



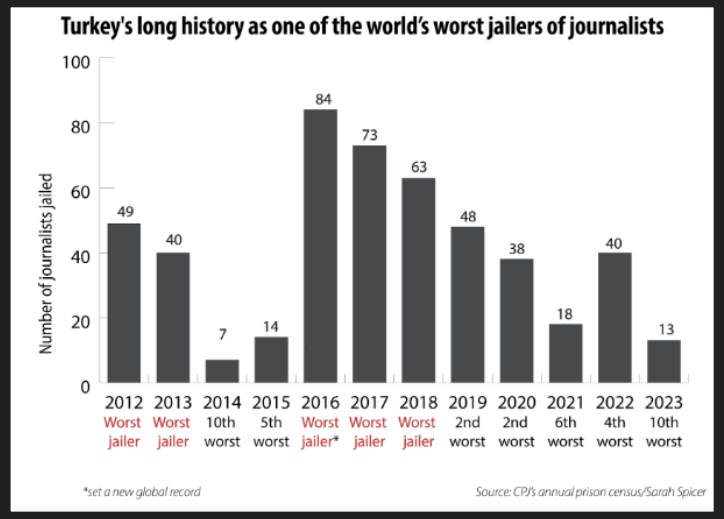
# ATTACKS ON PRESS FREEDOM AND FREE SPEECH IN TURKEY

In Turkey, the press has been marred by government interference and suppression, leading to a precarious environment for journalists, particularly women and those critical of the authorities. In the media landscape, the government's tight grip on national media outlets has pushed citizens towards seeking information from alternative sources in recent times.

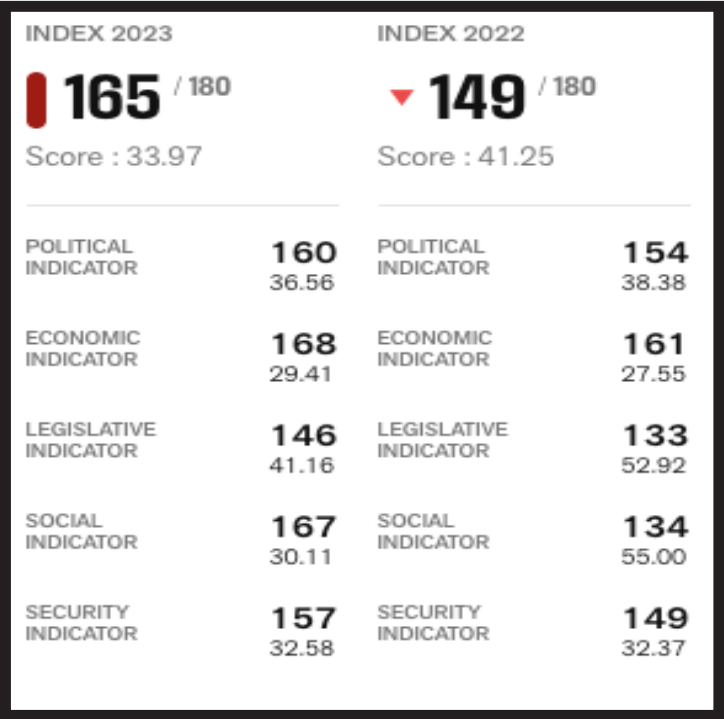
Under the administration of Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, efforts to silence journalists have intensified, with the aim of diverting attention from the country's economic and democratic challenges while bolstering political support. Despite facing accusations of corruption and favoritism, Erdoğan has managed to maintain his popularity by employing tactics such as internet censorship and legal harassment against dissenting media platforms.

Instances of discrimination against critical journalists are widespread, including actions like revoking press credentials and censoring online content related to corruption.

In the socio-cultural sphere, journalists addressing sensitive topics like domestic violence or exposing racist and discriminatory narratives often face legal repercussions or backlash on social media platforms. Concerns for journalist safety have escalated, particularly due to increased aggression from ultra-nationalist factions fueled by anti-media rhetoric as elections draw near.

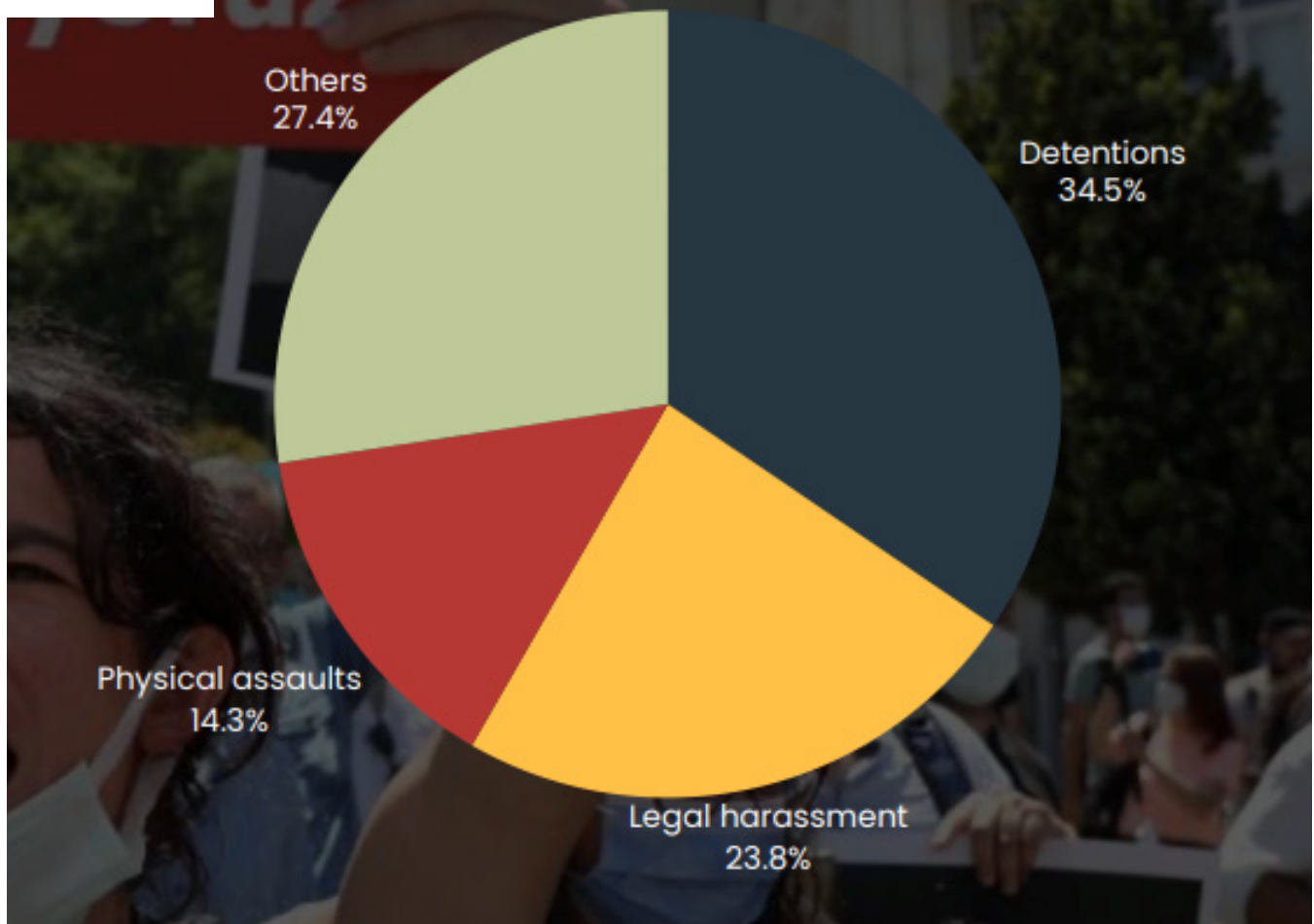


Graph retrieved from <https://cpj-org.cdn.ampproject.org/c/s/cpj.org/2024/02/drop-in-jailed-turkish-journalists-belies-a-long-simmering-press-freedom-crisis/amp/>



Graph retrieved from <https://rsf.org/en/country-t%C3%BCrkiye>

## Top Violations in 2023



Graph retrieved from <https://www.womeninjournalism.org/reports-all/press-freedom-status-for-women-journalists-annual-report-2023>

The Coalition For Women In Journalism (CFWIJ) has highlighted the perilous environment faced by women journalists in Turkey, especially those of Kurdish descent. There is a disturbing trend of harassment, detention, imprisonment, and persecution targeting women journalists, often with the involvement of state institutions. Detentions, often justified as anti-terrorism measures, instill fear and lead to self-censorship among journalists, hindering their ability to report on sensitive topics. Furthermore, legal harassment is used as a tool to suppress journalistic freedom, with journalists facing frivolous lawsuits for their reporting on issues like rape and child abuse. These lawsuits drain journalists' resources and deter others from reporting critically, contributing to a concerted effort to silence women journalists and dissuade them from pursuing their work.

Another tactic employed by the Turkish government to silence the media is imposing sanctions and restricting access. The Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK), Turkey's broadcasting regulator, imposed a total of 570 sanctions on TV stations in 2023. Additionally, the government restricted access to Twitter following deadly earthquakes in 2023, impacting both the media and individuals who lost the opportunity to communicate and seek help during emergencies.



## ACCORDING TO MLSA REPORT, AS OF APRIL 5, 2024, AT LEAST 25 JOURNALISTS AND MEDIA WORKERS ARE IN PRISON IN TURKEY

	<b>JOURNALIST</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION</b>
1	Ahmet Ayva	/
2	Ahmet Uzan	Sabah Egeli
3	Ali Ünal	Zaman
4	Baran Karadağ	Azadiya Welat
5	Erdal Süsem	Eylül
6	Erol Zavar	Odak
7	Gültekin Avcı	Bugün
8	Hatice Duman	Atılım
9	Hidayet Karaca	Samanyolu TV
10	İdris Özyol	Antalya Ekspres
11	İsmail Çoban	Azadiya Welat
12	Kenan Karavil	Radyo Dünya
13	Mehmet Baransu	Taraf
14	Mehmet Gündem	/
15	Mehmet Kamış	Zaman
16	Murat Çapan	Nokta
17	Mustafa Gök	Ekmek Ve Adalet
18	Osman Çalık	Samanyolu
19	Recai Morkoç	Cihan
20	Selahattin Kaygusuz	Yeni Yaşam
21	Sertan Önal	Halkın Günlüğü
22	Süleyman Gençel	A3 Haber
23	Zafer Özcan	Bugün
24	Ziya Ataman	Diha
25	Diren Keser	Pirha