

04

Apr 2016

▲ Lvl. 2


No state
reply yet

Turkey

Alert created on: 09 Mar 2016

Zaman Media Group Seized by Authorities

SOURCE OF THREAT ▶ State

CATEGORY  ▶ Other acts having chilling effects on media freedom

NO STATE REPLY YET

PARTNER: EFJ/IFJ, AEJ, Index, RSF

On 4 March 2016, following a court order, the Turkish authorities seized the Zaman daily, Today's Zaman (English language daily of the group), the Cihan news agency and the Aksiyon weekly magazine. The Court ordered that those media should be placed under the supervision of trustees appointed by the court to take over the group management. The measure puts at risk press freedom, media pluralism in the country and job security for over 1 000 journalists and media workers employed by the group. The websites of the seized media organisations have also been handed to the trustees and all editorial lines have been altered to support the ruling party's actions.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

-  Statement by RSF: "Despotic Erdoğan seizes control of leading daily".
-  AEJ statement: "AEJ protests against seizure of Zaman newspaper in Turkey"
-  CPJ writes to Turkish PM Ahmet Davutoğlu to protest takeover of Feza media group.
-  Article published by the news portal euobserver.com: "Erdoğan, prince of Europe, took my newspaper Zaman"
-  Press release from Index on Censorship: "Index condemns seizure of Zaman "
-  Press release from EFJ: "EU leaders should react to the political seizure of Zaman media group"

FOLLOW-UPS

09 Mar 2016 |

PACE Monitoring Committee expresses serious concern at recent



developments in Turkey with respect to restrictions on media freedom and access to pluralistic information.

[➔ Statement from PACE Monitoring Committee](#)



05 Mar 2016 | PACE President expresses concern about the Istanbul Court's decision undermining media freedom

[➔ Statement of Mr Pedro Agramunt President of PACE](#)



05 Mar 2016 | CoE Secretary General considers that the court decision to appoint trustees to Zaman group is yet another worrying development with regard to media freedom in Turkey.

[➔ Statement by Council of Europe Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland](#)



04 Mar 2016 | OSCE Representative on Media Freedom calls on Turkey to refrain from acts of intimidation against media, following appointment of trustees to run Zaman newspaper.

[➔ Statement of Dunja Mijatović, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media](#)



04 Mar 2016 | CoE Human Rights Commissioner Muižnieks deplores new case of judicial harassment against media in Turkey.

[➔ HR Commissioner Nils Muižnieks statement](#)

RELEVANT COE INSTRUMENTS

04 Apr 2016 | Factsheet on Freedom of Expression and the Broadcasting Media

[➔ Overview of the ECHR case law and other relevant Council of Europe resources related to Freedom of Expression and the Broadcasting Media](#)

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.