

11

May
2016
▲ Lvl. 1

No state
reply yet

Turkey

Alert created on: 30 Dec 2015

Journalist Beritan Canözer Arrested in Turkey

SOURCE OF THREAT ▶ State

CATEGORY ⓘ ▶ Detention and imprisonment of journalists

NO STATE REPLY YET

PARTNER: EFJ/IFJ

Beritan Canözer, a female journalist working for the news agency JINHA, was arrested in Diyarbakir (Turkey) on Saturday 19 December 2015 for allegedly "aiding a terrorist organisation". Canözer was first taken into custody on 16 December when covering a protest against curfews imposed by Turkish authorities in neighborhoods of the Sur district of Diyarbakir. According to media reports, the state prosecutor based his evidence against the journalist on notes she took at the event, including slogans that were being chanted by protesters. On the other hand, officers from the Turkish counterterrorism units who arrested the journalist, claimed "reasonable doubt" due to her "agitated state". An amendment to Law No. 2559 on Police Duties and Authorities passed in December 2014 allows authorities to detain anyone on "reasonable doubt" without the need for concrete evidence.

UPDATES

11 May 2016: On 10 May 2016, the Diyarbakir 4th Heavy Penal Court sentenced JINHA correspondent Beritan Canözer to 1 year and 3 months of prison for "conducting terrorist propaganda for an (illegal) organization". However the Court decided to commute this sentence to 5 years of probation. She was acquitted of the charges of "[illegal] organization membership".

01 Apr 2016: On 29 March 2016, a court ordered the release of Beritan Canözer pending trial.

➔ Article published on Bianet: "Journalist Beritan Canözer Released"

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ▼

- ➔ Article published by Today's Zaman: "JİNHA reporter arrested for 'aiding terrorist organization'"
- ➔ Press release by EFJ: "41 journalists will spend New Year's Eve in prison in Europe"

RELEVANT COE INSTRUMENTS

29 Feb 2016 | Factsheet on media coverage of protests and demonstrations

- ➔ Overview of the ECHR case law and European regulations and standards (CoE, EU, OSCE) related to media coverage of protests and demonstrations.

DISCLAIMER

This section presents a non-exhaustive selection of CoE instruments and ECHR case-law. This information is not a legal assessment of the alert and should not be treated or used as such.