

06

Dec
2018
▲ Lvl. 1


Resolved

Belgium

Alert created on: 21 Dec 2016

Belgium Arrests a Kurdish Journalist at Turkey's Request

SOURCE OF THREAT ▶ State

CATEGORY  ▶ Detention and imprisonment of journalists

PARTNER: EFJ/IFJ


On 15 December 2016 the Kurdish journalist known as Maxime Azadi was arrested near Turnhout, in Belgium, during routine checks by the Belgian police. Maxime Azadi runs the Kurdish press agency Firat news (ANF), set in the Netherlands. He also holds the blog called « Beyond the information » (in French, « Au-delà de l'information ») on the French online Platform Mediapart. He was arrested by the Belgian police upon a request made by the Turkish authorities, which had placed an Interpol lookout (a « red notice ») against the journalist, suspected of having « cooperated with a terrorist organisation ». On 16 December 2016 the investigative judge from Turnhout placed the journalist under a detention warrant. On 19 December, the journalist's lawyer, Luc Walley, filed a motion for interim release. It should be examined on Friday 23 December by the Judges' Council Chamber of Turnhout. If the detention warrant is confirmed, the Belgian political authorities will have to rule on Maxime Azadi's extradition to Turkey.

RESOLVED

06 Dec 2018: On 23 December 2016, journalist Maxime Azadi was released on bail by the Judges' Council Chamber of Turnhout. On 6 December 2018, the partner organisations to the Platform declared this case to be "resolved", concluding it was no longer an active threat to media freedom.

UPDATES

03 Jan 2017: Journalist Maxime Azadi was released on bail on 23 December 2016

 Article published on the news website 7sur7 (in French): "Franco-Kurd journalist Maxime Azadi released on bail"

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



- ➔ Statement by IFJ (in French): "La Belgique arrête un journaliste kurde sur requête de la Turquie"
- ➔ Statement by EFJ (in French): "La Belgique arrête un journaliste kurde sur requête de la Turquie"

RELEVANT COE INSTRUMENTS



20 Jun 2018 | Thematic factsheet on Detention and Imprisonment of Journalists

- ➔ Overview of the ECHR case law and other relevant Council of Europe resources related to Detention and Imprisonment of Journalists

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.