

06

Dec 2018

▲ Lvl. 1

Resolved


Turkey

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## Police Raided Azadiya Welat Newspaper, at least 23 Staff Members Detained

SOURCE OF THREAT ▶ State

CATEGORY  ▶ Detention and imprisonment of journalists

**PARTNER: EFJ/IFJ, AEJ, CPJ, Index**

On 28 August 2016, the police raided the main office of the Kurdish-language daily newspaper Azadiya Welat based in Diyarbakir. According to media reports, at least 23 staff members of the newspaper have been detained at Diyarbakir Police headquarters following the raid, the names are : Yasemin Sayin, Hayat Yilmaz, Ahmet Kızılay, Arap Turan, Berxwedan Tulpar, Sürreya Dal, Zeynep İzgi, İbrahim Bayram, Engin Özelçi, Ahmet Boltan, Ceylan İpek, Mehmet Emin Kaya, Ziyar Karahan, Veysi Altın, Ercan Yeltaş, Azime Tarhan, Serdal Polat, Cengiz Aslan, Ferit Toprak, Mehmet Hüseyin Şahin, Mehmet Aydın, Pusat Bulut and Mehmet Emin Akgün. 13 of them were released on the same day after interrogation.

Dicle News Agency reported that the police justified the operation by the notice they received that “there are [illegal] organizational meetings held”. Phones and IDs of the staff members have been seized.

### RESOLVED

**06 Dec 2018:** As of 21 February 2017, all journalists detained had been released. 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

**01 Mar 2017:** As of 21 February 2017, all journalists detained had been released.

 News published by P24

**29 Oct 2016:** A state of emergency decree shut Azadiya Welat permanently in October 2016.

 Article published by Evrensel

**18 Oct 2016:** As of 11 October 2016, Arap Turan and Ferit Toprak were put under arrest. Zeynep İzgi, İbrahim Bayram, Engin Özelçi, Pusat Bulut and Serdal Polat were released on probation. 14 other journalists were released.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- ➔ [Statement by the media branch of Disk Union \(in Turkish\)](#)
- ➔ [CPJ: Turkish police raid newspaper office, detain at least 23 employees](#)
- ➔ [Mapping media freedom: Turkey - At least 23 journalists arrested in part of raid of Azadiya Welat paper](#)
- ➔ [CPJ: Turkey Crackdown Chronicle: Week of August 28](#)
- ➔ [EFJ: Turkey: 23 staff members detained at Azadiya Welat newspaper](#)

## FOLLOW-UPS



**15 Feb 2017** | Human Rights Commissioner : Urgent measures are needed to restore freedom of expression in Turkey

- ➔ [Visit Memorandum on freedom of expression and media freedom in Turkey](#)