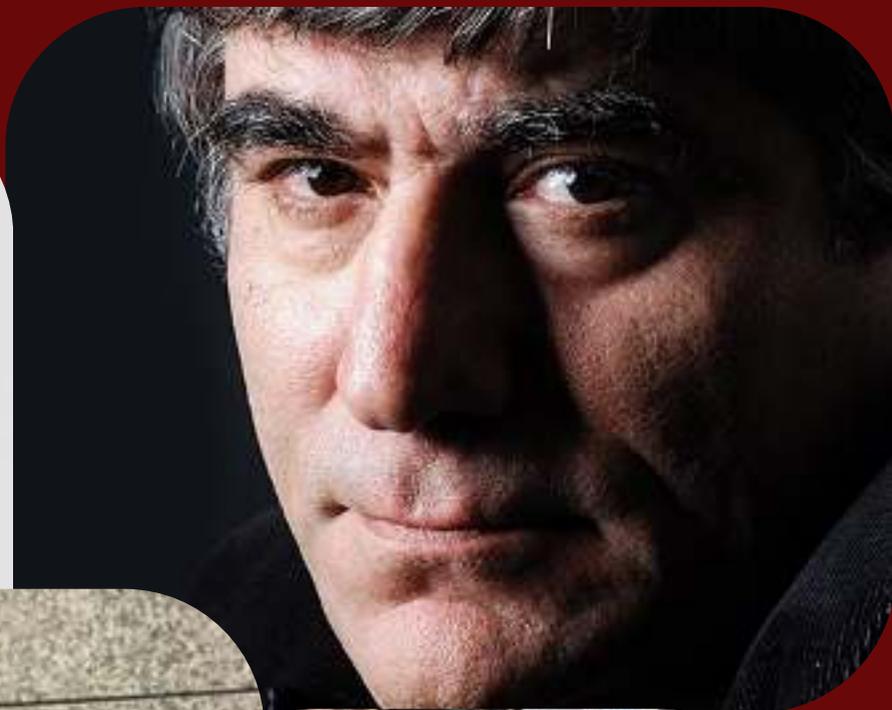


**ISSUE 39**



# LAST WEEK IN TÜRKİYE

**BY**

**MARCH 19 PLATFORM**



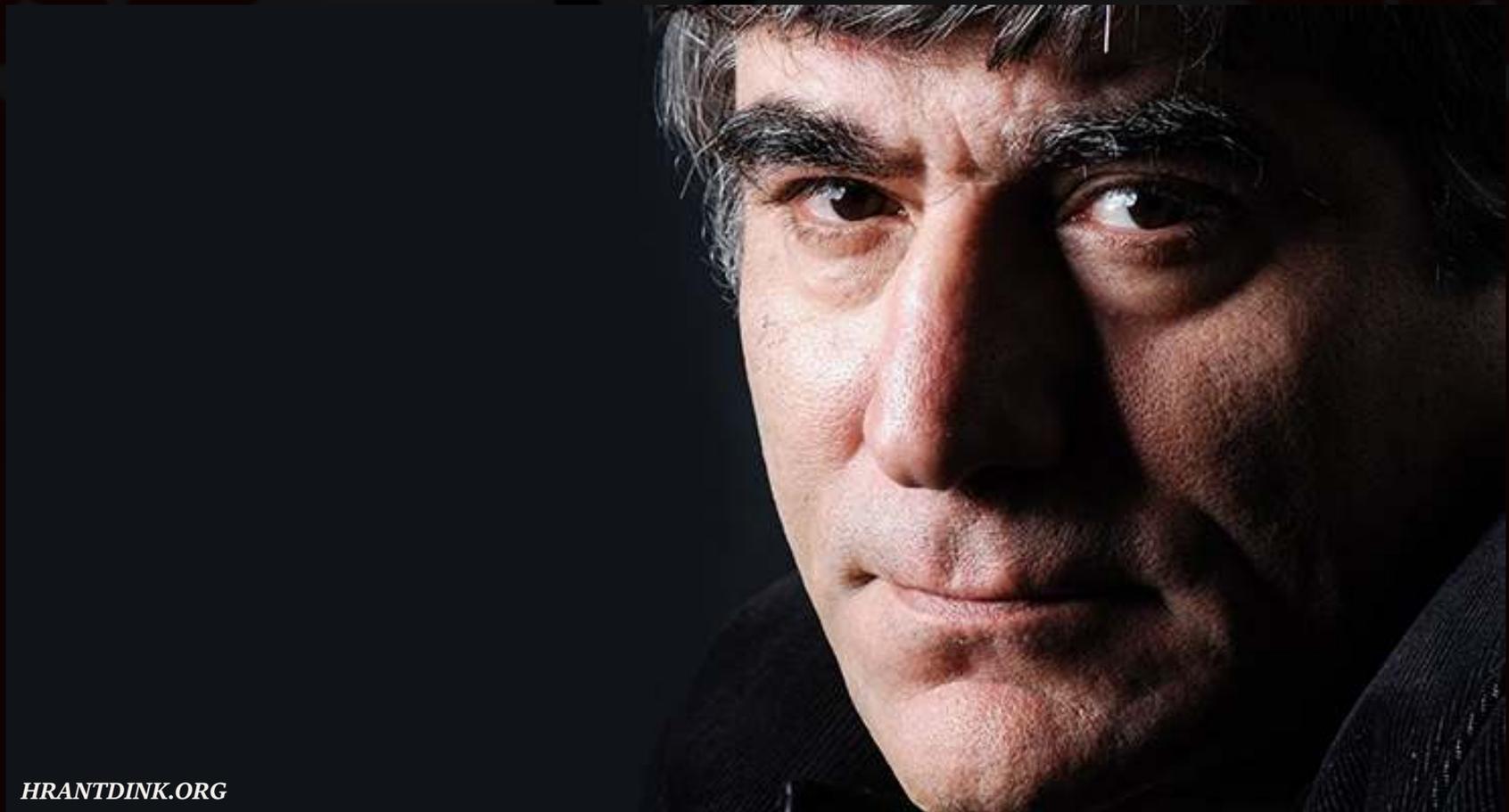
**JANUARY 23, 2026**



JANUARY 23, 2026

# HRANT DINK

*REST IN PEACE*



HRANTDINK.ORG

Hrant Dink was a Turkish-Armenian journalist, writer, and the founder of the bilingual newspaper Agos, known for advocating dialogue, minority rights, and democratic openness in Turkey. After years of lawsuits, public targeting, and hostile campaigns against him, he was assassinated on January 19, 2007 in front of the Agos office in Şişli, Istanbul. His killing became a major turning point in the country, marking January 19 as a symbol of silenced voices and unresolved struggles around freedom of expression and minority rights.



JANUARY 23, 2026

# THE BALLOT BOX ON TRIAL

*ELECTED MAYOR SENTENCED, AGAIN*



A Turkish court sentenced Esenyurt Mayor Ahmet Özer to more than six years in prison on terrorism charges widely criticized as politically motivated, deepening concerns over the use of counterterrorism laws to overturn opposition victories at the ballot box.



JANUARY 23, 2026

# JOURNALISM UNDER PRESSURE

*FROM HOUSE ARREST TO MASS PROSECUTIONS.*



Investigative journalist Furkan Karabay was placed under house arrest for reporting on court files in the Ekrem İmamoğlu case, becoming yet another example of how critical journalism is treated as a crime in Turkey.

Media monitoring groups report that at least 29 journalists were arrested in Turkey in 2025 alone, amid widespread prosecutions, fines, censorship orders, and legal pressure targeting independent reporting.



JANUARY 23, 2026

# ISIAS HOTEL

*CALL IT WHAT IT IS: INTENT, NOT NEGLIGENCE.*



The sentencing of municipal officials in the İsiyas Hotel case has reignited families' demands to recognize the crime as one of intent, not negligence, after officials knowingly ignored fatal risks.



JANUARY 23, 2026

# A VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE

*PUBLIC DISSATISFACTION ACROSS THE BOARD*



A nationwide MetroPOLL survey shows that a strong majority of respondents consider the AKP government unsuccessful in key areas including the economy, refugee policy, agriculture and combating violence against women, reflecting deepening public discontent.



JANUARY 23, 2026

# A NATION ON ANTIDEPRESSANTS

*POVERTY, DEBT, AND HOPELESSNESS.*



ROBERT SULLIVAN/AFP

Antidepressant use in Turkey hit a record high in 2025 as economic hardship, rising debt and widespread pessimism deepened a mental health crisis increasingly linked to poverty and poor governance rather than access to care.



JANUARY 23, 2026

# MORALITY AS CENSORSHIP

*CENSORSHIP BEING WEAPONIZED*



Turkey's media regulator fined HBO Max and MUBI for content deemed contrary to "national and moral values" and penalized an opposition TV channel for criticizing ministers, reinforcing concerns over censorship and shrinking space for free expression.



# OUR NEXT PANEL WITH CAN DÜNDAR

*LIVESTREAMED ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL  
AT 12:00 PM EST. ON JANUARY 25, 2026*



March 19 Platform

CAN DÜNDAR'IN KATILIMIYLA

25 Ocak 2026 Pazar

09.00-10.00 PST  
12.00-13.00 EST  
20.00-21.00 TSİ

Youtube Canlı Yayını

[www.youtube.com/@March19Platform](http://www.youtube.com/@March19Platform)

CAN DÜNDAR  
Gazeteci

Can Dündar is an investigative journalist, writer, and documentary filmmaker known for his work on Türkiye's recent history, politics, and popular culture, including the acclaimed 1993 documentary *Sarı Zeybek*.

After serving as editor-in-chief of *Cumhuriyet* in 2015 and facing judicial pressure, he went into exile in Germany. Despite an arrest warrant in Türkiye, he continues his journalism and advocacy for press freedom, democracy, and human rights through the independent platform #ÖZGÜRÜZ.

# RESOURCES

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- <https://www.turkishminute.com/2026/01/21/turkey-arrested-at-least-29-journalists-in-2025-media-monitoring-report-says/>
- <https://bianet.org/haber/three-former-municipal-officials-sentenced-to-10-years-over-deadly-hotel-collapse-in-2023-quakes-315851>
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