

22

Feb  
2019  
▲ Lvl. 1

No state  
reply yet

Turkey

Alert created on: 18 Apr 2018

## ETHA Journalists Detained and Arrested in Turkey

SOURCE OF THREAT ▶ State

⊕ 2 Journalists in detention

CATEGORY ⓘ ▶ Detention and  
imprisonment of journalists

### NO STATE REPLY YET

PARTNER: EFJ/IFJ, AEJ, Index

Following a police raid on 13 April 2018, several journalists working for the left-wing ETHA news agency, Semiha Şahin, Pinar Gayip and Adil Demirci were detained by the authorities on charges of alleged propaganda on behalf of an illegal organisation. According to the news agency, the detained journalists were not allowed to inform their lawyers, friends or family members about their situation. On 17 April, ETHA journalist Adil Demirci living in Cologne (Germany) and visiting his family was formally arrested by a court in Istanbul on charges of alleged membership of an illegal organisation and doing propaganda for the same organisation. The ETHA agency confirms that all defendants are detained or arrested for their journalistic activities and believes that the government is aiming to silence political dissent. No access has been granted to the details of the dossier by the authorities invoking the secrecy of the judiciary. ETHA news agency counts also the following colleagues Isminaz Temel (editor), Havva Custan (reporter) and Ali Sönmez Kayar (reporter) put in jail and charged with heavy imprisonment sentence. The trial of Mesale Tolu, a Turkish-German ETHA reporter and translator was released in December 2017 is still ongoing.

### UPDATES

**22 Feb 2019:** On 14 February 2019, the 27th High Criminal Court of Istanbul issued an interim ruling deciding to release Isminaz Temel under judicial control and adjourned the trial until 24 April 2019.

**22 Feb 2019:** On 14 February 2019, the 25th High Criminal Court of Istanbul issued an interim ruling, releasing Adil Demirci. The court imposed on Demirci a ban on leaving Istanbul. The next hearing in the case will take place on 30 April 2019.

**08 Nov 2018:** On 31 October 2018, the 32nd Heavy Penal Court in Istanbul ruled to release on probation reporter Ali Sönmez Kayar. An international travel ban has also been imposed on

the defendant by the court.

**22 Jul 2018:** On 17 July 2018, a court issued an interim decision and released reporters Havva Cuştan, İsmail Geçer, Meral Tatar, Onur Binbir and Özgen Saadet, while ordering to keep editor İsmnaz Temel, in jail.

**20 Apr 2018:** On 19 April 2018, detained ETHA journalists Adil Demirci, Semiha Şahin and Pınar Gayıp were arraigned on charges of membership of an illegal organisation and propaganda.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- ➔ Evrensel report: "4 ETHA çalışanı ve EMEP yöneticisi gözaltına alındı"
- ➔ Diken report : "ETHA'dan bir editör ve iki muhabir gözaltına alındı"
- ➔ Turkey Drops Travel Ban for German Journalist
- ➔ Turkey: Four ETHA journalists taken into custody
- ➔ ETHA report : ETHA emekçileri Semiha ve Pınar tutuklandı
- ➔ ETHA report : "ETHA muhabiri Adil Demirci tutuklandı"

#### FOLLOW-UPS

**OSCE** 18 Apr 2018 | OSCE Media Freedom Representative worried about the arrest Etkin Haber Ajans reporter Adil Demirci, on terrorism charges and continued detention of journalists Semiha Şahin, Pınar Gayıp.

- ➔ Tweet by Harlem Désir

#### JOURNALISTS IN DETENTION

##### Currently in detention (2):

Semiha Şahin and Pınar Gayıp