

26
Sep 2017

▲ Lvl. 2

No state
reply yet

Turkey

Alert created on: 21 Aug 2015

Turkey Blocks Kurdish News Websites

SOURCE OF THREAT ▶ State

CATEGORY ⓘ ▶ Other acts having chilling effects on media freedom

NO STATE REPLY YET

PARTNER: AEJ, Article 19, EFJ/IFJ

On 25 July 2015, the Ankara Gölbasi Penal Court of Peace ruled to block 96 Kurdish websites in Turkey, many of which were news websites, after receiving a complaint from the Turkish Communications Authority that the websites were spreading terrorist propaganda. Among the blocked news websites were ANF (Ajansa Nûçeyan a Firatê – Firat News Agency), DİHA (Dicle Haber Ajansı – Dicle News Agency), ETHA (Etkin Haber Ajansı – Etkin News Agency), and local online newspaper Yüksekova Haber. The website blocking comes at a time of a crackdown on free expression in Turkey in the wake of a terrorist bombing in the Turkish town of Suruc, which is located near the border with Syria. All people have a right to access information, including images, on matters of public interest, which include terrorist attacks and the government's response to them.

FOLLOW-UPS



26 Sep 2017 | The CoE Commissioner for Human Rights recalls that any restrictions on access to Internet content should be based on a clear and predictable framework affording guarantee of judicial oversight to prevent possible abuses.

➔ **Comment by the Commissioner for Human Rights: "Arbitrary Internet blocking jeopardises freedom of expression"**