



Turkish law tightening rules on social media comes into effect just before Turkey Tribunal's Press Freedom Report

Thursday, October 22, 2020

A law considerably strengthening authorities' control over social networks has come into force in Turkey. This new law alarmed human rights groups with rules to oversee tech companies.

New regulations threaten the presence of Twitter, Facebook and others in the country if they do not obey requests to remove contentious content.

The legislation implemented from September 29 means social networks with more than a million unique connections per day must have a representative in Turkey.

Platforms will also have to obey Turkish court orders to remove content that's reported as offensive by either individuals or the government within 48 hours.

Failure to do so could lead to fines of up to €4.3 million or restrictions on bandwidth, blocking access to the platform.

On one hand, Facebook has decided to defy the new law in Turkey requiring social media companies to establish a formal presence in the country. On the other hand, the other social media giants Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and others still keep silent on the issue.

Prominent Human Rights Lawyer Kerem ALTIPARMAK said on his Twitter account: "End of October is nearing and so far no social media company has appointed a representation to Turkey. In this case, 6 months later we will not (be able to) use Twitter, Facebook, Instagram. We will return back to our lives a decade ago. Surely, there may be good in it but no doubt there remains no chance to get accurate news."

As Turkey Tribunal, we also closely follow the developments with worry that this will bring more constraints on freedom of the press and freedom of expression in the country, which is already in an extremely dire condition.

Our fourth report on this topic will be released very soon. It can be reached on our website and social media handles.

Website: <https://turkeytribunal.com/>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/turkey_tribunal

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Turkey Tribunal Full Reports:

1. [Turkey Tribunal report on Impunity in Turkey Today \(ENG\)](#)
2. [Turkey Tribunal report on Abductions in Turkey Today \(ENG\)](#)
3. [Turkey Tribunal's report on Torture in Turkey Today \(ENG\)](#)
4. [Günümüz Türkiye'sinde İşkence \(TR\)](#)

¹ <https://www.euronews.com/2020/10/01/turkish-law-tightening-rules-on-social-media-comes-into-effect>

² <https://www.ft.com/content/91c0a408-6c15-45c3-80e3-d6b2cf913070>

³ <https://twitter.com/KeremALTIPARMAK/status/1319197398132994050?s=20>