

## Trial of Journalists Begins

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The trial of five newspaper columnists charged with insulting the country's courts got under way in Istanbul in what is seen as another test of the relationship between Turkey and the European Union, which has called for increased rights to free expression in Turkey. The journalists — Ismet Berkan, Murat Belge and Haluk Sahin of the liberal newspaper Radikal, and Hasan Cemal and Erol Katircioglu of the center-right newspaper Milliyet — had criticized court rulings that tried to block an academic conference on the Armenian genocide, its first public discussion in Turkey. They are charged under the same law as was the author Orhan Pamuk, who publicly questioned Turkey's official denial of the genocide, and face prison terms of 6 months to 10 years if convicted. The case against Mr. Pamuk brought Turkey international scorn, and his charges were dropped last month. A group of European Parliament observers is attending the current trial, which was adjourned to April 11.