



özgürlük freedom
arařtırmaları research
derneđi association

2021 ANNUAL REPORT





ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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In collaboration with Friedrich Naumann
Foundation

Design:
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5	FOREWORD
8	2021 IN A NUTSHELL
11	VISION AND MISSION
12	CORPORATE STRATEGY
14	GENERAL PROCESS IN RESARCH
16	BOARDS
18	PROJECTS
32	CONFERENCES
44	SEMINARS
48	FREEDOM TALKS
52	PUBLICATIONS
68	MEDIA COVERAGES
74	FOLLOW US ON THE SOCIAL MEDIA
78	PARTNERS

FOREWORD

Turkey has left behind another year in which civil, political, and economic freedoms have been greatly eroded and various restrictions and violations continue to increase. The restrictions imposed as part of the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic also affected freedoms deeply in 2021, and pandemic measures continued to be cited as a justification for freedom restrictions.

One of the most important issues discussed in the early days of the new year was undoubtedly the rapid enactment of the “Law on the Prevention of the Financing of the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction”, which was prepared with the bag law, and which is closely related to civil society. This law, the broad interpretation of the definition of terrorism, and the enactment of proposals in favor of the government only among the FATF proposals have gone down in history as a step that increases political pressure on non-governmental organizations and further distances Turkey from democracy. Despite

the publication of the “Civil Society Cannot Be Silenced” declaration by various non-governmental organizations and organizing protests and demonstration against the decision, the campaigns were not successful. The justification of concerns about this law has come to light as time has passed. Some non-governmental organizations that continue their work by establishing cooperation with different international organizations have frequently become the targets of pro-government media and social media accounts due to their critical positions on the government’s actions and targeted for espionage charges. By adding a new one to these political pressures, the way for the State Supervisory Council to use the “authorities of the supervisory council” of professional organizations, trade unions, publicly beneficial associations, and foundations has been paved. All these events hurt the rights to association and assembly and deeply wounded the culture of participatory and plu-

ralistic democracy, freedom of expression, and understanding of the rule of law.

Restrictions and violations of the use of civil liberties were not limited to political pressures on non-governmental organizations; Turkey has lost more and more blood on civil rights. The government has continued to produce policies far from democracy and polarize society politically. The political oppression of the government has spread to universities; President Erdogan ignored internal procedures and elections and appointed Melih Bulu as the trustee rector of Bogaziçi University. Although the government tried to impede the rights of citizens to association and assembly, the university's students and lecturers continued to protest this decision despite the disproportionate use of violence by law enforcement. Also, Cases of insulting the President have gradually increased and become systematic. So much so that a citizen, who used their freedom of speech during a street interview to criticize the administration and its policies, and said that the President should be put on trial was detained, as detained and subsequently arrested after the interview was posted on social media.

The repression of power has penetrated everywhere, and the problem of politicization of the judiciary has taken on a different dimension. One of the most critical cases showing that the rule of law and judicial independence has been eroded is the cases of Osman Kavala and Selahattin Demirtas. Systematic pressure on the judiciary resulted in Turkish authorities and courts ignoring international standards and law. President Erdogan has repeatedly stated that he does not recognize the decisions taken by the ECHR regarding Kavala and Demirtas; and said he had ordered the ambassadors of 10 countries calling for Kavala's release to be declared persona non grata.

One of the most significant losses of 2021 is undoubtedly Turkey's withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention by the decision of the President. While we go backward on the right to life of women and LGBT+ individuals every year, this decision represents the destruction of one of the most comprehensive legal foundations that underpin preventive measures to protect women and LGBT+ individuals.

Turkey has experienced and continues to experience an unprecedented decline in recent years, both due to

the global economy, which has lost production due to the pandemic and due to the governance crisis, it is experiencing in itself. At this point, the role of adverse developments in law, democracy, and civil liberties is undeniable. This year, we opened our eyes to the Halkbank Case. This case has been a declaration both nationally and internationally of how corrupt the Turkish banking system, which is seen as strong, has become. The fact that the Central Bank acted on political grounds and Central Bank governors have been dismissed before completing their term of office since the arrival of the Presidential System of Government has made the situation even more difficult. The fate of the \$128 billion missing from the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey reserves remains unknown.

The appointment of three different names as head of the Ministry of Treasury and Finance over the past three years and their resignation asking for their pardons has added a new dimension to our political literature. During these periods, the Turkish Lira experienced its darkest year, and the sudden and rapid decline of the Turkish Lira could not be stopped. TURKSTAT's manipulation of inflation data throughout the year and the govern-

ment's insistence on lowering interest rates led to a huge loss of prosperity. These situations have shown that Turkey's economy is in the grip of a stable lack of policies rather than a misapplication of policies.

Fires and flooding across the country have exposed the government's institutional inadequacy once again. The government's inadequacy in these matters, which has spent billions of dollars on many megaprojects, should be analyzed as a sign of a huge governance vacuum.

Since the day we were founded as Freedom Research Association, we have worked and continue to do our best to produce public policies for the establishment of political, civil, and legal regulations based on the rule of law, pluralistic democracy, and human rights in Turkey; and to educate future generations within the framework of liberal values. We want to express our appreciation and gratitude to all the friends of liberty who have supported us throughout the past 2021; we wish a new year in which we are aware that we must protect freedoms more than ever.

With freedom,
Freedom Research Team

2021 in a nutshell





VISION AND MISSION

Freedom Research Association (FRA) was founded in August 2014 by a group of academics, business people, journalists and legal experts to conduct public policy research with a liberal and scientific approach. FRA envisions a free and prosperous Turkey. The mission of FRA is to promote evidence-based policy making among decision-makers and an informed public debate in Turkey. Freedom Research Association is strongly dedicated to individual liberties, rule of law, peace, fair and competitive markets. We believe that a free and

prosperous Turkey can only be founded upon universal human rights, rule of law and a competitive free market economy which deters cronyism. “Institutional Reform” is a key focus area of FRA’s research. Main aims of FRA’s projects on this area are as follows: To explore the suitable ground on which Turkey’s institutions can operate with reference to universal standards To propose necessary reforms which need to be done in processes and structures, based on international best case examples

CORPORATE STRATEGY

FRA focuses on universal and scientific ethical standards in its work. They formulate their work as inclusive as possible and in accordance with scientific ethical standards. FRA is strictly independent and non-partisan. In order to protect its independence, FRA doesn't accept public funds from state institutions in accordance with its by-law. Transparency and honesty are taken as the basis both for the internal affairs and public relations. The rules that FRA has determined to ensure the quality of its research are as follows:

- The main aim and the purpose

of the research should be clearly explained.

- The method of the study should be well formulated and applied throughout the research.
- The research should provide information/references about the other field works.
- The research should be based on the most current and valid data available.
- The theses suggested in the research should be clear and justified.

- The research should improve the knowledge that exists in the field.
- All researches should bring inclusive policy recommendations.
- The theses proposed in the research and the proposed policy recommendation should be consistent with the method and findings of the research.
- All theses and suggestions should be well explained and the weaknesses /deficiencies of the research (if any) should be indicated.
- The resulting reports should

be well structured, clear and understandable.

- The language used in the research reports should be objective, inclusive, constructive and equidistant to different views.
- As long as it does not contradict scientific ethical values and the principles of the FRA, no content of any research is intervened based on freedom of opinion.
- Editorial interventions are the exception to this rule.

General Process in Research

1 IDENTIFICATION OF PROBLEMS

To bring together the stakeholders who are relevant to the research topic or the researched institution. The content, limitations and method of the research are determined in accordance with the feedback from these discussion(s).

1

3 ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS TO THE PUBLIC

Organizing a conference, seminar or press conference where the results will be announced to the public. The research team (or its representative) shares the findings and outcomes of the research with the public.

3

2

2 RESEARCH PROCESS

In the research process, the research team guided by a specialist will identify the problems in the field, their causes and their effects and explore international good examples. The results of the research will be presented as a solution to the problem identified at the beginning of the research.

4

4 ADVOCACY

The final report will be shared with the relevant departments of the universities, public institutions and organizations, media companies and relevant non-governmental organizations. Going to the GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF TURKEY (t to share policy proposals with the MP's

Executive Board



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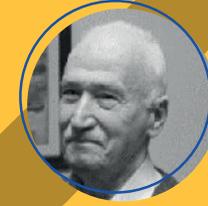
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PROJECTS



STRUCTURAL REFORMS IN TURKEY

As Freedom Research Association we have been examining the problems caused by the economic recession in Turkey and the deterioration and corruption of the institutional structure in legal and administrative fields since 2019. In the first phase of the project, which we carried out with the support of the National Endowment Democracy and have aimed at increasing the rule of law and accountability and preventing further structural erosion; we have evaluated the issues in Legislature, Judiciary, Public Procurement Regime, Public Personnel Regime and Media Independence. With this objective, we have organised 5 workshops, published 5 reports and produced 20 videos. Moreover, we organized meetings with representatives of political parties, members

of civil society and parliaments. In these meetings, we introduced our project and reports by meeting with 31 people from various parties and non-governmental organizations.

While we were very glad that the first phase of our project was completed successfully, we were informed that the second phase has been approved. In our new term which we call Phase II, we will take five new areas for evaluation; Post-Legislative Scrunity System, Political Party Law, Election Law, Constitution Making Process and Executive Branch (Government System). For the next three years, we will continue to focus on structural problems in Turkey, develop solutions and share these suggestions with the public. Stay tuned!



Judicial Reform Recommendations to Ensure the Rule of Law



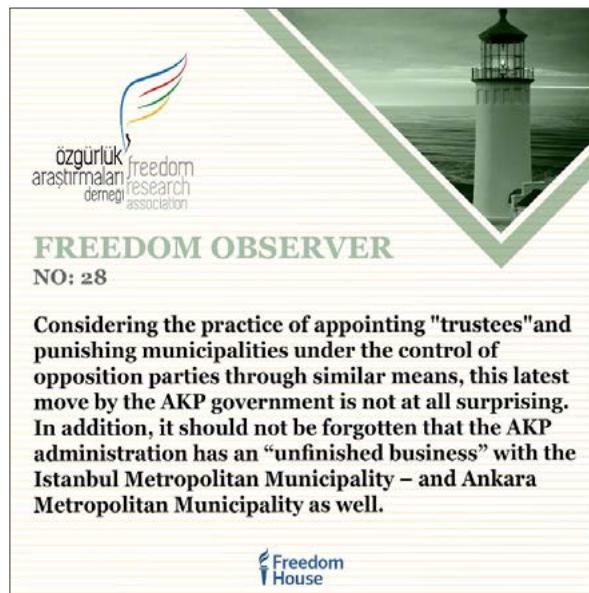
Media Ownership and Freedom of the Press in Turkey

 www.yapisalreformlar.com

 [@yapisal_reforms](https://twitter.com/yapisal_reforms)

 [@ozgurlukarastirmalari](https://www.instagram.com/ozgurlukarastirmalari)

MONITORING THE RULE OF LAW AND DEMOCRACY IN TURKEY



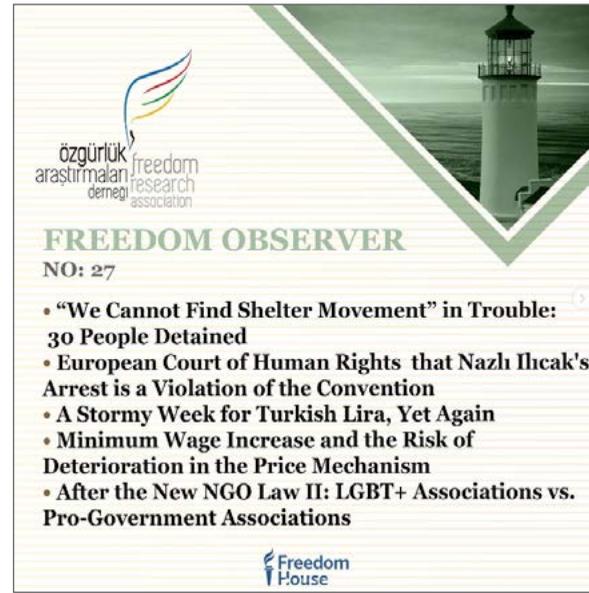
özgürlük araştırma derneği / freedom research association

FREEDOM OBSERVER

NO: 28

Considering the practice of appointing "trustees" and punishing municipalities under the control of opposition parties through similar means, this latest move by the AKP government is not at all surprising. In addition, it should not be forgotten that the AKP administration has an "unfinished business" with the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality – and Ankara Metropolitan Municipality as well.

Freedom House



özgürlük araştırma derneği / freedom research association

FREEDOM OBSERVER

NO: 27

- "We Cannot Find Shelter Movement" in Trouble: 30 People Detained
- European Court of Human Rights that Nazlı Ilıcak's Arrest is a Violation of the Convention
- A Stormy Week for Turkish Lira, Yet Again
- Minimum Wage Increase and the Risk of Deterioration in the Price Mechanism
- After the New NGO Law II: LGBT+ Associations vs. Pro-Government Associations

Freedom House

As Freedom Research Association, we have been doing studies on civil liberties, economic freedoms and the rule of law in Turkey since we were founded. In this project, which we carry out with the support of Freedom House, we monitor violations in related fields; we interpret government policies, regulations and COVID-19 responses from a liberal perspective. We bring to the public's attention the bi-week-

ly bulletins in Turkish and English. By including the issue of civil society in 2021, our project topics became more diverse compared to the topics we started the project with in 2020. If you would like to refresh your memories of the past and take a quick look at what Turkey has experienced in 2021, the bulletins are accessible on our website: <https://oad.org.tr/category/yayinlar/ozgurlukgundemi/>



FREEDOM OF PRESS IN TURKEY 2021



All indexes measuring the democratization scores of countries indicate that Turkey has regressed and become more authoritarian in recent years. The decline of Turkey's ranks in these indexes and its authoritarian tendency deeply affects freedom and human rights. One of the areas affected by this worrying situation is undoubtedly the freedom of the press.

Within this framework, we, as the Freedom Research Association, have

been examining the situation of press freedom in Turkey since 2014. In order to fulfil our mission in this regard in 2021, Assoc. Prof. Burak Bilgehan Özpek evaluated the situation of press freedom for us. With the support of Friedrich Naumann Foundation Turkey Office, we have published a report titled "Press Freedom in Turkey (2020-2021) Report", produced videos and organized conferences to share the findings and data we obtained in this study with the public.



ECONOMIC FREEDOMS IN TURKEY 2021

The stagnation and regression that Turkey has been experiencing in economic growth and welfare for the last fifteen years are caused by the lack of will to make structural reforms in economics. With the COVID-19 pandemic, the situation of the economy has worsened worldwide, causing states to take more decisions against the market and economic freedoms.

We launched the “Economic Freedoms in Turkey 2021” project with the support of the Fraser Institute, VVD International and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation Turkey Office in order to inform the public about Turkey’s economic situation and to encourage a reform initiative on economic freedoms. With this objective, using the Economic Freedoms Index published

by the Fraser Institute, we have evaluated Turkey’s situation in terms of the size of government, legal system and property rights, sound money, freedom to trade internationally and regulations. We also presented solutions along with the reasons for the economic depression in Turkey.

Within the scope of the project, we organized simultaneous workshops in five areas and published a report. In this project, where we worked with reputable academics, we organized an online public conference for wider discussion and representation of the report. We also prepared seven videos, one of which is an animated video about economic freedoms. The total number of views of these videos has exceeded 150,000.



STRENGTHENING THE FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AND ASSEMBLY TO ENHANCED PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY IN TURKEY

The deep wound on the freedom of expression in Turkey also affects the freedom of association and assembly, which are an integral part of this freedom. Considering the state of emergency applications announced since the July 15 coup attempt and the COVID-19 pandemic sanctions, it is seen that the pressure and systematic violations regarding the use of these two rights have increased even more.

We carried out this project with the support of the International Democratic Initiative (IDI) to evaluate the

status of the rights to freedom of association and assembly in Turkey, and to inform the public about both the usage of these rights and violations. Given the objective, we have organized a workshop and a conference published a report and posted two videos.

While the number of views of our animation videos, in which we talked about the basic principles of freedom of assembly and freedom of association, exceeded 33,000, our online conference was watched live by 115 people.



AN ALTERNATIVE GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM: EMPOWERED PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM PROJECT

The problem of “personalization of the administration” that Turkey has been experiencing since 2011 was embodied with the 2017 constitutional revision, and not only the government system but also the political regime has changed. This change has brought new questions and problems; with the governmental system, the ways of regime change began to be sought.

With the support of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation Turkey, a re-

port was prepared by Prof. Mustafa Erdoğan in order to bring a different perspective to the current system and regime discussions, taking into account Turkey’s political and social structure. As a result of our various advocacy campaigns for this report, we reached more than 250,000 people. In addition, we tried to improve our sphere of influence by sharing our report during our meetings with representatives from various parties and non-governmental organizations.



ZOOMPOLITIKON LIBERALISM WEBINARS

Another project we have launched in 2021 is ZoomPolitikon. With this project, we aim to start a new and young liberal network to make an impact on the public debate and to present liberal solutions to modern problems like populism and identity politics and also to discuss the liberal solutions to the increasing populism and authoritarian actions in the world.

In this context, to discuss liberalism

from different perspectives, Prof. Bican Sahin, Dr. Seval Yaman, Dr. Belgin Tarhan and Research Assistant Nurettin Kalkan as speakers. We are glad for having 30 graduates from these webinars where the discussions were intense and interactive. In these times where we can observe how important it is to discuss ideas freely, we, as Freedom Research Association, will keep working on this regard.



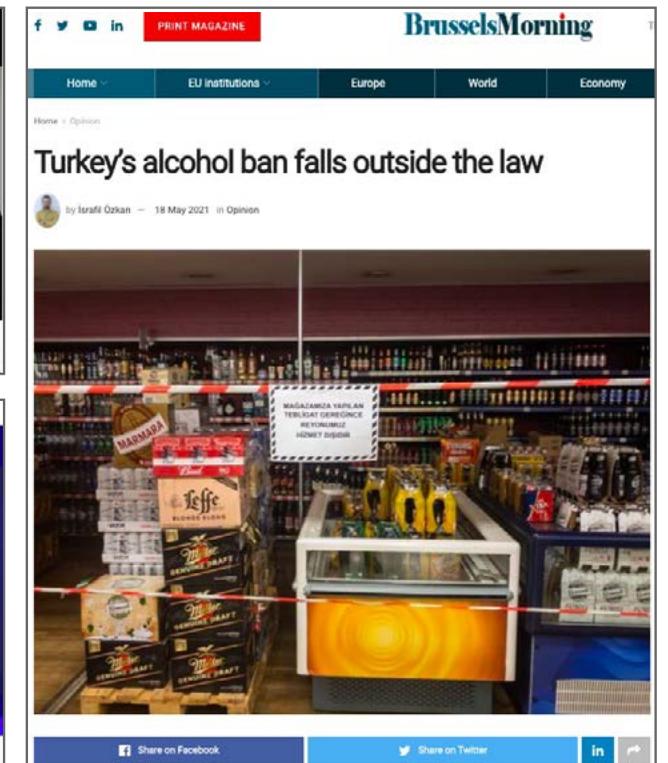
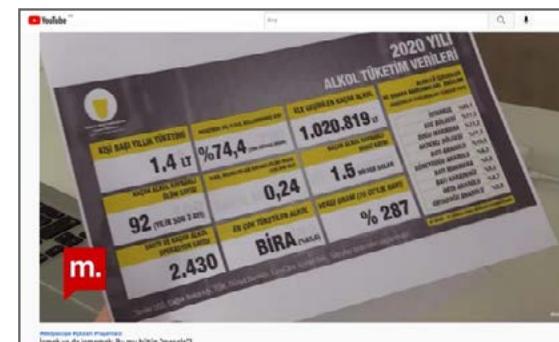
Our platform, which was established at the end of 2020, continued to monitor the increasing prohibitive public policies regarding alcoholic beverages in Turkey, to inform the public and raise awareness on this issue. As the Turkish Public Alcohol Policy Watch, we examined these public policies from the following aspects

- Dimensions of the public health crisis (death and illnesses caused by bootleg alcohol)
- Rapidly expanding black market data around increasing smuggling of liquor alcohol beverages
- Tax loss of the public
- Decreased purchasing power and rising costs due SCT-induced price increases
- Direct employment and income loss in tourism, entertainment, food and beverage sectors, and

indirect employment and income loss in agriculture, transportation, glass bottle, plastic industry

- Legal evaluation of restrictions on rights and freedoms
- Teen unhappiness and future expectations

The data, which we published collectively both at quarterly intervals and at the end of the year, was published in more than 30 national and international newspapers and television channels in the last months of 2021 and the first days of 2022 and was deemed worthy of financial support by two different international organizations. The Turkish Public Alcohol Policy Watch, the only example in the field with our studies on this subject, continues its activities in 2022 without slowing down. Don't forget to follow our platform through our social media accounts!





ONLINE RULE OF LAW ACADEMY

Turkey's scores in the rule of law indexes are decreasing day by day. Taking the weak separation and the dominance of the executive over the judiciary into consideration, it is no longer possible to talk about the existence of an independent and impartial judiciary.

Increasing the quality of lawyers, especially future generations, in order to improve the quality of the judiciary is one of the most important investments in the long run. This project, which we started with this awareness and motivation, aims to increase the capacity of young lawyers and senior law students and to share the experience with the inclusion of experi-

enced lawyers.

Our project, which was first shared in the last months of 2020, continued intensively in 2021: We produced 9 seminars, a practitioner's handbook and five videos in 5 months. In these five months, we received 1830 applications to our academy and had 364 graduates. The number of views of our videos, in which our trainers evaluate the rule of law, fair trial guarantees, non-discrimination, and the right to freedom and security, has exceeded 129,000. We would like to express our sincere thanks to our partner in this project, Canadian Local Enterprise Fund - Canadian Embassy in Turkey, to our trainers and too valuable participants.





CONFERENCES



PROF. DR. UĞUR EMEK



PROF. DR. ÖMER FARUK GENÇKAYA



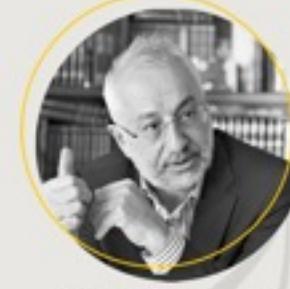
PROF. DR. MUHİTTİN ACAR



PROF. DR. BİCAN ŞAHİN



DOÇ. DR. ALİ RIZA ÇOBAN



GAZETECİ DERYA SAZAK

TÜRKİYE'DE YAPISAL REFORMLAR PROJESİ TANITIM KONFERANSI (ÇEVİRİMİÇİ)

  | **29 MAYIS**
  SAAT 13.30'DA

     /ozgurlikarastirmalari

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FRIEDRICH NAUMANN
FOUNDATION



CONFERENCE ON STRUCTURAL REFORMS IN TURKEY PROJECT

Within the scope of The Project on Structural Reforms in Turkey, we organized an online conference on 29 May 2021 to deliver the reports prepared by valuable names in the fields of legislative, judiciary, media independence, public personnel regime, and public procurement regime to a broad audience, to discuss the problems and solution proposals in the reports and to underline needs reforms in these areas. This broadcast mod-

erated by Prof. Bican Şahin. Prof. Ömer Faruk Gençkaya participated in the legislative process; Assoc. Prof. Ali Rıza Çoban presented problem areas and solution proposals related to the judiciary, journalist Derya Sazak to media independence, Prof. Muhittin Acar to the public personnel regime, and Prof. Dr. Uğur Emek to the public procurement regime. Our promotional event was watched live by 227 people!



CONFERENCE ON STRENGTHENING FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AND ASSEMBLY TO ENHANCED PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY IN TURKEY

We organized a conference on November 20 to discuss the state of freedom of association and assembly in Turkey, their place in legal texts, and what citizens need to know in the face of the violation of these rights. Moderated by İsrafil Özkan, the speakers of the conference were lawyer Veyssel Ok, Assoc. Prof. Ali Rıza Ço-

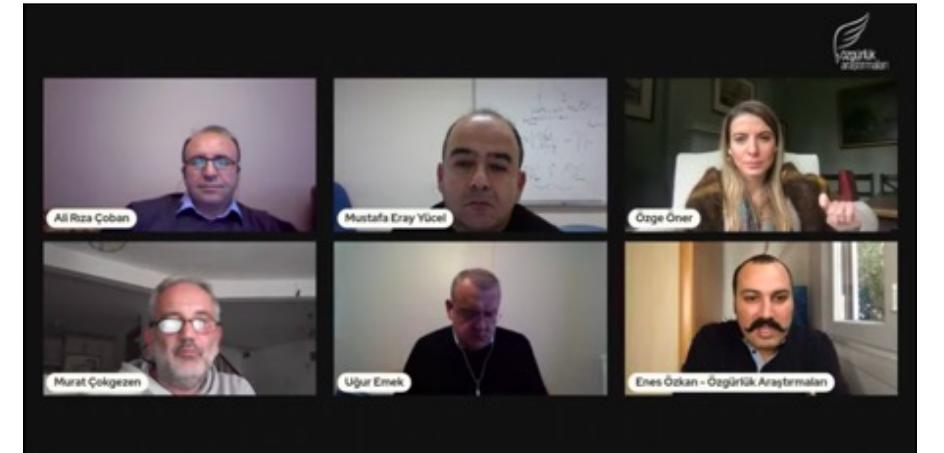
ban, and lawyer Baran Kaya. Our conference was broadcast publicly and was watched live by 115 people.

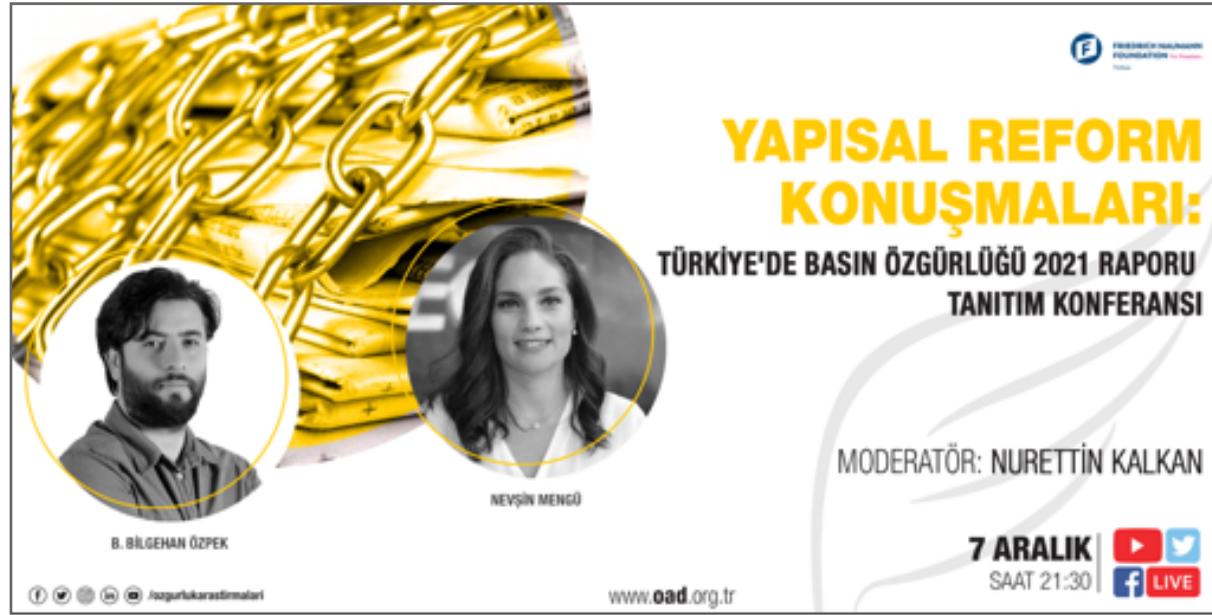


ECONOMIC FREEDOMS IN TURKEY 2021 CONFERENCE

We organized an online conference on November 27 to examine the state of Turkey's economic freedoms under the moderation of economist Enes Özkan. While the extent of the government was discussed by Prof. Murat Çokgezen, the legal system and property rights were discussed by Assoc. Prof. Ali Rıza Çoban; sound money was discussed by Dr. Eray Yücel, international trade liberal-

ization Assoc. Prof. Özge Öner and regulations by Prof. Uğur Emek. Our conference, which was broadcast on the social media accounts of our association, was watched live by 175 people.





STRUCTURAL REFORM TALKS: PRESS FREEDOM IN TURKEY 2021 REPORT

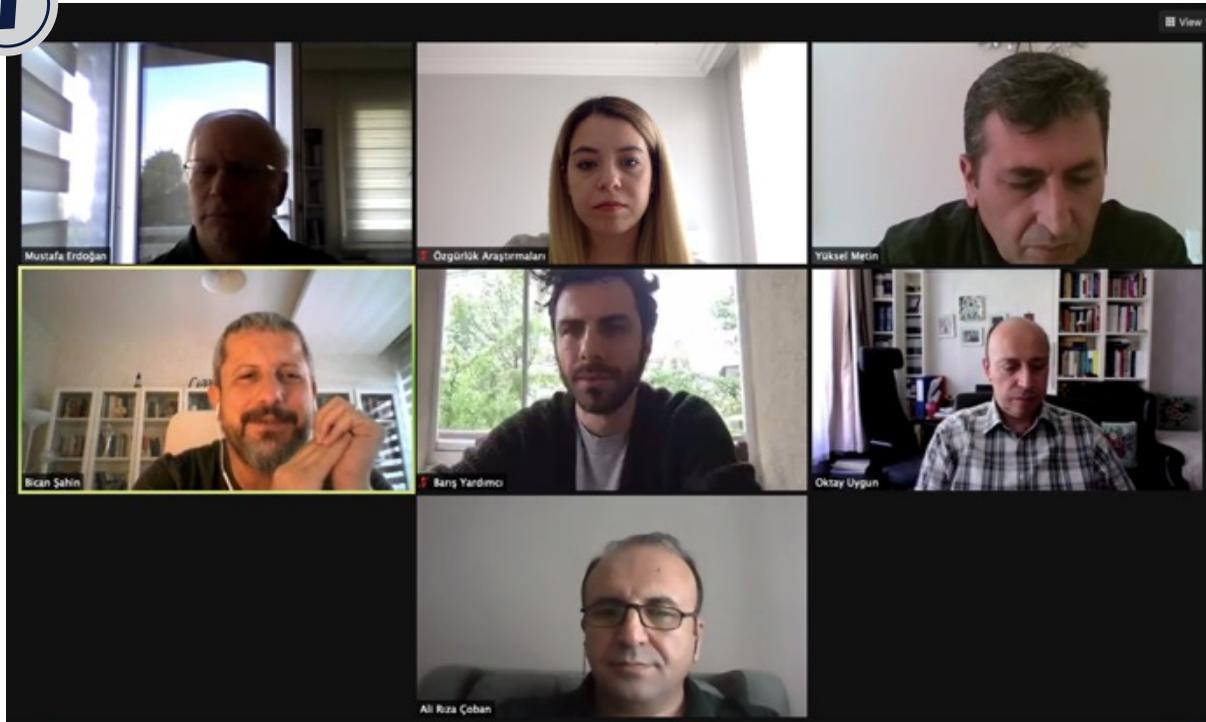
We organized a launch event to introduce our latest report, which includes our monitoring of the current state of press freedom in Turkey, and to evaluate the current press freedom situation. The broadcast was held with Assoc. Prof. Burak Bilgehan Özpek and journalist Nevşin Mengü under the moderation of Nurettin Kalkan.

We appreciate your interest in our broadcast, which was watched live by 432 people.



We organized four workshops within the range of our projects during the year. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have organized workshops online. We hosted a total of 64 people in the workshops.

1



2



3



1

WORKSHOP ON AN ALTERNATIVE GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM: EMPOWERED PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM

Our workshop, in which we set out the argument that Turkey should carry out a regime change with the government system, was organized online on May 22. In the workshop, following the evalua-

tions of the current governmental system, the experts discussed social and cultural factors, including the most appropriate government system and political regime for Turkey.

2

WORKSHOP ON ECONOMIC FREEDOMS IN TURKEY

We organized an online workshop on October 9 on this project, which uses the Economic Freedom Index published by the Fraser Institute. The workshop consisted of five separate tables on the issues of the size of government, the legal system and property rights, sound money, freedom of international trade, and regulations. Topics were discussed simultaneously at separate tables, and 23 valuable experts and academicians evaluated the topics and the state of them in Turkish economic deeply.

3

WORKSHOP ON THE NEED FOR REFORM IN THE ELECTORAL LAW

To ensure pluralistic and participatory democracy, we organized a workshop titled “the Need for Reform in the Election Law” on December 25 to discuss the problems related to the electoral system and propose solutions. In this workshop, the electoral system in Turkey and the problem areas of the law were addressed in the axis of current discussions; an answer to how to propose amendments to the electoral law was sought with the perspective of democratization, representation, and pluralism.



SEMINARS

STRENGTHENING FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AND ASSEMBLY TO ENHANCE PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY IN TURKEY

Recently, universities have witnessed numerous student protests and police responses to the protests. Especially with the Boğaziçi Protests, hundreds of students were put on trial, and many were kept under house arrest. These violations against the exercise of rights have revealed that everyone, especially students, should gain awareness of their rights. In this context, we organized an online seminar consisting of three sessions with the following titles for university students on October 23:

- The Right to Assembly and Demonstrations as a Private Use of Freedom of Speech
- The Right to Assembly and Demonstrations in Turkey and International Legal Texts and Supreme Court Decisions
- Things You Should Know When You Exercise Your Right to Assembly and Demonstration: Organization, Participation, Cases of Violation of Rights and Detention

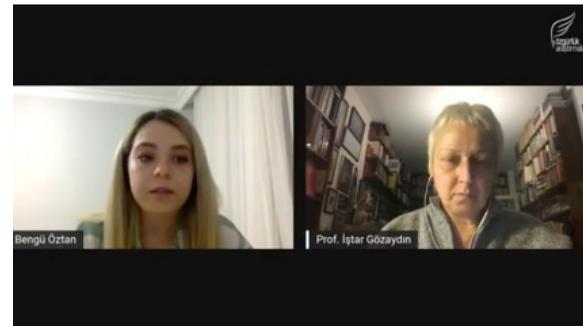


Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we moved our face-to-face discussions and political conversations online in 2020. In 2021, we continued our live broadcasts without slowing down and continued to seek answers to current issues and topics from a liberal perspective. We brought together experts in the field by making 55 live broadcasts throughout the year, and we sought solutions to Turkey's problems together. The total number of views of our programs has exceeded 195,000. We appreciate your interest in the Freedom Meetings. We will continue to meet you with live broadcast programs in the new year.

Online Freedom Talks



Portrait



ONLINE FREEDOM TALKS

Online Freedom Talks host expert guests from different fields every two weeks to evaluate the actions taken by the government in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic from the perspective of in-

dividual rights and freedoms and to discuss Turkey's political agenda. Online Freedom Talks consist of two parts: a 30-minute presentation by experts in their field followed by a Q&A session.

PORTRAIT

The Portrait live broadcast program aims to explain the mission and vision of the Freedom Research Association to a broad audience and to explain in detail the projects carried out by the association. In this context, the projects and published articles are the subject of live broadcasts and discussed around the questions posed by the audience in the question-answer section.

ALCOHOL AGENDA

Turkish Alcohol Policy Watch Platform carries it out to introduce Turkey's alcohol policies to the public, discuss them with a big audience, and discuss current issues.

Alcohol Agenda





PUBLICATIONS

LIBERAL PERSPECTIVE: COMMENTARY

Commentaries are short articles reflecting a liberal perspective written by our experts, on a public policy related topic, 4-6 pages long.

Last year we published one commentary.



In this commentary, Turkey's position in alcohol policy-making compared to European nations was evaluated, with the guidance of data from the European Alcohol Policy Alliance- Eurocare's 2016 report titled "European Alcohol Policies Report." It is emphasized that even though Turkey does not face a problem of over-consumption similar to its European counterparts, the alcohol industry is much more rigorously regulated in Turkey.



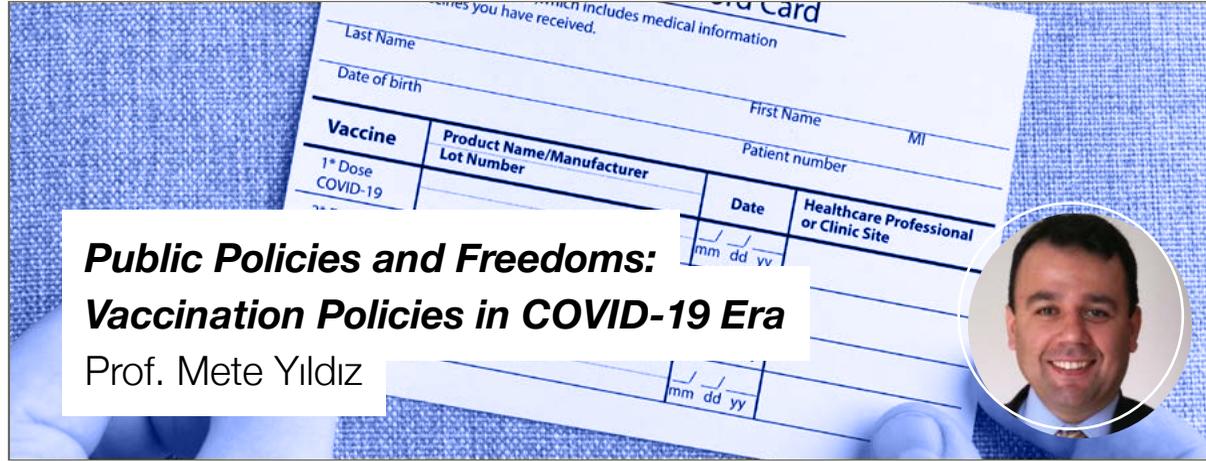
LIBERAL PERSPECTIVE: ANALYSIS

An analysis is an in-depth investigation of a public-policy issue from a liberal perspective, based on data and research, generally 20-30 pages long. Last year we published four analyses.



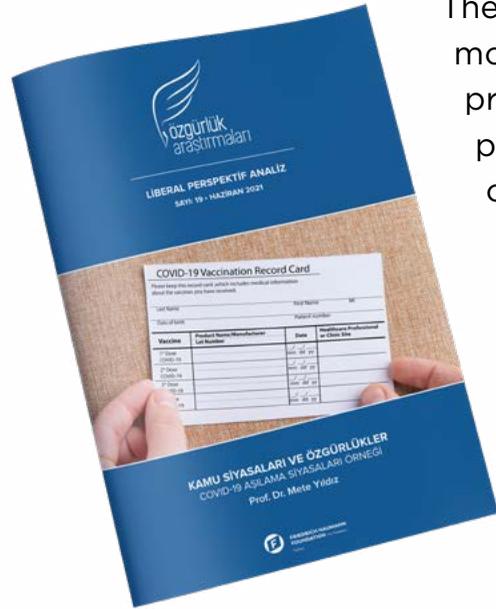
The analysis is about how Turkey's Directorate of Religious Affairs (hereinafter the Directorate) was established during the nation-making process of a secular and democratic Turkey, how it was used as an ideological apparatus to control religion in public space, and how the Directorate developed its own inner dynamics. While the dynamics between religion, secular democracy, and the Directorate are analyzed, religion is examined through the concept of "consent" within a Gramscian framework; while the state intervention in religion, the historical development of the Directorate's role in society and politics are examined alongside the desire Turkey has to create a secular democracy.





**Public Policies and Freedoms:
Vaccination Policies in COVID-19 Era**

Prof. Mete Yıldız



The main goal of the study is to contribute to a more efficient policymaking and implementation process in the future that will not infringe upon personal freedoms by drawing lessons from the current vaccination policies. This is preceded by a general history and design of vaccination policies, their implementation; assessment, and evaluation. In the following parts, an analysis of vaccination policies in the COVID-19 context, within the framework of public policy is provided; in order to provide grounded suggestions for future vaccination policies that will infringe on personal freedoms as little as possible.



**COVID 19's Effects to Global Economy,
Market Structures, Economic Freedom
and New Globalization**

Prof. Harun Öztürkler



Moving from the hypothesis that the level of integration to the international economy national economies experienced in the last 40 years, cannot be overturned in the short run as a result of COVID-19, the trading trends between countries, and international market conditions for essential products and services are discussed. In addition to this, the paper claims that following the crisis each country's ability to create regional economic relations and sphere of influence will be diminished. Lastly, the paper examines the negative effects new globalization had on the competitive forces of the international markets; as well as the positive effects such as technological innovation and economic prosperity.

Impact of COVID-19 on Turkish Economy and Evaluation of Policy Measures in Terms of Economic Freedoms

Prof. Harun Öztürkler



Structural features of the demand and supply side of the Turkish economy before and after the pandemic were tried to be defined. In order to better understand the demand side of the economy, the spending and saving behaviors of decision-makers and the crisis-based changes in these behaviors are discussed in detail. The supply side of the economy and the effects of the crisis were examined in the context of sectoral structure, market characteristics and firm demographics. In addition, the measures taken by the government against the crisis, the effectiveness of these measures and their effects on individual economic freedoms were evaluated. In the context of this evaluation, the study also developed suggestions about what alternative economic policies could be.

LIBERAL PERSPECTIVE: REPORT

Our reports are generally prepared after a long research process on a public policy issue and include extensive reform proposals to the government in that particular area. Last year we published five reports.

Building the Media for Democracy, Starting All Over: Tabula Rasa

Derya Sazak



The report discusses the problems in the current structure of media while considering media as a field that needs urgent reforms in Turkey. Alongside the financial condition of media, its relationship with politics is analyzed and suggestions in these areas are provided.



Rule of Law in Turkey Report

Assoc. Prof. Ali Rıza Çoban



In this report, Turkey's current status in terms of compatibility with the principle of rule of law is studied. To create a better understanding of the topic, the author firstly provides the conceptual framework of the "rule of law" and its historical development. This is followed by the assessment of Turkey with reference to the Venice Commission's Rule of Law Checklist. This assessment is supported by the survey results targeted toward the participants of seminars organized by the "Online Rule of Law Academy." The survey consists of 21 questions and is aimed to measure the perception of participants about different aspects of rule of law in Turkey.

Judicial Reform Recommendations to Ensure the Rule of Law

Assoc. Prof. Ali Rıza Çoban



In this report, the fundamental issues within the Turkish judiciary are examined in a multidimensional manner. The judiciary's management and assessment, and its accountability are emphasized for rule of law to be reinstated. The bulk of the suggestions is aimed to restructure the judiciary in order to guarantee its competency, unbiasedness, and independence of it.



**Governmental System in Turkey and
A New Perspective for the Political Regime**
Prof. Mustafa Erdoğan



The main focus of the report is showing that the main problem Turkey faces today cannot be confined to the change in the governmental system, but rather the issue should be contemplated alongside other elements composing the political regime. In other words, to overcome the political crisis Turkey found itself in, the measures cannot be limited to changing the governmental system; the whole political system has to be revised. With these in mind, the report starts with an evaluation of the current system in Turkey, which is followed by a discussion on the most appropriate governmental system considering the social and political life in Turkey. Moving from these discussions, a revised parliamentary system model for Turkey; and approaches to improve legislative, executive, judiciary, and other parts of the state structure are suggested.



**Freedom of the Press in Turkey 2021 Report
(August 2020- September 2021)**
Assoc. Prof. Burak Bilgehan Özpek



In this report, the current state of press and press freedom is evaluated in the period from August 2020 to September 2021.

The focus is on the mechanisms used by the government to be the sole actor to determine the flow of information, the president's "right to be perceived right", and in the context of exercising this right, the work of the government to achieve goals such as normalizing the use of coercive mechanisms of public authority has been examined. In the mentioned context and the light of various indices and studies, media organizations are divided into three categories and each category is assessed in terms of legal constraints, financing, and polarization.



The State of Participatory Democracy in Turkey: Right to Freedom of Association and Assembly

Editor: İsrail Özkan



The report was prepared by Assoc. Prof. Ali Rıza Çoban, Attorneys. Veysel Ok and Baran Kaya, with İsrail Özkan as the editor; to examine the current state of right to assembly and freedom of association in Turkey, the problems associated with invoking these rights, and to raise public awareness about the place these rights possess in the constitution. While Veysel Ok writes on the meaning of the rights and their relation to freedom of expression, Ali Rıza Çoban addresses how the Turkish and European Court of Human Rights case law approaches these rights to assembly with special mention to court decisions. Baran Kaya's contribution to the paper is providing a guide on the usage of the right to assembly through discussions on organization, violations of rights, and extrajudicial arrests.



Economic Freedoms in Turkey 2021 Report

Editor: İbrahim Enes Özkan

The report examines the economic freedoms in Turkey, guided by the Economic Freedoms Index of Fraser Institute. In the report edited by Enes Özkan, Prof. Murat Çokgezen writes on the topic size of government while Assoc. Prof. Ali Rıza Çoban discusses the legal system and property rights; Asst. Prof. Eray Yücel provides information on hard currency, Assoc. Prof. Özge Öner writes on international trade liberty and, Prof. Uğur Emek with Asst. Prof. Didem Pekurnaz address regulations.





- [Dünya Ekonomik Özgürlükler Endeksi](#)
- [Devletin Alkol Politikalarını İzleme Platformu 2021 Yılı Temmuz- Eylül Kayıt Dışı Alkol Tüketim Verileri](#)
- [Devletin Alkol Politikalarını İzleme Platformu'nun 2021 Yılı Nisan- Haziran Kayıt Dışı Alkol Tüketim Verileri](#)
- [Belirsizlik Altında Karar Verme](#)
- [Röportaj: Türkiye Tekel Bayileri Platformu Başkanı Özgür Aybaş](#)
- [2021 Dünya Basın Özgürlüğü Endeksi](#)
- [2020 Uluslararası Mülkiyet Hakları Endeksi](#)
- [2021 Yılı Ocak-Mart Alkol Tüketim Verileri](#)

TRANSLATIONS

- [Kalıpları ve Muhafazakarlığı Bozan Özgürlük](#)
- [DSÖ'nün Alkol Tüketimini Düşürmek Amaçlı Aksiyon Planının İlişkin Danışma Raporu](#)
- [Alkolsüz Biraya Vergi Ödememiz İçin Bir Sebep Yok](#)
- [Tüketimi Azaltmak İçin Alkole Yüklenen vergiler Beklenen Sonucu Vermeyebilir](#)
- [Alkol Yasaklarının İstenmeyen Sonuçları](#)
- [Salgın ve Yasaklar: 100 Yıl sonra](#)
- [Covid-19 Pandemisi Sırasında Uygulanan Alkol Yasaklarının Etkileri](#)



The violations of civil and economic liberties, as well as the rule of law principle in Turkey, are at a concerning level. The COVID-19 pandemic has created an environment for the government to restrict or even deny the fundamental rights and freedom of citizens and creating an environment of fear for civil society. Nonetheless, as the Freedom Research Association, we managed to establish a new bulletin titled "Freedom Observer." In this project, our aim is to observe and create public awareness of the complex ways in which the pandemic threatens fundamental freedoms in Turkey.

As of 2021, we have included the subject of civil society in the contents of our bulletin, in which we have been monitoring and evaluating the government's response to the pandemic and developments in the fields of civil and economic freedoms, and rule of law since October 2020. Thus, we aimed to examine the effects of the "Law on the Prevention of Financing of Weapons of Mass Destruction" on non-governmental organizations and possible violations. . Our bulletins are shared with the public and stakeholders in Turkish and English every two weeks; We use our expertise to deliver scientific, non-partisan research on public policy.





MEDIA COVERAGES

Cumhuriyet Arama...

CHP'li Özel'den dikkat çeken yanıt: "Yeni tek adam benim diyemeyecek"

CHP Grup Başkanvekili Özgür Özel, "Millet İttifakı'nın Cumhurbaşkanlığı seçildiği takdirde sembolik yetkileri kabul eder mi?" sorusuna dikkat çeken bir yanıt verdi.

[A+](#) [A-](#)

cumhuriyet.com.tr 22 Ekim 2021 Cuma, 16:31



Siyaset bilimciler Berk Esen ve Nurettin Kalkan'ın sunduğu programda Cumhurbaşkanlığı tartışmalarına değindi. CHP Grup Başkanvekili Özgür Özel, "Millet İttifakı'nın Cumhurbaşkanlığı seçildiği takdirde sembolik yetkileri"

İLERİ HABER Yazarlar Kategoriler Çeviri Kitap İleri TV

ÖNE ÇIKANLAR: GEZİ DİRENİŞİ KENTSEL DÖNÜŞÜM

EKONOMİ

Türkiye 165 ülke arasında 144. oldu: Kısmi özgür

Ekonomik Özgürlükler: 2021 Yıllık Raporu'nda yer alan 165 ülke arasında Türkiye 114'üncü oldu. Türkiye 3. Çeyrekte yer alarak ekonomik özgürlükler açısından kısmi özgür ülkeler arasında yer aldı.

15 Eylül 2021 09:20

Fraser Institute tarafından "Ekonomik Özgürlükler: 2021 Yıllık Raporu" yayınlandı. Rapor, iki yıllık araştırma sonucunda hazırlanan 2019 yılına ait "Ekonomik Özgürlükler Endeksi"ni de içeriyor.

165 ülkenin karşılaştırıldığı endekste Türkiye 2018 yılında 6,69

webtekno ANASAYFA HABER VIDEO KATEGORİLER

Anasayfa > Sektörler > Ekonomik Özgürlükler Endeksi Yayınlandı: Tablo Acı

Ülkelerin Ekonomik Özgürlüğü Ne Derece Desteklediğini Gösteren Rapor Yayınlandı: Türkiye'de Tablo Acı

Irem Deniz

Yayınlanan Ekonomik Özgürlükler Endeksi'nde Türkiye 6,54 puanla 114. sırada yer aldı. 2018 yılında yayınlanan raporda ise Türkiye 6,69 puanla 100. sıradaydı.

Fraser Institute tarafından yapılan ve 165 ülkenin karşılaştırıldığı "Ekonomik Özgürlükler: 2021 Yıllık Raporu" yayınlandı. Rapor, iki yıllık araştırma birikimiyle hazırlanan 2019 yılının "Ekonomik Özgürlükler Endeksi"ni de kapsıyor. **Özgürlük Araştırmaları Derneği**

bianet BAĞIMSIZ İLETİŞİM AĞI • BİANET • BİAMAG

EKONOMİK ÖZGÜRLÜKLER 2021 RAPORU

Ekonomik Özgürlükler Endeksi: Türkiye 114. sırada

165 ülkenin karşılaştırıldığı endekste Türkiye 2018 yılında 6.69 puanla 100. sırada yer alırken 2019 yılında 6.54 puana gerileyerek 114. sırada yer aldı.

İstanbul - BİA Haber Merkezi

15 Eylül 2021, Çarşamba 12:06

Fraser Institute tarafından "Ekonomik Özgürlükler: 2021 Yıllık Raporu" yayınlandı. Rapor, iki yıllık araştırma sonucunda hazırlanan 2019 yılına ait "Ekonomik Özgürlükler Endeksi"ni de içeriyor.

165 ülkenin karşılaştırıldığı endekste Türkiye 2018 yılında 6.69 puanla 100. sırada yer alırken 2019 yılında 6.54 puana gerileyerek 114. sırada yer aldı.

Özgürlük Araştırmaları Derneği'nin paylaştığı Dünya Ekonomik Özgürlükler Endeksi, ülkelerin politika ve kurumlarıyla ekonomik özgürlüğü ne derece desteklediğini ölçüyor.

BrusselsMorning Home EU institutions Europe World Economy

The bells toll for Turkish civil society

by İsraili Özkan - 27 April 2021 in Opinion

Turkey's new laws could spell disaster for the country's civil society, writes İsraili Özkan.

İstanbul (Brussels Morning) The proposal on the *Prevention of Financing and Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction* was recently discussed at the Grand National Assembly of Turkey and passed by the ruling coalition's votes. The proposal was prepared as an omnibus bill, containing many amendments to a variety of laws.

While the parliament was arguing the budget for 2021, the proposal, which concerns civil society, was quickly presented and adopted in the last days of 2020. The basis of the proposal is to implement regulations, as advised by the Financial Action Task Force within the OECD to all countries, to prevent money laundering, the spread of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction and their financing. Should Turkey not realise the FATF recommendations, it could

BrusselsMorning Home EU institutions Europe World Economy

A mob boss sets the political agenda in Turkey

by İsraili Özkan and Kırsat Özgür Özer - 24 August 2021 in Opinion

Ankara (Brussels Morning) Sedat Peker, who has had an Interpol red notice issued about him on the grounds of his being the leader of a criminal organisation, has continued to set the agenda with his YouTube broadcasts throughout the past month.

At the centre of Peker's allegations have been Süleyman Soylu, the Minister of Interior and Erkan Yıldırım, son of the former Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım. The allegations cover a broad array of issues, such as drug trafficking, the government's involvement in the Syrian civil war and factionalism within law enforcement.

dokuz8 HABER Foto Galeriler Videolar Yazarlar

GÜNDEM TOPLUM & YAŞAM EMEK DÜNYASI EKONOMİ DÜNYA EKOLOJİ-ÇEVRE KÜLTÜR & SANAT

Dört kişiden üçü hayatı boyunca hiç alkol kullanmamış

19.03.2021 - 09:45 YATIRILMIŞ

Özgürlük Araştırmaları Derneği bünyesindeki Devletin Alkol Politikalarını İzleme Platformu "2020 Yılı Türkiye Alkol Tüketim Verileri"ni paylaştı. Raporda alkol tüketim alışkanlıklarının yanı sıra alkollü içkiler üzerindeki yoğun vergi yüküne dikkat çekiliyor.

Türkiye'de yıllık kişi başı saf alkol tüketiminin Avrupa ülkelerine kıyasla oldukça farklı bir rotada seyrettiği belirtilen açıklamada, Türkiye İstatistik Kurumu verilerine göre Türkiye nüfusunun yüzde 74,4'ünün hayatı boyunca hiç alkol kullanmadığı belirtildi. Açıklamada, Dünya Sağlık Örgütü'nün 2018 yılı verilerine göre Türkiye'de yıllık kişi başı saf alkol tüketim ortalamasının 1.4 litre olduğu, bu miktarın Fransa'da 12.33, Almanya'da 12.91, Rusya'da 11.19 olarak kaydedildiği ifade edildi.

oda ANA SAYFA YAZARLAR VIDEO FOTO GALERİ ARŞİV

1 yılda 1 milyon litre...

19 Mart Cuma 2021 10:50

Yüksek vergi sahte içkiye yöneltti. 2020 yılında 1 milyon litreden fazla kaçak alkol ele geçirildi.

1 yılda 1 milyon 20 bin 819 litre ele geçirildi

VERGİ ÖLDÜRÜYOR

Özgürlük Araştırmaları Derneği bünyesindeki Devletin Alkol Politikalarını İzleme Platformu "2020 yılı alkol tüketim verileri" isimli raporunu açıkladı. Rapora göre; alkollü içecekler üzerinden alınan vergilerin rekor kırmaya başlayarak vatandaşların hızla kaçak ve sahte içkiye yöneldiği belirtilerek sadece 2020'nin son 3 ayında 92 vatandaşın hayatını kaybettiğinin altı çizildi.

CHP'nin sahte içki raporunda 2019 yılında 796 bin 320 litre alkol ele geçirildiği açıklanmıştı. Özgürlük Araştırmaları'nın raporunda ise 2020 yılında 1 milyon 20 bin 819 litre kaçak alkol ele geçirildiği açıklandı.

Özgürlük Araştırmaları Derneği'nin raporundan one çıkarılanlar şöyle:

"NÜFUSUN YÜZDE 74,4'Ü HİÇ ALKOL KULLANMAMIŞ"



ÖZGÜRLÜK ARAŞTIRMALARI DERNEĞİ RAPORU:

"Türkiye'de medya kamunun sesini yansıtmaktan uzak"

Gazeteci Derya Sazak, Özgürlük Araştırmaları Derneği için hazırladığı raporda "İfade özgürlüğünün ve basın özgürlüğünün garanti altına alınması için öncelikle demokrasinin iyileştirilmesi ve buna paralel olarak bağımsız yargının da önünün açılması gerekmektedir" dedi.

İstanbul - BİA Haber Merkezi
25 Ocak 2021, Pazartesi 12:56

Özgürlük Araştırmaları Derneği, National Endowment for Democracy'nin desteğiyle "Türkiye'de Yapısal Reformlar Projesini" başlattı.

Proje kapsamında yasama, yargı, kamu ihale rejimi, kamu personeli rejimi ve medya bağımsızlığı olmak üzere beş ana kurum/yapı belirleyen kurum bu alanlardaki mevcut sorunların tanımlanması, somutlaştırılması ve olası reform önerilerinin paylaşılmasını amacıyla bir rapor hazırladı.

YÜKSEK VERGİ + SAHTE İÇKİ = ÖLÜM...

Yüksek vergi sahte içkiye yöneltti. 2020 yılında 1 milyon litreden fazla kaçak alkoli ele geçirildi. Özgürlük Araştırmaları Derneği bünyesindeki Devletin Alkol Politikalarını İzleme Platformu "2020 yılı alkol tüketim verileri" isimli raporunu açıkladı.



1 yılda tam 1 milyon litre kaçak içki yakalandı!

03 Haziran 2021 00:11

Hukuk devleti mi?



Özgürlük Araştırmaları Derneği, Doç. Dr. Ali Rıza Çoban'ın, "Türkiye'de Hukuk Devleti Raporu" adlı, çok değerli bir çalışmasını yayımladı.
Şöyle deniyor:



İki biraya 70 bin TL ceza!



Adıyamanlı esnaf işletmecisi Kâzım Karagöz hakkında 15 Kasım 2021 tarihinde dudak uçuklatan bir cezaya hükmedildi. Karagöz'e, saat 22.00'dan sonra iki adet bira satışı yaptığı için 70 bin 980 TL'lik para cezası kesildi.

Devletin Alkol Politikalarını İzleme Platformu'ndan Çağın T. Eroğlu'nun yazısında göre,

VİTRİN AKTÜEL EKONOMİ ANALİZ DÜNYA

Türkiye içki tüketiminde sonuncu, içki vergisinde 3'üncü

28/12/2021 17:09

Devletin Alkol Politikalarını İzleme Platformu, sene başından bu yana takip ettiği Türkiye'nin kayıt dışı içki tüketim verilerini yayımladı.

Tabloya göre 2021'de Türkiye'de kayıt dışı içkilere yönelik 720

Turkey cracks down on bootleg alcohol ahead of New Year celebrations

Following news of bootleg-related deaths, the Interior Ministry launched Operation Alcohol across the country, while critics say the government uses these high-profile operations to demonize alcohol consumption.



A customer shops for alcoholic beverages at a supermarket ahead of a 17-day nationwide lockdown to curb the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, in Istanbul on April 29, 2021. - BULENT KILIC/AP via Getty Images



December 29, 2021

As most Turks prepare for a quiet New Year's Eve amid economic woes and a surge in COVID-19 cases, a nationwide crackdown on bootleg alcohol has revealed thousands of counterfeit bottles that were likely to literally poison the new year.

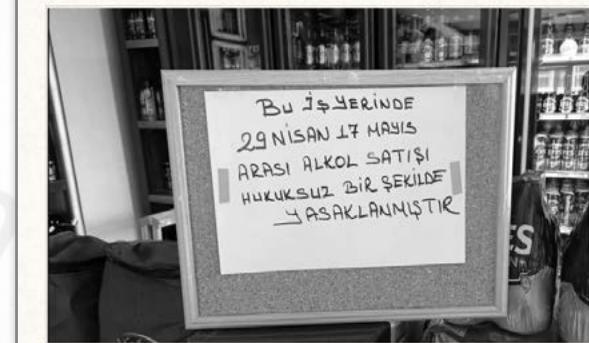
A statement from the Interior Ministry on Dec. 28 revealed the participation of more than 20,000 police and gendarmerie officers in Operation Alcohol in the country's 81 provinces, seizing 20,000 liters of counterfeit liquor — mostly vodka, whiskey and

Birikim 70'lerin Birikimi Haftalık Güncel Yazarlar Duyurular

Alkolün Hukukunu Savunmak

İşıl Kurnaz
29 Nisan 2021 Perşembe

#alkol siyaseti, #hukuk devleti, #kanun devleti



Cumhurbaşkanı, sadece halkına tefhim ederek temel hak ve özgürlükleri sınırlayabilir, hatta durdurabilir mi? Yaşadığımız ve yönetemediğimiz için kronikleşerek yaşama biçimimiz haline getirilen pandemi ile ilgili

Alkollü içkilere "anormal" zam!

"Milyonlarca 'tırak' içici varken", Ülkenin dört bir tarafında evlerde, depolarda "rakı / şarap üretimi" nasıl önlenecek? "Sosyal hayata müdahale" anlamına da gelen "anormal" zamlar "sahteciliği" teşvik etmeyecek mi?



World Trending Business Markets Tech Politics Economy Features Opinion

Turkey clamps down on alcohol as Erdogan pushes Islamist agenda

COVID-19 ban on liquor sales seen as a ploy to reverse 100-year-old secularism



The liquor section of an Istanbul grocery store is cordoned off during a recent three-week lockdown.

MOMOKO KIDERA, Nikkei staff writer
May 29, 2021 18:57 JST

ISTANBUL — "Turkey, once a fiercely secular republic, is stepping up restrictions on



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