

14

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▲ Lvl. 2

State
replied

Turkey

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Cumhuriyet Journalist Canan Coşkun Faces 23 Years in Prison for Alleged Insult

SOURCE OF THREAT ▶ State

CATEGORY ⓘ ▶ Harassment and intimidation of journalists

PARTNER: EFJ/IFJ

Cumhuriyet journalist Canan Coşkun faces more than 23 years in prison on charges of “insulting public officials over their duties” for her report alleging that top judicial officials were able to buy discounted residences from a public real estate company.

Daily Cumhuriyet reporter Canan Coşkun reported claims that a lottery to select homebuyers for a housing project in Istanbul’s Başakşehir neighborhood was rigged to favour members of a group of judges and prosecutors with ties to the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP).

UPDATES

14 May 2019: Canan Coşkun was arrested on 10 May 2019 over the unpaid fine of TL 12,600 that she was given for “insulting public official”. On 11 May 2019, Canan Coşkun was brought to Istanbul Courthouse after spending one night in police custody. She was released after the fine was paid.

27 Jan 2017: On 26 January 2017, Istanbul 2nd penal Court of first instance fined journalist Canan Coşkun to 12,600 TL for her report on judges and prosecutors becoming homeowners at a discount rate.

➔ Article published by Bianet: "Penalty for Journalist Coşkun for 'Defaming Civil Servant'"

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ▼

- ➔ Interview of Canan Coşkun by the International Press Institute: 'Q&A with Turkish journalist Canan Coşkun. Reporter faces 23 years in prison for report on judiciary officials' land deals'
- ➔ Solidarity campaign in support of Canan Coşkun launched by the Dutch Union of Journalists (in Dutch): 'Oproep solidariteitsmail Cumhuriyet-journaliste Canan Coşkun'

STATE REPLIES



12 Jan 2016 | Response from the Turkish Government

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

FOLLOW-UPS



17 Mar 2016 | The Venice Commission recommends that Article 301 of the Turkish Penal Code (Degrading Turkish Nation, State of Turkish Republic, the Organs and Institutions of the State) be redrafted and further amended with the aim of making all the notions used in it clear and specific. Application of this provision should also be limited to statements inciting to violence and hatred.

- ➔ Venice Commission opinion 831/2015 on articles 216, 299, 301 and 314 of the Penal Code of Turkey