On 29 April 2021, the Progressive Lawyers Association (ÇHD) in Turkey published a Directorate General of Security (EGM) directive that the Director General of Security, Mehmet Aktaş, had sent on April 27 to all police departments in the country. The directive instructs police officers to “take necessary action” to stop persons who are taking audio and visual recordings of public demonstrations in case the officers are being prevented from performing their duty.

This has caused a public outcry as journalists and citizens fear that it might prevent the reporting of news and the documenting of police action. Turkish police have been accused on many occasions of using disproportionate force against protestors and journalists covering public demonstrations. Most recently, several journalists on duty were targeted, assaulted, and injured by police during a demonstration in Kadıköy, Istanbul.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- Joint statement by the Association of European Journalists (AEJ), the Progressive Journalists Association (ÇGD), the Journalists’ Union of Turkey (TGS) and Turkey Press and Publishing Printing Employees Union (DİSK BASIN-İŞ): “Basin özgürlüğü, evrensel ve yerel hukukun güvencesi altındadır ve aykırı her türlü uygulama suçtur!”

- English translation of the joint statement by the Association of European Journalists (AEJ), the Progressive Journalists Association (ÇGD), the Journalists’ Union of Turkey (TGS) and Turkey Press and Publishing Printing Employees Union (DİSK BASIN-İŞ): "Freedom of the press is under the assurance of universal and local law and any other practice is a crime!"

- IPI Statement: “Turkey: IPI condemns police directive preventing audio-visual reporting on protests"