



## Recently communicated priority cases on detained journalists in Turkey

The present applications (see list appended) concern primarily the detention of journalists. Following a preliminary examination of the admissibility on 8 June 2017 and 13 June 2017, the Vice-President of the Section to which the cases had been assigned decided to give notice of the applications to the Government of Turkey and to invite them to submit written observations on their admissibility and merits.

On different dates in October 2017, the Government twice requested extension of the time-limits for submission of their observations. Having regard to the reasons given for these requests and in accordance with the Court's well-established practice, the President of the Section decided to grant the extensions requested and the Government submitted their observations on admissibility and merits of the cases within the set time-limit.

Moreover, the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe informed the Court that he wished to exercise his right under Article 36 § 3 of the Convention to submit written observations in the Court's proceedings in these cases. In addition to that, in accordance with their requests, the President of the Section granted leave, under Rule 44 § 3 of the Rules of Court, for the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression of the United Nations and several non-governmental organisations to make written submissions to the Court. These comments were received on 11 October, 23 October and 30 October 2017, respectively, and forwarded to the parties, who have been given the opportunity to file any written observations which they may wish to make in reply.

On 7 November 2017, the Government requested an extension of four weeks of the time allowed for submission of their observations in reply to the third-party submissions of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council Europe. Having taken note of the reason advanced, the President of the Section decided to grant the extension. However, noting that there were three different time-limits for each of the third parties and in order to ensure the proper administration of justice, the President of the Section also decided that this extension would apply to the submissions of the Government in reply to all third parties. Consequently, the time-limit has been set at 5 December 2017 for the submission of the Government's observations in reply to all of the third party submissions.

### List of applications

72/17 Taş v. Turkey  
80/17 Aksoy v. Turkey  
1210/17 Ilıcak v. Turkey  
13237/17 Altan v. Turkey  
13252/17 Altan v. Turkey  
16538/17 Alpay v. Turkey  
23199/17 Sabuncu and Others v. Turkey  
25939/17 Bulaç v. Turkey

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**Press contacts**

[echrpress@echr.coe.int](mailto:echrpress@echr.coe.int) | tel: +33 3 90 21 42 08

**Inci Ertekin (tel: + 33 3 90 21 58 77)**

Tracey Turner-Tretz (tel: + 33 3 88 41 35 30)

Denis Lambert (tel: + 33 3 90 21 41 09)

Nina Salomon (tel: + 33 3 90 21 49 79)

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