

09
Jul 2018

▲ Lvl. 1

No state
reply yet

Turkey

n° 117/2016

Alert created on: 02 Nov 2016

Pro-Kurdish Media Outlets Shut Down by Decree-Law

SOURCE OF THREAT ▶ State

CATEGORY ⓘ ▶ Other acts having chilling effects on media freedom

NO STATE REPLY YET

PARTNER: EFJ/IFJ, Article 19, AEJ, CPJ, Index, IPI

On Saturday 29 October 2016, the Turkish government issued two decrees (No 675 and 676) shutting down 15 pro-Kurdish media outlets. 11 newspapers, two news agencies and three magazines are affected:

- Newspapers: Özgür Gündem, Azadiya Welat, Batman Çağdaş , Cizre Postası , Güney Express, İdil Haber, Kızıltepe'nin Sesi, Prestij Haber, Urfanatik and Yüksekova Haber;
- News agencies: Dicle News Agency (DİHA) and Jin News Agency;
- Magazines: Tiroji, Özgürlük Dünyası and arts and culture magazine Evrensel Kültür.

The latest closures bring the number of media outlets shut down in Turkey to 168 under state of emergency, a situation which allows the government to close any media organisation by issuing a cabinet decree.

UPDATES

09 Jul 2018: On 9 July 2018, the Turkish government issued a decree-law firing 18,632 civil servants due to their alleged ties to “terrorist groups” and closing 12 associations, three newspapers and one TV station. The decree also dismissed 199 academics, some of whom were among the signers of the Academics for Peace initiative, which called on the Turkish government to halt military operations in the country’s southeast. Among the closed newspapers, Özgürlükçü Demokrasi had been seized by the government in March when trustees were appointed to the board. Özgürlükçü Demokrasi, an İstanbul based daily, was the successor of Özgür Gündem, which was closed by a decree in October 2016 over “terrorist propaganda”. Halkın Nabzı, an İstanbul-based daily established in 2013 whose editor-in-chief, İshak Karakaş, had been briefly detained over his protest against a Turkish military offensive in Afrin, northern Syria, was also closed down. Welat, the Diyarbakır-based successor of Azadiya Welat (closed by a decree in October 2016), a Kurdish language daily, was also shuttered by the decree.

The assets of the closed associations and media outlets were transferred to the Treasury.

- ➔ Mapping Media Freedom report
- ➔ Article published by Turkish Minute: "'Last' government decree sacks 18,632 civil servants, closes 3 newspapers"
- ➔ EFJ statement: "Three newspapers and one TV station closed by decree-law"

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



- ➔ CPJ statement: "Turkey closes 15 media outlets, raids newspaper office, detains at least 12"
- ➔ Statement by Article 19: "Turkey: More closures of independent media outlets under extended state of emergency"
- ➔ Report published on the Mapping Media Freedom platform: "Turkey: 15 pro-Kurdish media outlets shut down by cabinet decrees"
- ➔ Cabinet decrees - No. 675 and 676 - from Turkish government (in Turkish)
- ➔ Article on European Federation of Journalists website: "Turkish government shuts down 15 Kurdish media outlets"

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



31 Oct 2016 | Statement from Secretary General Jagland expressing his concern about state of emergency measures and freedom of expression in Turkey

- ➔ Statement from Secretary General Jagland