

15

Apr
2019
▲ Lvl. 1

No state
reply yet

Turkey

Alert created on: 24 Feb 2017

"Die Welt" Correspondent in Turkey Deniz Yücel Detained

SOURCE OF THREAT ▶ State

CATEGORY ⓘ ▶ Detention and imprisonment of journalists

NO STATE REPLY YET

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

Germany daily Die Welt correspondent Deniz Yücel was taken into custody in Istanbul on 14 February 2017. Mr Yücel, who holds both German and Turkish citizenship, is accused by Turkish authorities of being a member of a terrorist organisation, spreading propaganda and misusing information, charges refuted by the defendant as well as media organisations. The journalist had reported – like six other journalists working for national news outlets detained at the end of December 2016 – on emails that the hacker collective RedHack had acquired from the private email account of Turkey's Energy Minister Berat Albayrak who is President Erdoğan's son-in-law. The emails allegedly revealed media outlets' control and the use of fake Twitter accounts to influence the public in favour of the ruling AK party.

UPDATES

NEW 15 Apr 2019: On April 11-hearing, court adjourned the next hearing to 16 July, allowing Deniz Yücel's defense statement to be heard in a Berlin rogatory court on 10 May 2019.

26 Sep 2018: On 25 September 2018, the Istanbul 17th Heavy Penal Court rejected Deniz Yücel's request for compensation for his year-long imprisonment in Turkey.

16 Feb 2018: On 16 February 2018, a criminal court in Istanbul ordered the release of Deniz Yücel pending trial. On the same day, prosecutors presented an indictment seeking up to 18 years in jail for the journalist on charges of "spreading terrorist propaganda" and "stirring enmity".

30 Mar 2017: On 30 March 2017, following the rejection of the appeal, Yücel's lawyers filed a complaint at the Constitutional Court.

➔ Article published on Birgün website

28 Feb 2017: On 27 February 2017, Deniz Yücel was arrested after an Istanbul court ordered him to be jailed pending trial. His lawyers have appealed against his detention.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

-  IPI statement: IPI condemns continued prosecution of Turkish-German journalist Deniz Yücel
-  Deutsche Journalistinnen- und Journalisten-Union (dju in.verdi) statement: “Deniz Yücel sofort frei lassen”
-  Deutscher Journalisten-verband (DJV) statement: “ Solidarität mit Deniz Yücel ”
-  Report published on the Mapping Media Freedom platform: “Turkey: Police detain correspondent for German outlet Die Welt”
-  EFJ statement : “German daily “Die Welt” correspondent in Turkey still in custody “

FOLLOW-UPS

 **16 Feb 2018** | OSCE Media freedom representative welcomes the release of Deniz Yücel, adding that all charges against him should be dropped.

-  **Statement by Harlem Désir**

 **19 Oct 2017** | On 10 October 2017, the Commissioner for human rights intervened before the European Court of Human Rights in cases concerning the detention of journalists and freedom of expression in Turkey

-  **Third party intervention by the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights under Article 36, paragraph 3, of the European Convention on Human Rights**

 **02 Mar 2017** | OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media calls on Turkey to decriminalize journalistic work following arrest of Die Welt journalist

-  **Statement from Dunja Mijatović**