



EU TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
TO CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS
IN THE WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY



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Independent Media Project”
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BELGRADE, SERBIA



Pandemic & The Media

Introducing the Association of Journalist (Ankara/Turkey)

Covering the Pandemic: State of Media and Journalists During the Pandemic

Right Violations and Media: Where Do We Stand as Media NGO's?



Pandemic & The Media

Introducing the Association of Journalist (Ankara/Turkey)

- Monthly and trimonthly media monitoring reports
- Annual media reports (also available in English)
- Conducting surveys
- Royalty fee-based programs
- FTSP – mostly targeting local media
- Training programs (on child rights, gender, legal rights, data journalism, podcast, live-stream techniques etc.)
- Workshops
- Weekly networking seminars for journalists



Hollanda Kraliyeti



Norwegian Embassy



Ambasáid na hÉireann | Ankara
Embassy of Ireland | Ankara
Írlanda Büyükelçiliği | Ankara



Pandemic & The Media

State of the Media in Turkey: 49 behind bars, according to IPI
Second biggest jailer of journalists, following China.



Record number of journalists jailed worldwide

The number of journalists jailed globally because of their work hit a new high in 2020 as governments cracked down on coverage of COVID-19 or tried to suppress reporting on political unrest. Authoritarians again took cover in anti-press rhetoric from the United States. A CPJ special report by Elana Beiser

Published December 15, 2020

NEW YORK

A record number of journalists were imprisoned globally for their work in 2020 as authoritarian nations arrested many covering COVID-19 or political instability. Amid the pandemic, governments delayed trials, restricted visitors, and disregarded the increased health risk in prison; at least two journalists died after contracting the disease in custody.



Turkey: COVID-19 pandemic increases climate of fear for journalists

The COVID-19 crisis has added a new layer to the crackdown on media freedom in Turkey with journalists being targeted across the country under the guise of combating misinformation, said Amnesty International ahead of World Press Freedom Day.

One of the world's biggest jailers of journalists, Turkey has seen journalists facing criminal investigation and detention for reporting or even tweeting on COVID-19.

“
Journalists reporting on COVID-19 or even posting on social media, fear they may join the swathes of Turkey's independent media workers currently languishing behind bars

Milena Buyum, Amnesty International



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Covering the Pandemic: state of media and journalists during the pandemic

- Reluctance to include journalists in the prioritized vaccination program
- Challenges faced by freelancers
- Local media: loss in revenue, closed tv & radio stations, newspapers
- Local media had to unite and publish newspapers together, though it posed challenges
- Local media is left out under the disguise of pandemic. Only AA reporters welcomed at meetings
- Right violations during the pandemic had 2 sides: Covering human rights violations on media versus violations against the media
- Austerity Measures: Troubling an already worn-out sector
- Circular by The General Directorate of Security prohibiting filming and recording of law enforcement personnel
- Journalists excluded from prison releases
- Sanctions and regulations by regulatory media bodies, penalties imposed
- Shift to digital media



Pandemic & The Media



WHO WE ARE WHAT WE DO COUNTRIES

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On 18 March, police detained an editor following the publication of an article on their website about the death of two people in a local hospital from COVID-19

Amnesty International



Journalists excluded from prison releases

On 13 April 2020, a new law allowing the early and conditional release of up to 90,000 prisoners was introduced in Parliament. While the long-awaited changes to the Law on Execution of Sentences was brought in the context of COVID-19 pandemic, the government argued that this was not the driving force. The new measures failed to allow for the release of several categories of prisoner, including people in pretrial detention or convicted under overly broad anti-terrorism laws or crimes against the state, meaning that many imprisoned journalists will not be released. Turkey's overcrowded prisons are also dangerous due to a serious lack of hygiene.

“Turkey's already beleaguered journalists face new threats since the COVID-19 outbreak. They face censorship, criminal investigations and prosecution if they report critically on the pandemic, whilst those already inside Turkish jails face the danger of infection,” said Milena Buyum.

“Turkey's government must act now and unconditionally release all journalists jailed simply for doing their job.”

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Right violations and media: where do we stand as media NGO's?

- Our contribution to the field: helping vulnerable groups get heard
- The struggle to make right violations more visible: Examples from stories we covered during the pandemic
- Solidarity with fellow NGO's based in rural parts (online meetings and FTSP)
- Advocacy: Lawsuits, public statements, booklets by Disk Basın, İş Union and Journalists' Union of Turkey
- Survey on the working conditions of journalists during the pandemic



Pandemic & The Media / Survey

It is important to note that, following health-care workers, journalists were among one of the highest risk groups that had to work on-field throughout 2020 as required by their profession. When responses given to M4D Project's survey are observed, the issues that have caused health problems and even deaths among journalists become quite clear.

Access to PPE: The survey asked "Does the organization you work for provide you with personal protective equipment?" to which 107 active journalists responded; of these journalists 36.6% stated the organization they work for provided them with sufficient equipment in quality and quantity while 24.2% stated the equipment lacked in quality or in quantity. A large segment of respondents (41.2%) stated their organization did not provide them with any kind of protective equipment.

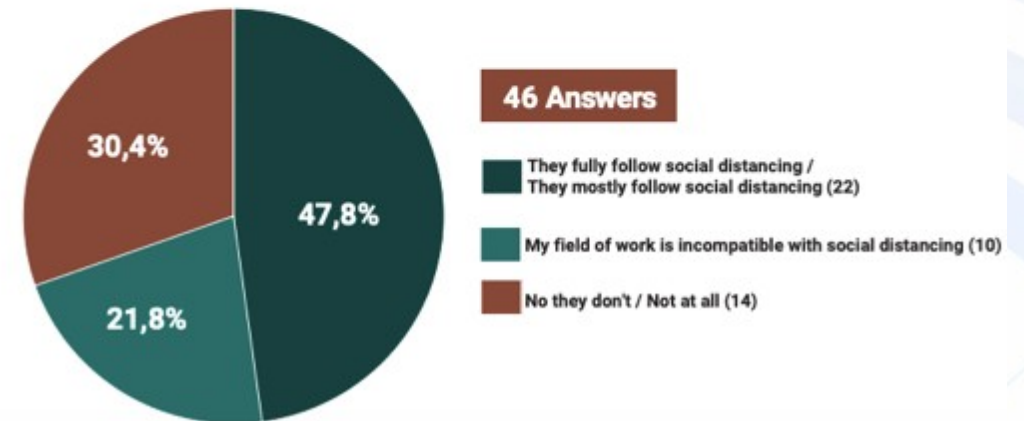
Graph-1: Survey responses- "Does the organization you work for provide you with personal protective equipment?" (Active journalists)



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Social distancing: One of the questions in the survey was "If you work on-field, do people in your work environment follow social distancing rules?" to which 46 journalists actively working on-field responded. Of these 46 journalists, 22 of them (47.8%) said "Yes/Mostly", while 10 journalists (21.8%) stated "journalism practised on-field is incompatible with social distancing rules" and 14 journalist (30.4%) stated "No". Based on these figures we can conclude that the pandemic poses an inherent risk to the profession of journalism while the majority of journalists working on-field follow social distancing rules.

Graph-2: Survey responses- "During the pandemic, do people in your work environment follow social distancing rules?" (Journalists working on-field)





Pandemic & The Media /Advocacy

Gazeteciler Cemiyeti, Emniyet Genel Müdürlüğü genelgesini Danıştay'a taşıdı

GÜNDEM

© 09 Haziran 2021 Çarşamba 17:32 - Güncelleme: 09 Haziran 2021 Çarşamba 17:32



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Basın mensuplarının ses ve görüntü almasını engelleyen genelgenin iptali için acıldı.

Ana Sayfa

Kurumsal

Projeler

Duyurular



24 Saat Gazetesi

GC Akademi

Gazeteciler Cemiyeti, TGS ve TFMD yönetmeliğin iptali için Danıştay'da dava açtı

Ana Sayfa | Duyurular, Haberler | Gazeteciler Cemiyeti, T

< Önceki Sonraki >



"Yasama yetkisi gaspına ve keyfiliğe yol açan, hukuki öngörülebirlükten uzak, Anayasa'ya açıkça aykırı maddeler iptal edilmektedir."

Gazeteciler Cemiyeti, Türkiye Gazeteciler Sendikası (TGS) ve Türkiye Foto Muhabirleri Derneği (TFMD), Cumhurbaşkanlığı İletişim Başkanlığı'nın hazırladığı tartışmalı Basın Kartı Yönetmeliği'nin iptali ve yürütmesinin durdurulması için Danıştay'a dava açtı. Dava dilekçesinde daha önce yönetmeliğin pek çok maddesine yürütmeyi durdurma kararı verdiği hatırlatıldı, buna karşın

İletişim Başkanlığı'nın aynı tartışmalı maddeleri farklı ifadelerle yeni yönetmeliğe yerleştirmesinin Anayasa Mahkemesi ve Danıştay kararlarını hiçe saymak anlamına geldiği vurgulandı.

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Thank you!

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Please contact me If you wish to receive our media reports in English.

<http://media4democracy.org/en/reports/>

QR code for our Media Monitoring Reports
(in English)

