

Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

Bilagsnr.:	490
Land:	Tyrkiet
Kilde:	Article 19, P24, PEN International, English PEN, International Press Institute (IPI), Freedom of Musical Expression, Reporters Sans Frontières (RSF), International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX), European Centre for Press and Media Freedom (ECPMF) og Norsk PEN.
Titel:	Joint NGO submission to the Universal Periodic Review at the United Nations on freedom of expression and freedom of information (rule of law; independence of judges and lawyers; other topics)
Udgivet:	juli 2019
Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet:	9. oktober 2019

Document #2017315

ARTICLE 19

HRC42: States must urge Turkey to restore rule of law

Summary

ARTICLE 19 delivered the following oral statement at the 42nd Session of the UN Human Rights Council during Item 4 General Debate.

Mr. President,

It is now more than three years since the Turkish Government intensified its repressive crackdown against oppositional and dissenting voices in the country. This o (<https://www.article19.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/03.09.19-Joint-Letter-to-HRC-Member-and-Observer-States-on-Turkey.pdf>) ngoing free (<https://www.article19.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/03.09.19-Joint-Letter-to-HRC-Member-and-Observer-States-on-Turkey.pdf>) dom (<https://www.article19.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/03.09.19-Joint-Letter-to-HRC-Member-and-Observer-States-on-Turkey.pdf>) of (<https://www.article19.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/03.09.19-Joint-Letter-to-HRC-Member-and-Observer-States-on-Turkey.pdf>) expression crisis (<https://www.article19.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/03.09.19-Joint-Letter-to-HRC-Member-and-Observer-States-on-Turkey.pdf>) demands the Council’s urgent attention.

Although the State of Emergency was lifted in July 2018, the sweeping emergency decrees that enabled the government to pursue its unprecedented crackdown against the media and civil society have now effectively been absorbed into the ordinary legal framework.

Since the 2016 coup attempt, at least 180 media outlets have been forcibly closed. Over 220,000 websites have been blocked. At least 132 journalists and media workers are behind bars, and hundreds more have been prosecuted as terrorists, solely for their journalistic work, in the absence of any credible or even individualised evidence.

The rule of law is being systematically dismantled. Trials are increasingly Kafkaesque as the executive’s grip on the judiciary has continued to tighten. Journalists Ahmet and Mehmet Altan and Nazli Ilıcak were initially forced to defend themselves against charges that they sent ‘subliminal messages’ in support of the coup attempt. Civil society activists and media workers have faced prosecution simply for allegedly downloading the secure

communications app ‘Bylock’. In recent months, the government has even sought to rewrite history, charging 16 leading civil society figures who participated in the peaceful 2013 Gezi Park protests with attempting to overthrow the government. Osman Kavala is in his 24th month of pre-trial detention, in a flagrant violation of his fair trial rights.

Last week, whilst the convictions of six of his Cumhuriyet colleagues were overturned, Ahmet Şik was served new, unfounded charges including propaganda for a terrorist group and “insulting the Turkish state” that may see him sentenced to 30 years in prison. This judicial harassment follows a violent attack against Şik by police on 20 August, during a protest in front of an Istanbul Court against the dismissal of three opposition mayors in three cities in the South East. No one has yet been held accountable.

We call on all States at this Council to use their voice and urge Turkey to change course, and take immediate steps to restore the rule of law, and end its assault on media freedom and civic space.

I thank you, Mr. President.

ARTICLE 19

Cartoonists Rights Network International

Committee to Protect Journalists

European Centre for Press and Media Freedom (ECPMF)

Index on Censorship

OBC Transeuropa

European Federation of Journalists (EFJ)

PEN America

PEN International

Norwegian PEN

English PEN

Danish PEN

German PEN

ecoi.net summary:



Statement to the UN Human Rights Council on intensified government crackdown against dissidents and political opposition (since 2016, more than 220,000 websites blocked; at least 132 journalists and media workers arrested, misuse of terrorism charges)

Country:

Turkey

Source:

ARTICLE 19 [\(/en/source/10965.html\)](https://www.article19.org/resources/hrc42-states-must-urge-turkey-to-restore-rule-of-law/)

Original link:

<https://www.article19.org/resources/hrc42-states-must-urge-turkey-to-restore-rule-of-law/>
(<https://www.article19.org/resources/hrc42-states-must-urge-turkey-to-restore-rule-of-law/>)

Document type:

Appeal or News Release

Language:

English

Published:

18 September 2019

Document ID:

2017315

Austrian Red Cross

Austrian Centre for Country of Origin and Asylum Research and Documentation (ACCORD)

Wiedner Hauptstraße 32, 1041 Wien

T (Telefon) +43 1 589 00 583

F (Fax) +43 1 589 00 589

info@ecoi.net

ecoi.net is run by the Austrian Red Cross (department ACCORD) in cooperation with Informationsverbund Asyl & Migration. ecoi.net is funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Austrian Ministry of the Interior and Caritas Austria. ecoi.net is supported by ECRE & UNHCR.

