

13
Jun 2016

▲ Lvl. 1

State
replied

Turkey

Alert created on: 02 Apr 2015

Investigative Journalist Mehmet Baransu Arrested

SOURCE OF THREAT ▶ State

⊕ 1 Journalist in detention

CATEGORY ⓘ ▶ Detention and imprisonment of journalists

PARTNER: EFJ/IFJ

On 2 March 2015, Turkish journalist Mehmet Baransu was arrested at his home. For three weeks, he was held in custody for allegedly sharing classified information with a foreign government. Baransu is currently in jail (at Metris Cezaevi). Turkish police arrested this investigative journalist working for Taraf daily newspaper and charged him with procuring and destroying documents related to state interests. Police detained the journalist for questioning in a probe into allegations that followers of a US-based Islamic cleric and former ally of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan had formed a group of military officers convicted of plotting to overthrow the regime.

UPDATES

13 Jun 2016: On 9 June 2016, Faruk Söker, an Istanbul prosecutor from the office of terrorism and organized crime, submitted a 276-page indictment to the chief prosecutor naming five journalists including Baransu as suspects in an alleged conspiracy codenamed "Sledgehammer". The chief prosecutor approved the indictment, which will now be submitted to a court. Mehmet Baransu faces charges of "founding and running a terrorist organization" in connection with the case.

⊕ Press release from CPJ

17 May 2016: On 17 May 2016, the Second Section of the Constitutional Court rejected the appeal of journalist Mehmet Baransu.

⊕ Article published by Hurriyet

18 Nov 2015: On 17th November 2015, the İstanbul 10th High Criminal Court in Kartal postponed the trial of journalist Mehmet Baransu until March 2016, refusing among

others to present the classified National Security Council (MGK) document he is accused of revealing. Baransu is hence to remain behind bars.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

-  [Article on the Freedom House website on "Coups, Countercoups, and Journalism in Turkey"](#)
-  [Article on the Deutsche Welle website on "Turkey police arrest Erdogan critic Baransu again"](#)

STATE REPLIES



22 Oct 2015 | Response of the Turkish Government (information provided by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Turkey)

-  [Letter from the Permanent Representation of Turkey to the Council of Europe](#)

JOURNALISTS IN DETENTION

Currently in detention (1):

Mehmet Baransu