



13

Jun 2016

▲ Lvl. 1

State replied

Turkey

n° 66/2015

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## 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 Istanbul 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