

## Human Rights Violations in Turkey by Numbers: Journalists

- Free Journalists Initiative (ÖGİ) noted in their February 2018 report that **171** journalists remain jailed, **16** journalists were detained, **3** journalists arrested, **3** journalists given aggravated life sentence, **4** journalists given 10 years and 2 months prison time.[1]
- In 2017, Turkey was ranked **155** in Reporters Without Border's 2017 World Press Freedom Index.[2]
- Arrest warrants have been issued for more than **100** journalists, and, according to P24, an independent journalism platform, **149** journalists and media workers now languish in Turkish jails – all but 18 of them in pretrial detention pending trial – making Turkey once again the world leader in locking up journalists.[3]
- According to a report released by Turkey's Journalists' Association, **898** journalists were fired or forced to resign in the first five months of 2016 due to government interference and political pressure on editors or the owners of their media outlets.[4]
- After July 15, Turkish authorities issued, over a period of several days, detention warrants for **116** journalists, media workers and executives with alleged Gülenist ties.[5]
- Since May 2016, Turkish authorities have opened more than **50** criminal investigations into the journalists, writers, politicians and human rights lawyers involved in the solidarity campaign, at least 16 of whom have been referred to trial.[6]
- Since Erdoğan was elected president in August 2014 his lawyers have filed almost **2,000** criminal cases on charges of insulting the president, hundreds of which were directed at journalists.[7]
- The Bianet report on the first three months of 2016 recorded **86** persons, **53** of whom are journalists, facing legal action on charges of defamation or violation of personal rights of the former Prime Minister (Article 125(3) of the Turkish penal code) and the President (Article 299 of the Turkish penal code) via the media.[8]

- A crowd of around **200** people that included AKP parliament member and head of the AK Party's Youth Branch Abdurrahim Boynukalın, attacked the newspaper's headquarters in Istanbul, assaulting security personnel at the outer gates before breaking windows and trying to get into the building.[9]
- According to a report by the independent online news site Bianet, **174** journalists, columnists and media workers were forced to resign or laid off in the first quarter of 2016, compared to eight during the same period in 2015.[10]
- At least **200** journalists were fired from outlets owned by the İpek media group after the government crackdown in 2015 and subsequent closure of their outlets.[11]
- Of the **228** cases, **194** journalists are arrested pending trial, most without even an indictment and none with a conviction. **29** arrested journalists are women, including thirteen (13) Kurdish journalists, and four (4) previously working for now closed Hizmet-related media. Detention warrants have been also issued for **92** journalists who live in exile or remain at large.[12]
- The number of journalists in pretrial detention on the basis of their writing and journalistic activities surged to **144** by mid-November.[13]

[1] Aktif Haber, <http://aktifhaber.com//medya/171-gazeteci-hala-tutuklu-h113214.html>

[2] Reporters Without Borders, <https://rsf.org/en/turkey>

[3] Human Rights Watch Reports, Silencing Turkey's Media: The Government's Deepening Assault on Critical Journalism (December 2016), p.7, para.5

[4] Human Rights Watch Reports, Silencing Turkey's Media: The Government's Deepening Assault on Critical Journalism (December 2016), p.11, para.4

[5] Human Rights Watch Reports, Silencing Turkey's Media: The Government's Deepening Assault on Critical Journalism (December 2016), p.21, para.2

[6] Human Rights Watch Reports, Silencing Turkey's Media: The Government's Deepening Assault on Critical Journalism (December 2016), p.29, para.2

[7] Human Rights Watch Reports, Silencing Turkey's Media: The Government's Deepening Assault on Critical Journalism (December 2016), p.35, para.2

[8] Human Rights Watch Reports, Silencing Turkey's Media: The Government's Deepening Assault on Critical Journalism (December 2016), p.35, para.4

[9] Human Rights Watch Reports, Silencing Turkey's Media: The Government's Deepening Assault on Critical Journalism (December 2016), p.40, para.2

[10] Human Rights Watch Reports, Silencing Turkey's Media: The Government's Deepening Assault on Critical Journalism (December 2016), p.54, para.5

[11] Human Rights Watch Reports, Silencing Turkey's Media: The Government's Deepening Assault on Critical Journalism (December 2016), p.55, para.2

[12] Journalists and Writers Foundation Reports, Women's Rights Under Attack in Turkey (May 2017), p.9, para.4

[13] Human Rights Watch Reports, Turkey: Events of 2016 (January 2017), p.4, para.2