

## **Abstract**

The right to freedom of expression is one of the essential rights of every democratic society. If Turkish republic becomes part of the European Union, which stands for a symbol of observance of the human rights and freedoms, it will have to prove in line with the accession talks its ability to transform the unkind working environment of the Turkish journalists to an environment, which would actually correspond with the European standards. The analysis of the article 301 factors only a fraction in the large field of Turkish journalism. However, this study is concerned with the general development of the existence of the article 301, which prohibits public denigration of the Turkish nation, the Republic or the state and security organizations. There are particular amendments of this article observed, also partial court cases of the accused journalists as well as the impact of the article 301 on the perception and behavior of the Turkish nationalists who attack the journalists prosecuted under the article 301, all this in the name of protection of the Republic. This study also points out how the article 301 is being treated and understood by the European institutions for the human rights, or by the European Union alone. Through the article 301 the different nature of the Turkish republic is emphasized. It is stressed that the patriotic provisions of the law are only a result of a typical Turkish character.