

Turkey takes over biggest newspaper

7th March, 2016



Turkish police have used tear gas, rubber bullets and water cannon against protestors outside the offices of a national newspaper in Istanbul. The demonstrators were protesting against the takeover of a private newspaper by the Turkish government. Turkish authorities seized control of the company that owns Turkey's best-selling newspaper Zaman. The paper was once a supporter of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, but then became one of his fiercest critics. Authorities say Zaman has links to the US-based Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen, who the government says plotted a coup to oust President Erdogan. Commentators say it is another blow for freedom in Turkey.

The takeover of Zaman by the Turkish government has sparked concerns in Europe about Turkey's readiness to join the European Union. European Enlargement Commissioner Johannes Hahn said the latest developments jeopardised recent progress made by Turkey. The chairman of Germany's foreign affairs committee said, "the violent action against a critical newspaper" and "the fact that the government takes over the whole paper is a severe blow...against the freedom of press". The editor-in-chief of Zaman's English newspaper lamented: "Our [final] headline is about us again, and that should give an idea about the kind of democracy in the country. There's no rule of law left in Turkey."

Sources: *ChicagoTribune / News.Sky.com / hurriyetdailynews*

Writing

Governments should never run newspapers. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

police / tear gas / rubber bullets / newspaper / protesting / supporter / critic / freedom / concerns / progress / committee / headline / democracy / editor / rule of law

True / False

- Police used rubber bullets against protestors in Istanbul. T / F
- Protestors were angry about the sale of a government newspaper. T / F
- The Zaman newspaper once supported Turkey's president. T / F
- Authorities said the paper was linked to someone who plotted a coup. T / F
- Europe is wondering if Turkey is ready to join the EU. T / F
- An EU commissioner said the situation did not jeopardise anything. T / F
- Germany's foreign affairs committee welcomed the paper's takeover. T / F
- The paper's editor-in-chief said Turkey still had a strong rule of law. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. protestors | a. shock |
| 2. seized | b. backer |
| 3. supporter | c. worries |
| 4. fiercest | d. grabbed |
| 5. oust | e. complained |
| 6. concerns | f. demonstrators |
| 7. readiness | g. remaining |
| 8. blow | h. drive out |
| 9. lamented | i. strongest |
| 10. left | j. preparedness |

Discussion – Student A

- What is the link between freedom of the press and democracy?
- Why would this action jeopardise Turkey's EU membership?
- Should governments own any newspapers?
- Will the government takeover mean people will go to the Internet more?
- How important are journalists?
- Which is better to get news – newspapers or the Internet?
- Do you believe what you read in newspapers?
- What questions would you like to ask the newspaper's editor?

Breaking News English - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. tear | a. of law left |
| 2. rubber | b. oust President Erdogan |
| 3. became one of his fiercest | c. blow |
| 4. plotted a coup to | d. bullets |
| 5. another blow for | e. gas |
| 6. sparked | f. made by Turkey |
| 7. jeopardised recent progress | g. freedom in Turkey |
| 8. foreign | h. concerns in Europe |
| 9. a severe | i. critics |
| 10. There's no rule | j. affairs |

Discussion – Student B

- How important are newspapers?
- What do you think about what you read?
- Should newspapers be in government control?
- What is your favourite newspaper, and why?
- What role do newspapers have in society?
- Would you protest to protect freedom of the press?
- What does Turkey's government hope to achieve?
- How good are your country's newspapers?

Spelling

- rubber lsulteb
- trrotopsse outside the offices
- Turkish itrioahuets
- zdesie control of the company
- one of his ricestfe critics
- plotted a coup to suto President Erdogan
- sparked esoncrnc in Europe
- eisojapredd (UK) / dajoidpezer (USA) recent progress
- foreign affairs tocmemtei
- toevlin action
- a ervsee blow
- the kind of ocmcryade in the country

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. b	4. i	5. h
6. c	7. j	8. a	9. e	10. g

Role Play

Role A – Politics

You think politics is the best section of a newspaper. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their sections aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): fashion, sport or local news.

Role B – Fashion

You think fashion is the best section of a newspaper. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their sections aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): politics, sport or local news.

Role C – Sport

You think sport is the best section of a newspaper. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their sections aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): fashion, politics or local news.

Role D – Local news

You think local news is the best section of a newspaper. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their sections aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): fashion, sport or politics.

Speaking – Newspapers

Rank these with your partner. Put the best sections at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------|--------------|
| • Politics | • TV |
| • Weather | • Sport |
| • Fashion | • World news |
| • Business | • Local news |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	F	h	F
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.