

05

Jan
2016
▲ Lvl. 1

Resolved

Turkey

Alert created on: 04 Oct 2015

Detention of the Vice News Fixer Mohammed Ismael Rasool

SOURCE OF THREAT ▶ State

CATEGORY ⓘ ▶ Detention and imprisonment of journalists

PARTNER: EFJ/IFJ

Two British journalists Jake Hanrahan and Philip Pendlebury and their fixer-interpreter Mohammed Ismael Rasool working for Vice News media were initially arrested on 27 August 2015 and charged by local courts with terrorism after reporting on the situation in the south-eastern province of Diyarbakır. The three were accused of 'working on behalf of a terrorist organisation' and assisting the Islamic State. Following heavy pressure from international media rights groups and the UK government, the British journalists were released but their local fixer Mohammed Ismael Rasool remained behind bars.

RESOLVED

: On 5 January 2016, following the release of Mohammed Ismael Rasool, the partner organisations of the platform declared this case to be 'resolved', concluding that it was no longer an active threat to media freedom.

UPDATES

05 Jan 2016: On 5 January 2016, Mohammed Ismael Rasool was released on bail pending trial.

- ➔ Press release by EFJ: "Vice News stringer Mohammed Rasool released after 131 days in Turkish jail "
- ➔ Press release by CPJ: "Turkey releases VICE News journalist Mohammed Ismael Rasool on bail"

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



- Statement by the World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers (WAN-IFRA) and the World Editors Forum: 'World's Press Calls on Turkey to Release Mohammed Ismael Rasool, Respect the Right to Freedom of Expression'
- Article published on the Guardian: 'Arrested Vice News journalists to be deported from Turkey'
- Article by Jake Hanrahan published on Vice news: 'Leaving My Friend Rasool Behind and Why He Must Be Freed from Turkish Prison'

STATE REPLIES



17 Nov 2015 | Response of the Turkish Government (information provided by the Ministry of Justice)

- Letter of the Permanent Representation of Turkey to the Council of Europe