Özbek, Fırat Bulut, Aslıhan Gençay, Şükran Ekinci, Ahmet Sesli, Canan Kaya, Mir Ali Koçer, and Emre Orman were also initiated based on Digital Patrol surveillance reports.

# Judicial measures imposed in TCK 217/A investigations

Types of measure applied	Count
Called to testify (summoned)	68
Arrest warrant	1
Detention	2
Judicial control measures after detention	11
House arrest following detention	1
Arrest after detention	3

## Detentions under TCK 217/A

Since the censorship law came into effect in October 2022, a total of 24 journalists, writers, academics, environmentalists, and social media content managers have been taken into custody under the charge of “publicly disseminating misleading information.” Authorities cited news reports, social media posts, public statements, and broadcasts as the justification for these arrests.

Among those detained, 15 individuals, including 13 journalists and two writers, were taken into custody specifically under this law. Gökhan Özbek, the owner of the 23 Derece social media platform, was detained four times, while Halktv.com.tr Managing Editor Dinçer Gökçe was arrested twice under the same charge.

Journalists and writers who were taken into custody include Cengiz Erdiñç, Dinçer Gökçe (twice), Ali İmat, İbrahim İmat, Sinan Aygöl, Firat Bulut, Tolga Şardan, Nilay Can, Veysi Dündar, Furkan Karabay, Mehmet Güleş, Özlem Gürses, Serdar Akinan, İlknur Bilir, and Nevzat Çelik.

## Judicial control measures imposed on journalists

Following the February 6 earthquakes, Mezopotamya Agency (MA) reporter Mehmet Güleş was detained in Diyarbakır’s Bağlar district while covering search and rescue efforts. He was arrested along with his interviewee and later released under judicial control measures. Despite the interview never being published, he was charged with “publicly disseminating misleading information.”

Journalists who were arrested for their anti-refugee news reports and social media posts include Aykırı’s Editor-in-Chief Batuhan Çolak and the administrators of the X (formerly Twitter) account “Ajans Muhbir,” Süha Çardaklı and Serkan Kafkas. Another individual detained under the same charge was YouTuber Bircan Yıldırım.

Academics Evren Barış Yavuz and Övgün Ahmet Ercan, former AKUT (Search and Rescue Association) President Nasuh Mahruki, and İliç environmental activist Sedat Cezayirlioğlu were also arrested under TCK 217/A.

## Arrests (pre-trial detentions) under TCK 217/A

So far, 11 people have been arrested and incarcerated under the charge of “publicly disseminating misleading information.” Journalist Sinan Aygöl, president of the Bitlis Journalists Association, was the first journalist to be arrested under this law. He was detained over a social media post regarding allegations of sexual abuse. His defense was handled by MLSA.

Other journalists arrested under TCK 217/A include Tolga Şardan, Ali İmat, and İbrahim İmat, along with academic Evren Barış Yavuz, former AKUT President Nasuh Mahruki, and YouTuber Bircan Yıldırım, owner of Bircan TV.

Journalists and media figures detained for anti-refugee news reports and social media posts include Aykırı’s Editor-in-Chief Batuhan Çolak and the administrators of the Ajans Muhbir X (formerly Twitter) account, Süha Çardaklı and Serkan Kafkas.

These cases demonstrate that arrests and judicial control measures are frequently used in TCK 217/A investigations. In these cases, news reports and publicly shared posts are treated as criminal evidence, yet authorities fail to provide concrete justifications regarding how journalists could tamper with evidence or pose a flight risk.

## Judicial control measures

A total of 13 individuals detained under TCK 217/A were placed under judicial control measures, including house arrest, mandatory police check-ins, and international travel bans.

Those subjected to these measures include Veysi DüNDAR, Serdar Akinan, Nilay Can, Mehmet Güleş, Fırat Bulut, Dinçer Gökçe, Nevzat Çelik, Cengiz Erdinç, İbrahim İmat, Ali İmat, Gökhan Özbek, Sedat Cezayirlioğlu, Özlem Gürses, and Övgün Ahmet Ercan.

Gökhan Özbek, owner of the 23 Derece social media platform, was placed under a travel ban in three separate investigations.

Journalist Özlem Gürses was detained over comments made on her YouTube channel and was placed under house arrest and a travel ban on December 21, 2024. She remained under house arrest for 52 days, until the decision was lifted on February 11, 2025.

Lawyer Eyyup Akıncı was placed under house arrest after making a social media post about bribery and corruption allegations at Küçükçekmece Courthouse.

Judicial control measures such as house arrest, travel bans, and mandatory police check-ins have created significant barriers to journalistic work. Travel bans, in particular, severely restrict journalists’ freedom of movement. Since the only evidence in these cases is journalists’ news reports and social media posts, appeals against these restrictions—arguing that “evidence has already been collected” or that there is no “strong suspicion of a crime”—are routinely rejected based on vague justifications.

# Lawsuits filed under the censorship law

## General overview of cases

Since October 18, 2022, when the offense of “publicly disseminating misleading information” came into effect, a total of 31 lawsuits have been filed against 41 individuals, including journalists, writers, academics, activists, sociologists, and social media content managers. Journalist Dinçer Gökçe has faced two separate lawsuits under this law.

The lawsuits have been distributed across several provinces: 13 in Istanbul, 6 in Ankara, 3 in Van, 2 in Mardin, 2 in Ayvalık, and one each in Urfa, Hakkari, İliç, Osmaniye, and Rize.

Out of these 31 cases, 17 resulted in acquittals, while four cases led to prison sentences for five individuals, three of whom were journalists. Twelve journalists and writers tried in 12 separate cases were acquitted. Additionally, in the case against journalist İdris Yılmaz, which was handled by MLSA, the court ruled to dismiss the case entirely.

The high number of acquittals in these trials highlights the vague and unpredictable nature of TCK 217/A, reinforcing concerns that these cases are not based on concrete evidence.

## Most lawsuits were filed over earthquake coverage

Many of these cases were based on news reports and social media posts. Coverage of the February 6, 2023, earthquakes was the most frequently prosecuted topic, leading to nine separate lawsuits against 12 individuals. Those prosecuted included Evrim Kepenek, Fırat Bulut, Rojda Oğuz, YouTuber Oğuzhan Uğur, Ercan Özdemir, Kaan Kayacan, Hasan Sivri, Ali İmat, İbrahim İmat, Önder Algedik, and Veli Saçılık.

Three lawsuits were filed over news reports and social media posts related to the May 14, 2023, presidential and parliamentary elections. Other cases involved coverage of corruption, bribery, sexual abuse, and human rights violations.

In one case, journalist Fırat Bulut was detained for two days and placed under a travel ban after reporting that an uprising had taken place at Elbistan Prison. The report was later confirmed as accurate by prison officials.

## Journalists and writers acquitted

The 12 journalists and writers acquitted in 12 separate cases were Ahmet Kanbal, Cengiz Erdiñç, Dinçer Gökçe, Ferit Aslan, Hasan Sivri, Mehmet Yetim, Merdan Yanardağ, Onur Öncü, Oktay Candemir, Ruşen Takva, Sinan Aygöl, and Nevzat Çelik.

Journalist Sinan Aygöl, who was the first journalist convicted under TCK 217/A, had his 10-month prison sentence overturned by the Court of Cassation. In a retrial, he was acquitted.

In other cases, Dr. Yusuf Eryazgan, who was prosecuted for stating that Turkey’s vaccine

stock was insufficient, environmental activist Sedat Cezayirliođlu, who was tried for his statements about the Erzincan İliç mining disaster, and energy and climate expert Önder Algedik, who was charged over his posts about Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD), were all acquitted.

## Ongoing trials

In six of the nine ongoing lawsuits, a total of 10 journalists are currently on trial. These journalists are Evrim Kepenek, Fırat Bulut, Rojda Ođuz, Tolga Őardan, Dinçer Gökçe, Nilay Can, Veysi Dünder, Seyhan Avşar, Dođan Akın, and Candan Yıldız. Arrest warrants have been issued for Fırat Bulut and Rojda Ođuz.

Three other cases are ongoing against former AKUT President Nasuh Mahruki, YouTuber Ođuzhan Uđur, Ercan Özdemir, and Kaan Kayacan, as well as Aykırı's Editor-in-Chief Batuhan Çolak and Ajans Muhbir X (formerly Twitter) account administrators Süha Çardaklı and Serkan Kafkas, who are on trial for anti-refugee news reports and social media posts.

## MLSA's trial monitoring and legal defense

As part of its Trial Monitoring Program, MLSA has monitored and reported on cases against journalists, writers, and human rights defenders facing prosecution under Article 217/A in eight different cities. These trials have been held in Mardin, Balıkesir, Ankara, Istanbul, Hakkari, Van, Urfa, and Maraş, with MLSA following 20 different cases.

MLSA will also monitor the upcoming trials in Istanbul of Seyhan Avşar, Dođan Akın, and Candan Yıldız, who are being prosecuted for reporting and making statements about journalists killed while covering the war in Syria.

The journalists whose trials MLSA has monitored include Ahmet Kanbal, Ferit Aslan, Cengiz Erdinç, Hasan Sivri, Onur Öncü, Ruşen Takva, Yüstra Batıhan, Mehmet Yetim, Sinan Aygöl, Merdan Yanardađ, Evrim Kepenek, Rojda Ođuz, Fırat Bulut, Tolga Őardan, Dinçer Gökçe, Nilay Can, Veysi Dünder, Önder Algedik, Veli Saçılık, Evren Barıř Yavuz, and Yusuf Eryađzan.

MLSA has also provided legal defense for journalists under investigation for TCK 217/A. Its Legal Unit has assisted Őükran Ekinci, Canan Kaya, Emre Orman, Zeynep Kuray, and Onur Öncü during police interrogations. Additionally, MLSA has legally represented journalists Sinan Aygöl, İdris Yılmaz, Onur Öncü, Evrim Kepenek, and İdris Yılmaz in court cases related to TCK 217/A.

MLSA, in collaboration with ARTICLE19, submitted an expert opinion to the Court of Cassation's 8th Criminal Chamber in the case of Sinan Aygöl, who was sentenced to 10 months in prison under TCK 217/A. The opinion argued that the legal provision used to convict Aygöl fails to meet the criteria of predictability, legitimate aim, and necessity in a democratic society as defined under Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). Based on these arguments, Aygöl's acquittal was requested.



## Court of Cassation sets precedent in Sinan Aygül case

The Court of Cassation's 8th Criminal Chamber has issued a precedent-setting ruling in the case of Sinan Aygül, the first journalist convicted under Article 217/A. Aygül had been sentenced to 10 months in prison on charges of “publicly disseminating misleading information”, but his legal defense was handled by MLSA's Legal Unit and lawyer Diyar Orak, who filed an appeal.

In its ruling, the Court of Cassation overturned the conviction, stating:

“Considering that the defendant removed his post and issued correction messages as soon as he learned that his initial post was inaccurate, and taking into account the wording he used as a whole, it is clear that he did not act with the sole intention of creating fear, panic, or anxiety among the public. Rather, he was exercising his right to report as a journalist and did not act with criminal intent.”

Following the Court of Cassation's decision, the Van Regional Court of Justice's 2nd Criminal Chamber acquitted Sinan Aygül on September 26, 2024 in the retrial.

This ruling set a legal precedent. In the dismissal decision of an investigation against Mezopotamya Agency (MA) journalist Ahmet Kanbal, who had been accused of “publicly disseminating misleading information” over his social media posts regarding trustee appointments in municipalities, authorities cited the Court of Cassation's decision in Aygül's case as justification for dropping the charges.

## Ministry of Justice refuses to disclose statistics

The Ministry of Justice has not published specific statistical data on cases and investigations related to “publicly disseminating misleading information” in its 2022 and 2023 Judicial Statistics Reports. Instead, it includes these cases under the general category of “crimes against public order,” making it impossible to access detailed information on prosecutions under Article 217/A.

In an effort to obtain these statistics, MLSA submitted an information request through CİMER (Turkey's Presidential Communications Center) under the Right to Information Act, addressing the request to the General Directorate of Criminal Records and Judicial Statistics within the Ministry of Justice. However, the ministry rejected the request, claiming that the requested data would require detailed study, research, examination, and analysis.

## Ministry of Justice data reveals two-year impact of the censorship law

Judicial statistics on the “publicly disseminating misleading information” offense, which the Ministry of Justice refused to disclose, were revealed by AKP MP and Justice Committee member Nurettin Alan during a parliamentary session on the Notary Law Proposal, widely known as the “foreign agent law”. However, when MLSA requested further details via email, no response was received from members of the Justice Committee.

According to data recorded in Turkish Parliament (TBMM) minutes, between October 18, 2022, and October 10, 2024, a total of 4,590 individuals were investigated under Article 217/A

of the Turkish Penal Code (TCK). In 2022, 139 investigations were opened, involving 216 individuals. In 2023, 2,381 investigations were launched, with 2,515 individuals listed as suspects. In 2024, as of October 10, 1,668 investigations were initiated, involving 1,859 individuals.

Of these cases, non-prosecution decisions were issued for 44 people in 2022, 1,102 people in 2023, and 859 people in 2024. The data also shows that in 2023, 223 investigations led to lawsuits. Of these, five resulted in convictions, 72 in acquittals, and 15 in deferred judgments under the HAGB (Postponement of the Announcement of the Verdict) system. In 2024, 161 investigations turned into court cases. Of these, seven ended in convictions, 77 in acquittals, and 16 in deferred judgments.

In total, 33 individuals were arrested under this law, with three in 2022, 24 in 2023, and six in 2024. However, no official data was provided regarding the total number of detentions.

## Summaries of lawsuits and investigations under TCK 217/A

### Ongoing investigations against journalists

#### Gökhan Özbek (First investigation)

The Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office launched an investigation into journalist Gökhan Özbek on March 1, 2023, over posts and broadcasts made on his 23 Derece, Record Haber X (formerly Twitter), and YouTube accounts regarding the February 6, 2023, earthquakes in Kahramanmaraş. He was detained and referred to the Criminal Judgeship of Peace with a request for his arrest. On March 2, 2023, he was released under judicial control measures, and the investigation is ongoing.

#### Gökhan Özbek (Second investigation)

Another investigation was opened against Özbek over news-related posts made on the 23 Derece X account under TCK 217/A. On August 28, 2023, police raided his home in Ankara, detaining him. Özbek was released after giving his statement at the police station, and the investigation is still in progress.

#### Gökhan Özbek (Third investigation)

The Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office initiated a third investigation into Özbek for eight different news-related posts shared on the 23 Derece X account on various dates. He was detained in Ankara for questioning but later released.

#### İsmail Saymaz

The Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor's Office opened an investigation into journalist İsmail Saymaz over a social media post he made on April 3, 2024, regarding the March 31, 2024, local elections. Saymaz had written that "AK Party supporters are causing unrest to prevent losing

Gaziosmanpaşa.” He is being investigated under TCK 217/A for “publicly disseminating misleading information” and under Article 216 of the Penal Code for “inciting hatred and enmity.”

### **Fırat Bulut**

The Bingöl Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office launched a second investigation against journalist Fırat Bulut in 2023 for five different news reports and commentaries shared on his social media account. On November 3, 2023, the Bingöl Criminal Judgeship of Peace issued an arrest warrant for Bulut, who was abroad at the time, to ensure he could be questioned.

### **Seyhan Avşar**

Journalist Seyhan Avşar was investigated after reporting that Urfi Çetinkaya, a fugitive drug trafficker wanted on an INTERPOL Red Notice, had allegedly contacted then-Deputy Minister of Justice Akın Gürlek to secure his release. The Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office charged Avşar with “insult,” “defamation,” and “publicly disseminating misleading information.” On January 8, 2024, Avşar gave her statement and was released under judicial control measures and a travel ban.

### **Sevilay Yılman, Zübeyde Sarı, Kayhan Ayhan**

The Istanbul Anadolu Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office opened an investigation into 34 social media users, including journalists Sevilay Yılman, Zübeyde Sarı, and Kayhan Ayhan, for news reports and social media posts about irregularities during the May 14, 2023, presidential and parliamentary elections. BirGün editor Kayhan Ayhan was summoned for questioning 14 months after the investigation began and gave his statement at a police station on July 18, 2024.

### **Kayhan Ayhan**

A separate investigation was launched against BirGün editor Kayhan Ayhan over a news report published on December 2, 2023, titled “Villagers subjected to 2.5 hours of violence.” Ayhan is accused of “publicly disseminating misleading information.”

### **Mehmet Sıddık Güler (First investigation)**

The Van Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office launched an investigation into Serhat News Editor-in-Chief Mehmet Sıddık Güler over a 2023 news report about an alleged assault at the Van Directorate of Culture and Tourism. The authorities claimed the report violated TCK 217/A, leading Güler to appear at the Van Security Branch Directorate for questioning on July 5, 2023.

### **Mehmet Sıddık Güler (Second investigation)**

A second investigation was launched against Mehmet Sıddık Güler, editor-in-chief of Serhat News, following a complaint by businessman Veysel Ürüm, who operates a coal mine in Gürpınar, Van. The complaint was filed over a news report titled “Causing both environmental destruction and tension among villagers in Van”, published on September 18, 2024. Ürüm accused Güler of “publicly disseminating misleading information,” “spreading false news,” and “damaging reputation.” The Van Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office opened an investigation, and

Güler gave his statement at a police station on January 23, 2025.

## **Furkan Karabay**

Journalist Furkan Karabay was detained on November 8, 2024, over his news reports and social media posts regarding Esenyurt Mayor Ahmet Özer, who was removed from office by the Ministry of Interior and replaced with a government-appointed trustee. Karabay was accused of “targeting individuals involved in counterterrorism operations,” “insulting a public official,” and “publicly disseminating misleading information.” On November 9, 2024, he was arrested on the charge of “targeting individuals involved in counterterrorism operations” and remained in custody for nine days before being released on November 18, 2024. The investigation is ongoing.

## **Fatih Altaylı and İsmail Saymaz**

The Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office launched an ex officio investigation into journalists Fatih Altaylı and İsmail Saymaz on November 21, 2024. Altaylı was targeted for his article “Those unafraid of the rubble are not afraid of prison,” written in response to the arrest of Nasuh Mahruki, while Saymaz was investigated for his remarks on Halk TV’s “Rota” program, where he stated that “President Erdoğan showed Bahçeli some footage related to MHP deputies.” In a statement, the prosecutor’s office said that Saymaz’s claims had been refuted by the Presidential Directorate of Communications’ Center for Combating Disinformation, and that the investigation was opened under TCK 217/A for “publicly disseminating misleading information.” No further details were available regarding whether the journalists had given statements.

## **Özlem Gürses**

Journalist Özlem Gürses was detained in Ankara on December 20, 2024, over remarks made on her TV OZ YouTube channel, where she stated that “As you can see, the ISIS structure, meaning the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) and the Syrian National Army (SMO), has made small gains in Kurdish-populated areas.” She was taken to Istanbul, where the Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office accused her of “insulting state institutions and organs” and “publicly disseminating misleading information.” Gürses was referred to the Criminal Judgeship of Peace with a request for arrest but was released on December 21, 2024, under house arrest and a travel ban. No official documents related to the investigation have been made available.

## **Rabia Önver**

JINNEWS journalist Rabia Önver was targeted for her reports on a prostitution and drug trafficking gang in Hakkari. On September 20, 2024, police raided her home while she was absent and confiscated her digital materials. She later gave a statement to the Hakkari Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office, and the investigation remains ongoing.

## **Duygu Kıt**

Journalist Duygu Kıt is under investigation for her reporting on a planned stone quarry project in Erzincan’s pasturelands. Her article, titled “Reaction to the Ergan stone quarry: Villages

are just 500 meters away”, led the Erzincan Governorship to file a criminal complaint against her for “publicly disseminating misleading information” and “defamation.” The Erzincan Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office launched an investigation, and Kit gave her statement at the police station. The investigation is ongoing.

### **Müyesser Yıldız**

Journalist Müyesser Yıldız is being investigated over her report on promotions and appointments within the Gendarmerie General Command in 2024. The Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office initiated a case against her following a complaint from the Gendarmerie General Command, accusing her of “insulting the Turkish nation, the Republic of Turkey, and state institutions,” “unlawfully disclosing or obtaining personal data,” “insulting a public official in connection with their duty,” and “defamation.” Yıldız gave her statement at the police station as part of the ongoing investigation.

### **Mustafa Mert Bildircin**

Journalist Mustafa Mert Bildircin, who serves as Vice President of the Ankara Branch of the Contemporary Journalists’ Association (ÇGD) and is a reporter for BirGün, is under investigation for his coverage of Ali Erbaş, the President of Turkey’s Directorate of Religious Affairs (Diyanet). The Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office opened an investigation on charges of “publicly disseminating misleading information,” and Bildircin gave his statement at the police station accompanied by his lawyer. The investigation is still in progress.

### **Ahmet Kanbal**

Journalist Ahmet Kanbal, a reporter for Mezopotamya Agency (MA), was initially investigated for “terrorist propaganda” due to his statements during a live broadcast from Kahramanmaraş following the February 6, 2023, earthquakes. The Mardin Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office later dismissed the terrorism charge but referred the case for a new investigation under TCK 217/A, claiming that his remarks constituted “publicly disseminating misleading information.” The investigation remains open.

## **Summaries of other ongoing investigations**

### **Istanbul Bar Association’s executive board (11 lawyers)**

The Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office launched an investigation against Istanbul Bar Association President İbrahim Özden Kaboğlu and 11 executive board members over their statement regarding the killing of journalists Nazım Daştan and Cihan Bilgin in northern Syria. Kaboğlu and the board members—Metin İriz, Rukiye Leyla Süren, Hürrem Sönmez, Mehmedali Barış Beşli, Ahmet Ergin, Yelda Koçak Urfa, Fırat Epözdemir, Ezgi Şahin Yalvarıcı, Ekim Bilen Selimoğlu, and Bengisu Kadı Çavdar—are accused of “making terrorist propaganda” and “publicly disseminating misleading information.” On January 7, 2025, they submitted written defenses to the prosecutor’s office. The prosecutor’s office has since prepared an indictment requesting their dismissal from office and the election of a new bar president and executive board.

## **Bircan Yıldırım**

Social media broadcaster Bircan Yıldırım was detained on November 9, 2023, in Ankara after sharing a post claiming that President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had reached a \$2 billion agreement involving the granting of Turkish citizenship to 1 million Palestinians. Yıldırım deleted the post shortly after sharing it but was arrested on charges of “publicly disseminating misleading information.” She was released on November 21, 2023. No further details about the trial are available.

## **Prof. Dr. Övgün Ahmet Ercan**

Geophysicist Prof. Dr. Övgün Ahmet Ercan was detained on February 28, 2023, over his social media posts about the February 6 earthquakes in Kahramanmaraş. He was released on March 1, 2023, under a travel ban imposed as a judicial control measure.

## **Tuncay Özkan**

The Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office launched an investigation into CHP İzmir MP Tuncay Özkan over remarks he made on Sözcü TV’s “Başkent Kulisleri” program, where he discussed claims by Victory Party leader Ümit Özdağ that he might be assassinated in prison. Özkan is accused of “publicly disseminating misleading information.” The Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK) President Ebubekir Şahin also announced that an investigation into the program had been opened.

## **Aydın Mantar**

The Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office launched an investigation into lawyer Aydın Mantar over his social media post regarding İlker Gönen, a detainee in the “Yenidoğan Gang” trial who committed suicide in prison. Mantar had alleged that Gönen was driven to suicide through psychological torture. He is now being investigated for “publicly disseminating misleading information.”

## **Cemil Çiçek**

The Antalya Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office initiated an investigation against lawyer Cemil Çiçek over his social media post about the suicide of İlker Gönen while in detention at an Antalya prison. He is being investigated for “publicly disseminating misleading information.”

## **Investigations dismissed with non-prosecution decisions**

### **Barış Pehlivan**

Cumhuriyet newspaper columnist Barış Pehlivan was investigated over his article titled “I am revealing the killers,” published on September 22, 2023. He faced accusations of “defamation,” “publicly disseminating misleading information,” and “insult.” At the time the investigation was launched, Pehlivan was already incarcerated at Silivri Prison, where he provided his statement. The Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office later dismissed the charges of “defamation” and “publicly disseminating misleading information.”

## **Şükran Ekinci**

The Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor's Office opened an investigation into Artı TV news anchor Şükran Ekinci for sharing a T24 news report about the mining disaster in İliç, Erzincan on her X (formerly Twitter) account. She was investigated under TCK 217/A for "publicly disseminating misleading information." Accompanied by an MLSA Legal Unit lawyer, Ekinci gave her statement at the police station. The prosecutor's office later ruled non-prosecution on March 12, 2024.

## **Ahmet Sesli**

The Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office launched an investigation into Milli Gazete's Ankara representative Ahmet Sesli over his social media post regarding unidentified earthquake victims being buried in paupers' graves without official records. Sesli was summoned for questioning and gave his statement at the police station. On March 8, 2023, the prosecutor's office decided not to proceed with the case.

## **Mehmet Güleş**

Mezopotamya Agency reporter Mehmet Güleş was detained on February 8, 2023, over an unpublished interview he conducted with volunteer worker Mehmet Nuri Güzel in the earthquake-affected area in Diyarbakır. Both Güleş and Güzel were accused of "publicly disseminating misleading information" and were subjected to a daily police check-in requirement and a travel ban before being released on March 9, 2023. The Diyarbakır Chief Public Prosecutor's Office ultimately dropped the charges on November 1, 2023.

## **Mir Ali Koçer**

The Diyarbakır Chief Public Prosecutor's Office launched an investigation into freelance journalist Mir Ali Koçer over his reports and social media posts about search and rescue operations following the February 6, 2023, earthquakes. Koçer gave his statement to the police in Diyarbakır on February 17, 2023, and the case was later dismissed.

## **Canan Kaya**

The Istanbul Anadolu Chief Public Prosecutor's Office opened an investigation into Canan Kaya, owner and editor-in-chief of Medya Koridoru, for her February 13, 2023, earthquake coverage on YouTube. She was accused of "publicly disseminating misleading information" under TCK 217/A. Kaya, whose legal defense was handled by MLSA, gave her statement at the police station. On May 10, 2023, the prosecutor's office ruled non-prosecution, dismissing the case.

## **Medine Mamedoğlu (First investigation)**

The Diyarbakır Chief Public Prosecutor's Office launched an investigation into Nu JINHA journalist Medine Mamedoğlu over a social media post containing information from an earthquake survivor following the February 6, 2023, earthquakes in Kahramanmaraş. She was accused of "inciting hatred and enmity among the public" and "publicly disseminating misleading information." Mamedoğlu gave her statement at the police station, and on April 5, 2023, the

prosecutor's office dropped the charges.

### **Medine Mamedođlu (Second investigation)**

Mamedođlu faced a second investigation after posting news updates on a fire that broke out between Mardin and Diyarbakır on June 20, 2024, which killed 15 people and injured 78 others. Following a tip-off, the Diyarbakır Chief Public Prosecutor's Office accused her of "publicly disseminating misleading information." She was summoned to the police station, where she gave her statement. On October 23, 2024, the case was dismissed.

### **Hüsniye Karakoyun and Mahmut Karakoyun**

Hüsniye Karakoyun, owner of Tunceli Emek newspaper, and Mahmut Karakoyun, its responsible managing editor, were investigated over a news report titled "Official opening ceremony held for five portable toilets in Tunceli." The Tunceli Special Provincial Administration Secretary-General Nazif Yıldırım filed a criminal complaint against the journalists. The Tunceli Chief Public Prosecutor's Office ruled non-prosecution, stating that at the time the report was published on October 12, 2022, the censorship law had not yet come into effect and that the article was of public interest.

### **İlknur Bilir**

Journalist İlknur Bilir, who resides in Germany, was detained at Istanbul Sabiha Gökçen Airport on September 23, 2023, over social media posts she made during the February 6 earthquakes. A criminal complaint was filed by an individual, leading the Zonguldak Chief Public Prosecutor's Office to issue an arrest warrant for her statement to be taken. After giving her statement at the police station, Bilir was released. On November 7, 2023, the prosecutor's office ruled non-prosecution.

### **Aslıhan Gençay**

The Bakırköy Chief Public Prosecutor's Office opened an investigation into journalist Aslıhan Gençay over an article titled "Endless Strip Searches," published on GazeteDavul on December 29, 2022. She was accused of "publicly disseminating misleading information" and "inciting hatred and enmity." Gençay gave her statement at the police station on March 25, 2023. On April 5, 2023, the prosecutor's office dropped the charges.

### **Emre Orman**

The Istanbul Anadolu Chief Public Prosecutor's Office launched an investigation into journalist Emre Orman for reporting a statement by the Contemporary Lawyers' Association (ÇHD) about Ahmet Güreşçi, who allegedly died from torture at a gendarmerie station. Orman was accused of "publicly insulting the state's military institutions," "fabricating a crime," and "publicly disseminating misleading information." On April 13, 2023, Orman gave his statement at the prosecutor's office, accompanied by MLSA lawyers. On May 2, 2023, the case was dismissed.

### **Oktay Candemir**

The Van Chief Public Prosecutor's Office launched an investigation into journalist Oktay



Candemir in 2023 after he shared information on X (formerly Twitter) claiming that İpekyolu District Governor and former trustee of İpekyolu Municipality, İhsan Emre Aydın, was receiving multiple salaries. The investigation was initiated following a criminal complaint by Aydın. Candemir gave his statement as part of the investigation, and on May 8, 2023, the prosecutor's office ruled non-prosecution, dismissing the charges.

### **Ahmet Kanbal (First investigation)**

Mezopotamya Agency (MA) journalist Ahmet Kanbal was investigated over his social media posts about the appointment of government trustees to municipalities. The Mardin Chief Public Prosecutor's Office opened an investigation on charges of "publicly disseminating misleading information," and Kanbal gave his statement at the police station on September 25, 2024. The prosecutor's office later issued a non-prosecution decision, citing the precedent set by the Court of Cassation's 8th Criminal Chamber in the Sinan Aygöl case.

### **Ahmet Kanbal (Second investigation)**

The Mardin Chief Public Prosecutor's Office launched another investigation into Kanbal over his news reports and social media posts about Lokman Görgün, a father of eight who was killed on April 8, 2023, in Mardin's Ömeryan region on allegations of being a PKK member. The prosecutor's office accused Kanbal of "publicly disseminating misleading information." After giving his statement to the police, the case was dismissed with a non-prosecution decision on May 31, 2023.

### **Zeynep Kuray**

Journalist Zeynep Kuray, whose defense was handled by MLSA, was investigated for her 2023 social media post about a gendarmerie crackdown on environmental activists protesting the destruction of Akbelen Forest in Muğla. The Milas Chief Public Prosecutor's Office launched an investigation into "publicly disseminating misleading information." Kuray gave her statement during the investigation, and on April 26, 2024, the prosecutor's office ruled non-prosecution.

### **Serdar Akinan**

Journalist Serdar Akinan was detained on April 19, 2023, in Ayvalık, Balıkesir, over his social media posts and YouTube broadcasts. He was brought to Istanbul on the same day and investigated under TCK 217/A for "publicly disseminating misleading information." A confidentiality order was placed on the investigation. On April 20, 2023, he was released under judicial control measures, including a travel ban. The prosecutor's office later ruled non-prosecution, dropping the case.

### **Evren Demirdağ (First investigation)**

The Elazığ Chief Public Prosecutor's Office launched an investigation into Sözcü journalist Evren Demirdağ over his report stating that businessman Veysel Demirci, known for his close ties to the government, had received a 642 million TL tender from the Housing Development Administration of Turkey (TOKİ). The investigation was opened following a criminal compla-

int by Demirci. Demirdař gave his statement at the police station, and on November 25, 2024, the prosecutor’s office ruled non-prosecution.

### **Evren Demirdař (Second investigation)**

In a second investigation, Demirdař was targeted for reporting on a road tender awarded by the Elazıř Special Provincial Administration through a negotiated procedure, titled “The governor cited security concerns and awarded a million-dollar tender through negotiation.” The investigation was launched following a complaint from the Elazıř governor. Demirdař gave his statement to the police, and on December 5, 2024, the case was dismissed.

### **Zlal Kalkandelen**

The Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office launched an investigation into Cumhuriyet newspaper columnist Zlal Kalkandelen over her article titled “Children under state protection sent to a religious sect camp!” The investigation was initiated after a complaint from the Suf-fa Foundation, accusing her of “publicly disseminating misleading information.” Kalkandelen gave her statement to the prosecutor on September 23, 2024, and the case was dismissed.

### **İsmail Arı, Uęur Koę, Berkant Gltekin, Emre Yıldırım**

Following a criminal complaint by Gngren Municipality, the Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office opened an investigation against BirGn journalist İsmail Arı, editorial coordinators Uęur Koę and Berkant Gltekin, and BirGn TV editor Emre Yıldırım over their report titled “They’re selling death, not homes!”, published on January 29, 2023. The journalists were investigated for “publicly disseminating misleading information.” After providing statements, the case was dismissed on April 10, 2023.

### **İsmail Arı**

In a separate case, the Turkish Red Crescent (Kızılay) and Kızılay Beverage Industry and Trade Inc. filed a criminal complaint against İsmail Arı over his report titled “They poisoned the public,” which revealed high levels of arsenic detected in Kızılay’s mineral water. The Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office investigated Arı under TCK 217/A and later issued a non-prosecution decision on May 12, 2023.

### **İsmail Arı, Uęur Koę, Berkant Gltekin, Uęur řahin**

The Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office launched an investigation against BirGn editorial coordinators Berkant Gltekin and Uęur Koę, and reporters İsmail Arı and Uęur řahin over two news articles: “A ruling against Erdoğan’s circle: A halt to plundering,” published on January 6, 2023, and “A billion-dollar fraud for an AKP member’s wife,” published on December 28, 2022. The investigation was opened following a complaint by Pasifik Real Estate Investment Trust and Fatih Erdoğan, the husband of AKP MP Asuman Erdoğan. The journalists were accused of “publicly disseminating misleading information,” “defamation,” and “insult.” After providing their statements, the case was dismissed.

## **İsmail Arı, Dilan Esen**

The Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office opened an investigation into BirGün journalist İsmail Arı and former BirGün responsible news editor Dilan Esen following a criminal complaint from AKP Gaziantep MP and former Minister of Justice Abdulhamit Gül over their report titled "A scam as sweet as a rose," published on February 16, 2024. The article detailed allegations that homebuyers who paid for properties from a construction company owned by Gül's brother and sister-in-law did not receive their apartments. The journalists were accused of "publicly disseminating misleading information" and "insult." After providing their statements, the case was dismissed.

## **Gökhan Özbek**

The Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office launched an investigation into journalist Gökhan Özbek over a post on the 23 Derece platform about a 14-year-old child named Y.D., who was allegedly tortured and mistreated by police during the Newroz celebrations in Diyarbakır. Özbek was accused of "publicly disseminating misleading information," but the case was later dismissed.

## **Erdem Avşar, Eray Erollu, Fatih Ergin, Kemal Çelik, Ahmet Çelik and Burak Öztunalı Ali Güven and Özlem Denizmen**

The Capital Markets Board (SPK) filed a criminal complaint against Yeniçağ Internet Newspaper's former responsible news editor Erdem Avşar, former editor-in-chief Fatih Ergin, deputy editor-in-chief Eray Erollu, Yeniçağ Gazetecilik ve Matbaacılık A.Ş. Chairman Kemal Çelik, and legal representative Ahmet Çelik, as well as Paradurumu.com's responsible news editor Burak Öztunalı, publishing consultant Ali Güven, and owner Özlem Denizmen. The complaint was based on their report titled "Dollar to rise to this level in 15 days: Leaked from the Central Bank report," published on March 18, 2024. After Yeniçağ published a correction and a retraction on the same day, the investigation was closed.

# **Lawsuits filed under TCK 217/A**

## **Finalized cases**

### **Ahmet Kanbal**

Journalist Ahmet Kanbal, a reporter for Mezopotamya Agency (MA), was prosecuted for "publicly disseminating misleading information" after sharing a news report on his social media account about the disappearance of ballot box No. 1363 in Mardin's Artuklu district during the May 14, 2023, presidential and parliamentary elections. The Mardin Criminal Court of First Instance ruled on December 13, 2023, that the legal elements of the alleged crime were not met, and Kanbal was acquitted.

## **Ferit Aslan**

Ferit Aslan, the Diyarbakır representative of Medyascope, was charged with “publicly disseminating misleading information” over his news report titled “A judge raided a school with police in Mardin and had three students detained.” Following a complaint by the judge mentioned in the report, the Mardin Criminal Judgeship of Peace imposed an access ban on the article. However, on May 31, 2024, the Mardin 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance ruled that Aslan had not committed a crime, citing a lack of legal grounds for the charge, and acquitted him.

## **Cengiz Erdinç**

Journalist Cengiz Erdinç, a writer for Kısa Dalga, was detained on November 2, 2023, after police raided his home in Ayvalık, Balıkesir, over a social media post quoting a book. He was released the following day on November 3, 2023, under judicial control measures, including a travel ban and a requirement to check in at the police station once a week. The Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office initially prepared an indictment, but then transferred the case to Ayvalık due to lack of jurisdiction. On January 7, 2025, the Ayvalık 1st Criminal Court of First Instance held the first hearing and acquitted Erdinç.

## **Hasan Sivri**

Journalist Hasan Sivri faced charges of “publicly disseminating misleading information” after posting videos from Antakya showing the aftermath of the February 6, 2023, earthquakes. The Ankara 33rd Criminal Court of First Instance delivered its ruling on December 21, 2023, acquitting Sivri of all charges.

## **İdris Yılmaz**

Journalist İdris Yılmaz was prosecuted for “publicly disseminating misleading information,” “inciting the public to disobey laws,” and “inciting hatred and enmity” over his social media posts about police violence during protests in Van after Abdullah Zeydan was denied his mayoral mandate despite winning the Van Metropolitan Municipality elections on March 31, 2024. The Erciş 4th Criminal Court of First Instance dismissed the case on January 9, 2025, citing a previous investigation against Yılmaz on the same charges that had already been dropped. His defense was handled by MLSA.

## **Oktay Candemir**

Journalist Oktay Candemir was prosecuted for “publicly disseminating misleading information” after reporting on the sexual assault of a 16-year-old girl in Van’s Muradiye district. The Van 6th Criminal Court of First Instance ruled on November 14, 2023, that Candemir was not guilty, acquitting him of all charges.

## **Onur Öncü**

Journalist Onur Öncü was charged with “publicly disseminating misleading information” over a social media post about alleged irregularities during the vote counting process in the first round of the May 14, 2023, presidential and parliamentary elections. His legal defense was handled by MLSA. The Küçükçekmece 28th Criminal Court of First Instance ruled on July 1, 2024, that the legal elements of the alleged crime were not met, acquitting Öncü.

## Yüsra Batıhan

Journalist Yüsra Batıhan was prosecuted over her social media posts regarding negligence and obstruction in relief efforts in Hatay following the February 6, 2023, earthquakes in Kahramanmaraş. The Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office charged her with "publicly disseminating misleading information." The Ankara 75th Criminal Court of First Instance ruled on January 21, 2025, sentencing Batıhan to 10 months in prison but postponed the announcement of the verdict. The case is currently under appeal.

## Ruşen Takva

Journalist Ruşen Takva was prosecuted over a social media post alleging that MHP Hakkari Provincial Chair Fatih Özbek was involved in an armed attack. The Hakkari 1st Criminal Court of First Instance ruled on September 6, 2023, that the legal elements of the crime were not established, acquitting Takva. However, the prosecutor appealed the decision.

## Dinçer Gökçe

Journalist Dinçer Gökçe, news editor at Halktv.com.tr, was charged with "publicly disseminating misleading information" over his article titled "Turhan Döner and Emirhan Döner, accused of being gang leaders, released." He was detained on November 1, 2023, but released the same day under judicial control measures. The Bakırköy 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance acquitted Gökçe on May 21, 2024, ruling that the legal elements of the crime were not met. The prosecutor appealed the verdict, and the case is now pending before the Regional Court of Appeals.

## Ali İmat and İbrahim İmat

Journalists Ali İmat and İbrahim İmat, who managed the "Mutlu Şehir Osmaniye" social media page, were charged with "publicly disseminating misleading information" after posting about relief tents for earthquake victims being withheld following the February 6, 2023, earthquakes. They were arrested on February 26, 2023, and released on March 30, 2023. The court found them guilty, issuing a sentence. However, the journalists did not disclose the exact prison term but stated that their case is under appeal at the Regional Court of Appeals.

## Merdan Yanardağ

Merdan Yanardağ, editor-in-chief of Tele 1, was prosecuted for "publicly disseminating misleading information" over a social media post regarding an alleged assassination plot against former CHP leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu. The Istanbul 35th Criminal Court of First Instance ruled on February 4, 2025, that there was no evidence to support the charge, acquitting Yanardağ.

## Mehmet Yetim

Mehmet Yetim, owner and editor-in-chief of Kulis TV, a local broadcaster in Şanlıurfa, was charged with "publicly disseminating misleading information" after posting about an attack on the election campaign vehicle of the DEVA Party during the May 14, 2023, general elections. The Şanlıurfa 1st Criminal Court of First Instance ruled on December 27, 2023, that the legal

elements of the alleged crime were not met, acquitting Yetim.

## **Sinan Aygöl**

Sinan Aygöl, president of the Bitlis Journalists' Association, was arrested on December 14, 2022, over a social media post about allegations of child abuse in Tatvan, Bitlis. He was prosecuted for "publicly disseminating misleading information" and was sentenced to 10 months in prison by the Tatvan Criminal Court of First Instance on February 28, 2023. His legal defense was handled by MLSA. The court did not suspend his sentence. After his lawyers appealed, the Van Regional Court of Appeals 2nd Criminal Chamber rejected the appeal, sending the case to the Court of Cassation's 8th Criminal Chamber (Yargıtay). The Court of Cassation overturned the conviction, ruling that Aygöl had exercised his right to report as a journalist and had no intent to commit a crime. On September 22, 2024, the Van Regional Court of Appeals 2nd Criminal Chamber followed the Court of Cassation's ruling, acquitting Aygöl on the grounds that the legal elements of the offense were not met.

## **Ongoing lawsuits against journalists under TCK 217/A**

### **Evrin Kepenek**

Bianet editor Evrim Kepenek is on trial for "publicly disseminating misleading information" after posting on social media about claims that gendarmerie forces seized aid sent to Pazarlık following the February 6, 2023, earthquakes in Kahramanmaraş. The case is being heard at the Istanbul 13th Criminal Court of First Instance and has been postponed to February 24, 2025.

### **Rojda Oğuz**

Journalist Rojda Oğuz is facing trial for "publicly disseminating misleading information" after posting on social media about allegations that police confiscated aid sent to the earthquake zone by the HDP. The Bakırköy 19th Criminal Court of First Instance issued a warrant for her arrest to ensure she gives a statement. The trial date has not yet been set.

### **Fırat Bulut**

Journalist Fırat Bulut is on trial for "publicly disseminating misleading information" over a social media post about an uprising and fire at Elbistan E-Type Prison following the February 6, 2023, earthquakes. Upon returning from the earthquake zone, Bulut was detained at Ankara Esenboğa Airport on March 10, 2023, and released the next day with a travel ban as a judicial control measure.

The Elbistan District Gendarmerie Command later confirmed that an uprising and fire had indeed occurred in the A and B blocks of the prison at the time of Bulut's post. However, the Elbistan 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance ruled lack of jurisdiction and transferred the case to Bingöl. The Bingöl 1st Criminal Court of First Instance also ruled lack of jurisdiction, leading to a jurisdictional dispute. The case has been sent to the Court of Cassation's 5th Criminal Chamber, which has yet to decide which court will handle the trial.

## **Tolga Şardan**

Journalist Tolga Şardan is facing trial over his T24 article titled “What is in the MIT’s Judicial Report presented to the Presidency?” He was arrested on November 1, 2023, and released on November 6, 2023. He is charged with “publicly disseminating misleading information” and “insulting the judiciary.” The Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance has postponed the case to May 2, 2025, to allow the prosecution to prepare its final opinion.

## **Dinçer Gökçe, Nilay Can and Veysi Dünder**

Halktv.com.tr News Editor Dinçer Gökçe, Gazete Pencere News Editor Nilay Can, journalist Veysi Dünder, and lawyer İrem Çiçek were detained on November 3, 2024, over their news reports and posts about the prosecutor allegedly being removed from the “Yenidoğan Gang” investigation. They were released on the same day under judicial control measures. The Bakırköy 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance has postponed the case to March 4, 2025.

## **Seyhan Avşar, Doğan Akın ve Candan Yıldız**

Gerçek Gündem editor-in-chief Seyhan Avşar, T24 editor-in-chief Doğan Akın, and T24 managing editor Candan Yıldız are facing charges of “publicly disseminating misleading information” and “making terrorist propaganda” over their news reports and social media posts about the killing of journalists Nazım Daştan and Cihan Bilgin in Syria. The court where the case will be heard has not yet been determined.

## **Lawsuits against others under TCK 217/A**

### **Concluded cases**

#### **Önder Algedik**

Energy expert Önder Algedik was prosecuted for “publicly disseminating misleading information” over his social media posts criticizing the Interior Ministry’s Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) following the February 6, 2023, earthquakes. The case was heard at the Ankara 24th Criminal Court of First Instance, which ruled on February 8, 2024, that Algedik was not guilty, acquitting him.

#### **Veli Saçılık**

Sociologist and writer Veli Saçılık was prosecuted for “publicly disseminating misleading information” over a social media post in which he criticized the government’s handling of rescue operations following the February 6, 2023, earthquakes. He wrote, “The first three days were crucial for rescue efforts. By saying, ‘No one but AFAD will be allowed,’ they left people to die.” On November 29, 2024, the Ankara 10th Criminal Court of First Instance sentenced Saçılık to 10 months in prison. The case is currently under appeal at the Ankara Regional Court of Appeals.

#### **Evren Barış Yavuz**

Political communication expert Evren Barış Yavuz was prosecuted for “publicly dissemi-

nating misleading information,” “making terrorist propaganda,” and “insult in a continuous manner” over a social media post featuring a photo of Selçuk Bayraktar and his brother Haluk Bayraktar at a Palestine rally, with the caption “They sold jet fuel.” He was arrested on April 13, 2024, and released on July 10, 2024. On October 30, 2024, the Istanbul 23rd High Criminal Court sentenced Yavuz to 1 year and 15 days in prison for “publicly disseminating misleading information,” but postponed the announcement of the verdict.

### **Sedat Cezayirliođlu**

Environmental and human rights activist Sedat Cezayirliođlu was arrested on February 14, 2024, over his statements and social media posts about the mining disaster in İliç, Erzincan, which killed nine workers. He was released with judicial control measures, including a ban on approaching the mine site within 3 km and a requirement to check in at the police station. The İliç Criminal Court of First Instance acquitted Cezayirliođlu on November 20, 2024. However, the İliç and Erzincan Chief Public Prosecutor’s Offices appealed the acquittal.

### **Nevzat Çelik**

Poet Nevzat Çelik was prosecuted for “publicly disseminating misleading information” over his social media posts about the wildfires in İzmir on August 17, 2024. He was detained and later released with a travel ban. On January 31, 2025, the Ayvalık 3rd Criminal Court of First Instance acquitted Çelik.

### **Yusuf Eryazgan**

Dr. Yusuf Eryazgan, president of the Şanlıurfa Family Physicians Association, was prosecuted for “publicly disseminating misleading information” after stating in a television interview on December 9, 2022, that family health centers had insufficient vaccine supplies. The Istanbul 32nd Criminal Court of First Instance ruled on January 10, 2025, that Eryazgan was not guilty, acquitting him.

### **Hasan Zorlucan and Kamil Çavuşođlu**

Hasan Zorlucan, Rize Provincial Chair of the Labor Party (EMEP), and Kamil Çavuşođlu, Fındıklı District Executive of EMEP, were prosecuted for “publicly disseminating misleading information” over a banner they put up regarding the February 6, 2023, earthquakes in Kahramanmaraş. The banner read: “On the 15th day of the earthquake, the government, by abandoning earthquake victims to a deadlock, sentencing them to death, and failing to meet their shelter needs in a timely manner according to regional conditions, is also responsible for further deaths.” The Pazar 1st Criminal Court of First Instance ruled on October 5, 2023, that Zorlucan and Çavuşođlu were not guilty, acquitting them.

### **Eyyup Akıncı**

Lawyer Eyyup Akıncı was prosecuted for “publicly disseminating misleading information” over a social media post regarding allegations of bribery and corruption at Küçükçekmece Courthouse. The Küçükçekmece 23rd Criminal Court of First Instance ruled on July 5, 2024, that Akıncı was not guilty, acquitting him.



## Ongoing lawsuits against others under TCK 217/A

### Nasuh Mahruki

Former AKUT (Search and Rescue Association) president Nasuh Mahruki was prosecuted for “publicly disseminating misleading information” over his social media posts regarding Supreme Election Council (YSK) President Ahmet Yener’s statements on electronic voting. Mahruki was arrested on November 20, 2024, and later released on December 5, 2024. The trial is being held at the Istanbul 15th Criminal Court of First Instance, with the first hearing taking place on February 21, 2025.

### Oğuzhan Uğur, Ercan Özdemir and Kaan Kayacan

YouTuber and Babala TV owner Oğuzhan Uğur, along with his team members Ercan Özdemir and Kaan Kayacan, are facing charges of “publicly disseminating misleading information” over social media posts from Babala TV’s X (formerly Twitter) account regarding claims that dams in Hatay and Kahramanmaraş were damaged during the February 6, 2023, earthquakes. The case is being heard at the Istanbul 46th Criminal Court of First Instance, but the trial has been postponed, and the next hearing date has not yet been set.

### Süha Çardaklı, Serkan Kafkas, Furkan Güngör, Batuhan Çolak

Süha Çardaklı and Serkan Kafkas, administrators of the “Ajans Muhbir” X account, Furkan Güngör, owner of “Haber Report,” and Batuhan Çolak, editor-in-chief of Aykırı Haber, are among 30 individuals facing prosecution for their anti-refugee news reports and social media posts. They are charged with “publicly disseminating misleading information,” “inciting hatred and enmity among the public,” and “creating fear and panic in society through threats.”

The Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office led the investigation, which resulted in the arrests of Süha Çardaklı, Serkan Kafkas, Batuhan Çolak, and Furkan Güngör on September 23, 2023. The case is being heard at the Ankara 7th Criminal Court of First Instance, with the next hearing scheduled for February 27, 2025.

## Conclusion and evaluation

The implementation of the crime of “publicly disseminating misleading information” under TCK 217/A has significantly intensified the existing judicial pressure on journalists, lawyers, academics, writers, and content creators exercising their right to freedom of expression and press. The investigation methods, the classification of news reports as evidence of a crime, the legal measures imposed, and other practices confirm criticisms that the law is vague, lacks legal predictability, and is open to arbitrary enforcement.

The detention of journalists, judicial harassment, and frequent police summons for statements create an atmosphere of intimidation and fear, further leading to widespread censorship and self-censorship. Even though many of the investigations initiated under TCK 217/A result in dismissals, the law has still become a tool for suppressing independent journalism by foste-

ring fear and self-censorship among journalists.

The climate of repression caused by the law severely restricts journalists' ability to work freely and limits the public's access to accurate and objective information. The vague and unpredictable nature of the law's definition makes it easier to target and silence specific individuals or groups. In a context where concerns over judicial independence in Turkey are growing, the law's use in politically sensitive cases raises further questions about its legitimacy.

Additionally, the "cyber patrol" (sanal devriye) practice, which involves constant surveillance of opposition journalists and media outlets, represents another major legal violation. This practice allows authorities to actively search for offenses in journalistic content, even in the absence of any complaints or reports against them. This further reinforces an environment of state-led media control and intimidation.

## List of investigations and lawsuits filed under TCK 217/A

Investigations opened against journalists				
Name and surname	Outlet	Date and Place	Judicial control	State of the investigation
Mehmet Sıddık Güler	Serhat News	Van-2024	Called to testify	Investigation Pending
Mehmet Sıddık Güler	Serhat News	Van-2023	Called to testify	Investigation Pending
Müeyesser Yıldız	Freelancer	Ankara-2024	Called to testify	Investigation Pending
Ali İmat and İbrahim İmat	osmaniyedenhaber.com	Osmaniye-2023	Arrest after detention	Case filed
Cengiz Erdiñç	Kısa Dalga	Ankara-2023	Judicial measures after detention	Case filed
Diñçer Gökçe	Halk Tv	İstanbul-2023	Judicial measures after detention	Case filed
Diñçer Gökçe	Halk Tv	İstanbul-2024	Judicial measures after detention	Case filed
Ferit Aslan	CEGA Medya-Medyascope	Mardin-2024	Called to testify	Case filed
Fırat Bulut	Freelance	Maraş-2023	Judicial measures after detention	Case filed
İdris Yılmaz	ajans65.com	Van-2023	Called to testify	Case filed
Mehmet Yetim	Kulis Tv	Urfa-2023	Called to testify	Case filed
Nilay Can	Gazete Pencere	İstanbul-2024	Judicial measures after detention	Case filed
Oktay Candemir	Freelancer	Van-2023	Called to testify	Case filed
Onur Öncü	Diken.com	İstanbul-2023	Called to testify	Case filed
Ruşen Takva	Freelancer	Hakkari-2023	Called to testify	Case filed
Tolga Şardan	T24	İstanbul-2023	Arrested after detention	Case filed

Ahmet Kanbal	Mezopotamya Ajansı	Mardin-2023	Called to testify	Case filed
Candan Yıldız	T24	İstanbul-2024	Called to testify	Case filed
Doğan Akın	T24	İstanbul-2024	Called to testify	Case filed
Evrin Kepenek	Bianet	İstanbul-2023	Called to testify	Case filed
Hasan Sivri	Freelancer	Ankara-2023	Called to testify	Case filed
Merdan Yanardağ	Tele 1	İstanbul-2023	Called to testify	Case filed
Rojda Oğuz	Journalist	İstanbul-2023	Called to testify	Case filed
Seyhan Aşar	Gerçek Gündem	İstanbul-2024	Called to testify	Case filed
Sinan Aygöl	Freelancer	Bitlis-2022	Arrested after detention	Case filed
Veysi Dünder	Journalist	İstanbul-2024	Judicial measures after detention	Case filed
Yüstra Batıhan	Freelancer	Ankara-2023	Called to testify	Case filed
Ahmet Kanbal	Mezopotamya Ajansı	Mardin-2024	Called to testify	Investigation Pending
Barış Pehlivan	Cumhuriyet	Ankara-2023	Called to testify	Investigation Pending
Duygu Kit	Gazete Duvar	Erzincan-2024	Called to testify	Investigation Pending
Fırat Bulut	Freelancer	Bingöl-2023	Arrest warrant issued	Investigation Pending
Furkan Karabay	10 Haber. Com	İstanbul-2024	Detained	Investigation Pending
Gökhan Özbek	23 Derece Twitter	Ankara-2023	Judicial measures after detention	Investigation Pending
Gökhan Özbek	23 Derece Twitter	Ankara-2023	Judicial measures after detention	Investigation Pending
Gökhan Özbek	23 Derece Twitter	Ankara-2023	Judicial measures after detention	Investigation Pending
Fatih Altaylı	Journalist	İstanbul-2024	Called to testify	Investigation Pending
Mustafa Mert Bildircin	Birgün Gazetesi	Ankara-2024	Called to testify	Investigation Pending
Özlem Gürses	Journalist	İstanbul-2024	House arrest after detention	Investigation Pending
Sevilay Yılman	Journalist	İstanbul-2024	Called to testify	Investigation Pending
İsmail Saymaz	Halk Tv	İstanbul-2024	Called to testify	Investigation Pending
İsmail Saymaz	Halk Tv	İstanbul-2024	Called to testify	Investigation Pending
Kayhan Ayhan	Birgün Gazetesi	İstanbul-2024	Called to testify	Investigation Pending
Kayhan Ayhan	Birgün Gazetesi	İstanbul-2024	Called to testify	Investigation Pending
Rabia Önver	JINNEWS	Hakkari-2024	Called to testify	Investigation Pending
Ruşen Takva	Freelancer	Van- 2024	Called to testify	Investigation Pending
Seyhan Aşar	Gerçek Gündem	İstanbul-2024	Called to testify	Investigation Pending

Zübeyde Sarı	KRT TV	İstanbul-2024	Called to testify	Investigation Pending
Ahmet Çelik	Yeniçağ Gazetesi	Ankara-2024	Called to testify	Non-prosecution decision
Ahmet Kanbal	Mezopotamya Ajansı	Mardin-2023	Called to testify	Non-prosecution decision
Ahmet Kanbal	Mezopotamya Ajansı	Mardin-2024	Called to testify	Non-prosecution decision
Ahmet Sesli	Milli Gazete	Ankara-2023	Called to testify	Non-prosecution decision
Ali Güven	paradurumu.com	Ankara-2024	Called to testify	Non-prosecution decision
Aslıhan Gençay	Serbest Gazeteci	İstanbul-2023	Called to testify	Non-prosecution decision
Canan Kaya	Medya Koridoru	İstanbul-2023	Called to testify	Non-prosecution decision
Emre Orman	Gazeteci	İstanbul-2023	Called to testify	Non-prosecution decision
Evren Demirdaş	Sözcü Gazetesi	Elazığ-2024	Called to testify	Non-prosecution decision
Evren Demirdaş	Sözcü Gazetesi	Elazığ-2024	Called to testify	Non-prosecution decision
Fatih Ergin	Eski Yeniçağ	Ankara-2024	Called to testify	Non-prosecution decision
Gökhan Özbek	23 Derece Twitter	Ankara-2024	Called to testify	Non-prosecution decision
Hüsniye-Mahmut Karakoyun	Tunceli Emek gazetesi	Tunceli-2022	Called to testify	Non-prosecution decision
İlknur Bilir	Journalist - Producer	Zonguldak-2023	Detained	Non-prosecution decision
İsmail Arı	Birgün Gazetesi	İstanbul-2023	Called to testify	Non-prosecution decision
İsmail Arı	Birgün Gazetesi	İstanbul- 2023	Called to testify	Non-prosecution decision
İsmail Arı	Birgün Gazetesi	Ankara-2023	Called to testify	Non-prosecution decision
İsmail Arı	Birgün Gazetesi	Ankara-2023	Called to testify	Non-prosecution decision
Kemal Çelik	Yeniçağ Gazetecilik	Ankara-2024	Called to testify	Non-prosecution decision
Medine Mamedoğlu	Nu Jinha Muhabiri	Diyarbakır-2023	Called to testify	Non-prosecution decision
Medine Mamedoğlu	Nu Jinha Muhabiri	Diyarbakır-2024	Called to testify	Non-prosecution decision
Mehmet Güleş	Mezopotamya Ajansı Muhabiri	Diyarbakır-2023	Judicial measures after detention	Non-prosecution decision
Mir Ali Koçer	Journalist	Diyarbakır-2023	Called to testify	Non-prosecution decision
Özlem Denizmen	paradurumu.com	Ankara-2024	Called to testify	Non-prosecution decision
Berkant Gültekin	BirGün Gazetesi	Ankara-2023	Called to testify	Non-prosecution decision
Berkant Gültekin	BirGün Gazetesi	İstanbul-2023	Called to testify	Non-prosecution decision
Burak Öztunalı	paradurumu.com	Ankara-2024	Called to testify	Non-prosecution decision

Dilan Esen	BirGün Gazetesi	Ankara-2024	Called to testify	Non-prosecution decision
Emre Yıldırım	BirGün TV	İstanbul-2023	Called to testify	Non-prosecution decision
Eray Erollu	Yeniçağ Gazetesi	Ankara-2024	Called to testify	Non-prosecution decision
Erdem Avşar	Eski Yeniçağ	Ankara-2024	Called to testify	Non-prosecution decision
Oktay Candemir	Serbest Gazeteci	Van-2023	Called to testify	Non-prosecution decision
Serdar Akinan	Journalist	İstanbul-2023	Judicial measures after detention	Non-prosecution decision
Şükran Ekinci	Artı Tv	Ankara-2024	Called to testify	Non-prosecution decision
Uğur Koç	BirGün Gazetesi	Ankara-2023	Called to testify	Non-prosecution decision
Uğur Koç	BirGün Gazetesi	İstanbul-2023	Called to testify	Non-prosecution decision
Uğur Şahin	BirGün Gazetesi	Ankara-2023	Called to testify	Non-prosecution decision
Zeynep Kuray	Freelancer	İstanbul-2024	Called to testify	Non-prosecution decision
Zülal Kalkandelen	Cumhuriyet	İstanbul-2024	Called to testify	Non-prosecution decision

### Investigations initiated against others

Name - surname	Profession	Date and Place	Measure imposed	Status of inves.
Serkan Kafkası	Ajans Muhbir	Ankara-2023	Arrested	Case filed
Furkan Uludağ	Ajans Muhbir	Ankara-2023	Arrested	Case filed
Batuhan Çolak	Aykırı Haber	Ankara-2023	Arrested	Case filed
Suha Çardaklı	Haber Report	Ankara-2023	Arrested	Case filed
Nevzat Çelik	Author	İzmir-2024	Judicial measures after detention	Case filed
Evren Barış Yavuz	Writer	İstanbul-2024	Arrest after detention	Case filed
İrem Çiçek	Lawyer	İstanbul-2024	House arrest after detention	Case filed
Nasuh Mahruki	Search and rescue expert	İstanbul-2024	Arrest after detention	Case filed
Oğuzhan Uğur	Babala Tv-YouTuber	İstanbul-2023	Called to testify	Case filed
Ercan Özdemir	Babala Tv-YouTuber	İstanbul-2023	Called to testify	Case filed
Kaan Kayacan	Babala Tv-YouTuber	İstanbul-2023	Called to testify	Case filed

Önder Algedik	Energy expert	Ankara-2023	Called to testify	Case filed
Sedat Cezayirođlu	Human rights defender	Erzincan-2024	Judicial measures after detention	Case filed
Veli Saçılık	Sociologist	Ankara-2023	Called to testify	Case filed
Yusuf Eryazgan	Doctor	Urfa-2023	Called to testify	Case filed
Eyyup Akıncı	Lawyer	İstanbul-2024	Called to testify, arrest warrant	Case filed
Hasan Zorlucan and Kamil Çavuşođlu	Politicians	Rize-2023	Called to testify	Case filed
Aydın Mantar	Lawyer	Antalya-2025	Called to testify	Investigation Pending
Cemil Çiçek	Lawyer	Antalya-2025	Called to testify	Investigation Pending
Bircan Yıldırım	Youtuber/ Bircan Tv	Ankara-2023	Arrested after detention	Investigation Pending
İstanbul Bar Association	Lawyers	İstanbul-2024	Called to testify	Investigation Pending
Övgün Ahmet Ercan	Academic	Malatya-2023	Arrest after detention	Investigation Pending
Tuncay Özkan	MP	İstanbul-2024	Warrant pending	Investigation Pending



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