



# Committee for the Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey

## NEWSLETTER

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### **Stop the murders of the fascist junta in Turkey!**

The military junta which came to power on 12th September is digging in. In a farcical attempt to impart an air of respectability to its illegal regime, the self-appointed 5-man National Security Council first appointed a government and then proceeded to hold a "vote of confidence" in it. Predictably it was carried unanimously: 5 out of 5! According to the new procedural rules, an absolute majority on the NSC is required to bring down the government, i.e., 3 votes!

The NSC has concentrated in itself executive, legislative and judiciary powers. It has usurped the powers of parliament. It is empowered to draft laws, overrule government decisions and, since its 5 members are the chiefs of staff, it exercises control over the military courts which deal with martial law offences. The government, made up of retired army officers and civilian technocrats is there largely for the sake of appearances.

As a sign of things to come, the NSC last week announced the formation of special "summary trial" courts to deal with alleged terrorist offences. Four people have had their death sentences ratified and there are another 51 awaiting ratification. Two people were hanged on Wednesday, the first to be executed since 1972, in what was an obviously planned scenario. One of those executed was from the left, the other from the right. Both had committed similar crimes, and both had partners, who are also under sentence of death passed *in absentia* and have yet to be caught.

Although the junta is projecting an image of being equally determined to wipe out both left and right wing terrorism, the brunt of the attack is already being directed against the left. Rauf Tamer, a leader writer for the right wing daily *Tercuman* is telling the fascist commandos to be patient and to bear with the "equal fist" policy for the time being, that this is necessary for appearances, etc.

It is impossible to gauge the extent of the arrests and repression, as newspapers have been "requested" not to publish "unauthorised information". But inhabitants report massive dragnets in slum areas and in Kurdistan. David Barchard, writing in *The Guardian* (10 October) reports: "Last week after a leftist handwritten slogan was discovered on an Ankara bus during the rush hour, police selected 10 youths, apparently arbitrarily, to take away for "questioning".

As martial law authorities throughout the country published telephone members for denunciation and information, there were reports of mass arrests of youngsters. They remained reports however, as the penalty for giving information to foreign journalists could be up to two years of imprisonment.

In the light of these developments, the Committee for the Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey appeals to all democratic public opinion, all democratic organisations, the counterparts of which have been banned and the leaders of which have been arrested in Turkey, all democratically-minded individuals, to condemn the coup and the trampling on all democratic and human rights in Turkey. We appeal to them to expose in every way possible the repressive and fascist character of the present regime.

## **A progressive lawyer was the third to fall from Bursa Headquarters' fifth floor window**

A Progressive Lawyer was the third to fall from Bursa Security Headquarters' fifth floor window. On 4th October, the newspaper *Hurriyet* reported that Ahmet Hilmi Fevzioglu, acting lawyer for the Bursa branch of the Metal Workers' Union (*Maden-Is*), had died after "falling" from a fifth floor window of the Bursa Security Headquarters. Fevzioglu had been taken into custody one week before and was being interrogated at the time he "fell".

It was the third such accident involving the same fifth floor window of the Bursa Security Headquarters. One month earlier, Ergun Sen had fallen, also while being interrogated. He was seriously wounded and is still being treated for his injuries.

In the week before Fevzioglu's death, Rafet Demir "committed suicide by throwing himself out of the fifth storey window while his hands were bound and he was being interrogated"(!)

On the same day that martial law commanders in the region announced that 3145 people had been taken into custody in various "operations", the body of Mehmet Cizreli, who was the former president of the Mardin branch of the Teachers' Association (TOB-DER), and was in the army doing his military service, was identified in Mardin. Cizreli had been so badly tortured that it took one week to identify the body.

## **Solidarity with Turkey**

*Lord Anthony Gogard* ... "full solidarity and support in the present time of bitter oppression" ... "the struggle continues".

*James Lamond, MP*, your work is "more urgent than ever".

*CPGB Northern District Committee*: "The ruthless imposition of the martial law across the country, the arrest and detention of communists, trade unionists and any voice of opposition represents a grave threat not only to the Turkish people but to peace loving and democratic forces the world over".

*Ernie Roberts, MP*: "...my support is your determination to restore democracy" ...

*Bob Cryer, MP*: "...Turkey is having a vestiges of democracy removed by the military intervention."

*International Association of Democratic Lawyers*: "...protests against the military coup d'etat which took place in Turkey, their proclamation of state power on the territory, the dissolution of the parliament and of the political parties and the suspension of the trade unions.

The Association condemns this attempt against the democratic rights and the fundamental rights of the Turkish people.

The Association expresses its solidarity with the democratic forces of Turkey."



*Three victims lying dead with their hands above their heads*

## Murders in Sisli

On 4 October the bodies of three people were found under a tree behind the Bomonti Brewery in the Sisli district of Istanbul. Before being shot, the three (police officer Faruk Dogan, driver Hasan Donmez and chicken-breeder Cavit Ozer) had been made to lie on the ground with their hands above their heads. Altogether the three victims had more than 20 bullet wounds (*Hürriyet*).

## Hangings

On the 8th October, at 2 a.m., two political prisoners were hanged. According to *Hürriyet* (10.10.1980) they were kept in a special cell for two days, and not permitted to read newspapers or listen to the radio. At 1.30 a.m. they were woken by prison officers and told that they were being transferred to another prison. Not knowing that they were being taken to be hanged, the two prisoners were handed to military officers. Then in the garden of the other prison, Ankara Kapali Prison, they were executed. According to *Tercüman* (9.10.1980) the hangman hesitated and was persuaded by threats of an army officer.

Of the two hanged, Necdet Adali (24) and Mustafa Pehlivanoglu (22), one was a leftist and the other a fascist. "One from each side" is part of the demagogic policy of the fascist junta. The mood of the people is such that, without seeming to do something against individual fascists and/or fascist organisations, no government can take steps towards fascism, against the left, the working class movement, the people. If the Hitler gang had to use "anti-capitalist", "socialist" demagogies, this fascist junta has to add "anti-fascism" to its demagogies.

Just before the executions, a "law" written by the five-man junta was published in the *Official Gazette*, to give an "official", "legal" appearance to the executions. The "law" abiding illegal fascist junta has *three* more death sentences on the agenda, endorsed by its puppet "legal" institutions. And *two* death sentences were passed by Istanbul and Adana Military Tribunals, waiting for "endorsement". They are the first of a long line.

## **STOP PRESS .....**

According to the newspaper *Cumhuriyet* (8.10.1980), the working week is to be increased to 56 hours. This is part of Hitler style labour policy, to turn Turkey into a labour camp.

## **Compulsory blood donations declared**

In an unprecedented measure, the Minister for Health and Social Welfare announced last week that anyone visiting patients in hospital would be required to donate blood before they could see the patient.

The Minister Ayanoglu said, "Visitors will no longer be able to freely roam hospitals. Visitors will be required first to visit the hospital blood bank and donate a bottle of blood. From now on there will be signposts about blood donation gracing the walls of our hospitals. Citizens, who frequently use leeches to let blood, must give blood to save lives. Blood donations are not unhealthy, on the contrary they are good for the health. All healthy citizens over 18 can normally give blood until they are 40."

*(Reported in Hurriyet, 1 October, 1980)*

## **Denounce-a-phone**

In an ominous flashback to the 1971 coup, wanted posters have begun appearing in Ankara and Adana. Citizens are encouraged to denounce anyone or anything suspicious to the martial law authorities. The newspapers have published maps of the 67 provinces with special telephone numbers of denunciations. It is feared that the return to this practice, which is not specified under law, will encourage the setting of personal grudges (*Gunaydin*, 19 September).

## **Tortures**

In Ankara Police Headquarters, 1st Branch, two political prisoners were tortured during "questioning" (?). According to *Hürriyet* (9.10.1980), the post-mortem report states that Zeynel Abidin Ceylan had 3 ribs broken, his liver was extensively damaged and there were signs of electric shocks on his body. On the other hand, Hasan Ozmen fainted during tortures. He was taken to the military hospital, Gulhane, where he later died. Ozmen's post-mortem showed that there were signs of torture on his body, too.

When this information leaked the press, authorities said that they would make an investigation. Who will investigate who?

## **"Census"**

On Sunday, the 12th of October there is going to be a "population census" in Turkey. Everybody will stay at home and census officers, accompanied by two armed soldiers, will "visit" houses with their questionnaires. All the houses will be searched.

Even in "democratic" times, in Turkey census were an oppressive device not least against left political activists and the Kurdish people. People of Kurdish origin were identified and put on a black list. But under present fascist conditions, the census will be a full scale military offensive against the entire people.

## **Arrests**

Ex-mayor of Ankara, Ali Dincer, who was replaced by an officer recently, was arrested together with some more officials. Ali Dincer belongs to the RPP.

In the light of wide-scale arrests of trade unionists and opposition leaders, the illegal character of the present regime, and the announcement of measures which trample on all democratic and human rights that remained in Turkey, the Committee for the Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey voices its hope that our members will renew their affiliation and that other democratic organisations and individuals will become sponsors or affiliates.

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