

Position Paper

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Comittee: Social, Humanitarian & Cultural
Committee

Country: Turkey

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Agenda Item: Preserving Freedom of Press



Türkiye is a large peninsula connecting the European and Asian continents. Türkiye is surrounded on three sides by the Black Sea, the Mediterranean, and the Aegean Sea. Istanbul, Turkey's largest city, is located inland on the Bosphorus sea route. Part of the city is in Europe and part is in Asia.¹ The capital city of Turkey is Ankara. Turkey is a presidential representative democracy and a constitutional republic within a multi-party system in which the president (head of state and head of government), parliament, and judiciary share powers reserved for the national government.²

Freedom of expression and freedom of the press are human rights. Freedom of expression is a right declared by the UN as part of the International Declaration of Human Rights, signed and adopted by Turkey, like many other countries, on 6 April 1949. Türkiye has signed and ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights³

In cases of emergency in Turkey, according to Article 15 of the Constitution; In cases of war, mobilization, martial law or state of emergency, the exercise of fundamental rights and freedoms may be suspended, partially or completely, to the extent required by the situation, provided that it is not contrary to obligations arising from international law.⁴ Freedom of the press is among the fundamental rights and freedoms, so freedom of the press and communication can only be violated in extraordinary circumstances.

Türkiye plans to take some measures to protect press freedom. Some of these are as follows: Supporting independent media outlets is important to ensure financial independence and protection for journalists. Oversight of government and media relations is critical to ensure media independence from political influence. It ensures that journalists are assured through measures such as protection, physical security, and legal support. Social awareness and education activities emphasize that press freedom is a fundamental element of democracy and raise people's awareness on this issue. Defending press freedom in international relations provides a strong stance against threats by gaining support from the international community.

Bibliography

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