



Committee for the Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey

NEWSLETTER

Issue No: 5, 24 November, 1980



*Education under
the jackboot*

NUS CONFERENCE SPECIAL ISSUE

Educational under the jackboot

The coup of September the 12th, in Turkey, occurred at a time when the country was plunging towards civil war. Since the coup the National Security Council (NSC) has embarked on a course which can leave no doubt about the fascist nature of the coup. The NSC is at this very moment building a fascist regime in the country.

Turkey's youth have a long tradition of being progressive. The fact that they constitute over half the population means that they make a major impact on the country's life (60% of the population are under 20 years old). Because of this youth have been prime targets for the mailed fist of military.

Before the coup general unrest existed in every school and college, there was never enough, out of 600,000 applying every year for higher education there were only 30,000 places, grants were pitifully low (£7-£10 month) there was a shortage of places in student hostels, and a chronic shortage of staff. In order to suppress this unrest schools and colleges were frequently raided by the Para military police; the Gendarme. As a result of their searches for left wing papers and books, and 'terrorists', academic life became completely disrupted.

Since the coup the junta has not only banned all student unions but has placed all schools and colleges under military supervision. The Minister of Culture was quoted in a recent newspaper article (11.10.1980, *Hürriyet*) as saying that the aim of the education 'programme' was to 'protect Turkish youth from the effects of foreign culture, they will be educated as true nationalists, in the spirit of Ataturk. We will prepare cultural and educational programmes to relieve Turkish youth from stress. Turkish youth, who will be carrying the honour of being a Turk will be working for the advance of Turkey without wanting anything in return.'

The aim of the junta is to purge 'alien' ideas from education, to mold a loyal young generation to create an unquestioning atmosphere the Education Ministry have even set up a commission to revise all text books, to ensure that they all have the required 'Turkish nationalism and Kemalism'. In Kurdish areas (25% of the population) this 'education programme' can only mean

increased oppression. Even now they are not allowed to use their own language, under the Generals merely to be a Kurd is a threat to the state.

As part of their longer term aim of creating a fascist state in Turkey the junta has unleashed a reign of terror. Not only have all Trade Unions Political parties and student organisations been closed but thousands have been arrested, they face the certainty of being tortured. Such is the fear of students that martial law commanders have been given the power to close any school or college, to search them and to ban any student from attending classes. Any attempt at protest against these measures would certainly lead to arrest and torture (the practice of which was well documented by Amnesty International even before the coup).

The junta is out to silence all opposition. Whether at home or abroad.

— Those who talk against the junta face a sentence of 6 months.

— If this was to a foreigner the sentence is 1 year.

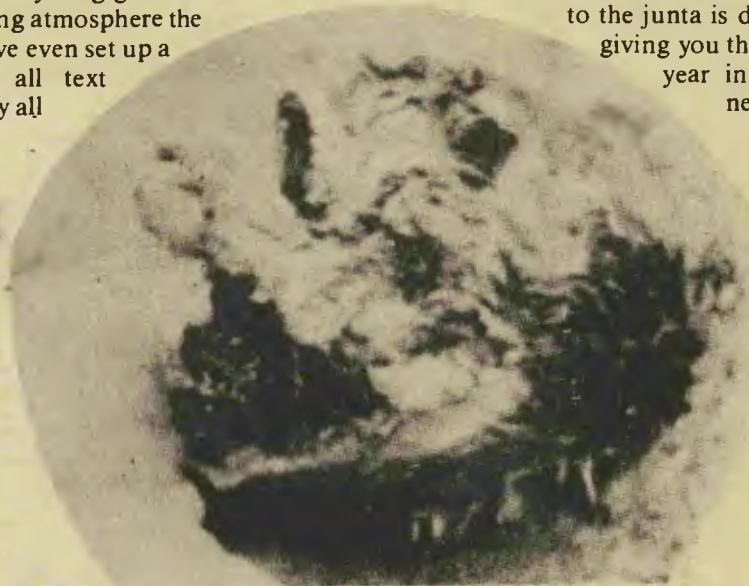
— And if done via the media the sentence is doubled.

Already a 'control committee' is reported to have been established within the secret police. Its task is to trace the sources of information foreign papers and the media obtain about Turkey, and to spy on opposition to the regime among people from Turkey living abroad.

In London Turkish 'Cultural' Department put out a notice warning students not to get involved in 'devious activities' and instructing students to inform on other students' activities. A particular organisation the authorities loath is the Turkish Student Federation in the UK, the federation have over the years organised the broad mass of Turkish students in Britain.

For the members of the TSF and for any democratic student from Turkey opposition to the junta is dangerous, the mere act of giving you this *Newsletter* could mean a year in prison. Your support is needed, affiliate to the CDDRT, get your Student Union to affiliate.

Your solidarity will save lives and bring the day the fascist junta falls that much nearer.



At the beginning of May, Mehmet Ali Yolagelmez a 23-year old teacher, disappeared from the small village where he had been teaching near Cankiri, to the north of Ankara. One week later he was found, his body intact, but with his head in the state shown. While he was still alive his tongue and ears had been cut off and his eyes had been gouged out. He had then had acid poured over his head to ensure him a slow agonising death. Yolagelmez's family and colleagues say that he had long been threatened. They complain that neither after he was kidnapped nor after his mutilated corpse was found did the authorities show the slightest concern.



A primary school being searched by the army.



Army guard, again armed with a machine-gun, at Istanbul University.



Armed with machine-guns, gendarmes and police searched classrooms, the library, gym and bedrooms at the Haydarpasa High School.

L tters from Turk y

...After the morning assembly, they force us to sing reactionary and chauvinistic marches . Beatings and hard labour has been institutionalised. We are forced to sleep three in a bed in filthy and ice cold dormitories. 90% of the inmates are sick. There is no medicine. There are not enough doctors. Radio and books are banned... Beatings and 'falaka' (beating of the soles) have become routine... I had a friend, his name is... he was killed in the torture chamber of the Police Headquarters. Another revolutionary was killed in the same place. The junta arrested a police officer to absolve itself. But the generals are fully aware that the number of officers and constables who have not taken part in tortures in police stations and the headquarters can be counted on the figures of one hand and that the tortures are continuing and increasing. In fact tortures are becoming more widespread in the military garrisons as well.

...The other side of the coin is the increase in racist chauvinist propaganda. Military processions are shown on TV everyday either live or from film. The martial law generals take part in the opening ceremonies of primary schools. They deliver speeches (which indicate the degree of political consciousness among the school kids) and rise the smallest events of the "National Liberation" war for this purpose. For example on the anniversary of "Ataturk's" visit to Manisa (a town in the Aegean region) teachers and pupils were kept waiting and marching in army discipline for hours. During this parade two teachers were arrested for reasons such as the way they were wearing their jackets or this.

...The number of people picked up in the Middle East Technical University is rapidly increasing. It requires ridiculous formalities even to go from one student hall to another...

... The number of people arrested and taken to the stadium was increasing by the hour. The fascist officers were insulting us all. The mayor of Gultepe, Aydın Erten was also there when I was taken in, and he was being kept in a cage. A captain showing him to the soldiers was giving orders not to give him any food and swearing. There were also some fascists in the stadium. One of them was the Izmir city committee secretary of NAP, Yusuf Kurkpinar. They were being treated well and were given steaks, food and medicine brought from outside.

...In the Izmirli region some kids were starting a fire and then putting it out in front of a house. The owner of the house complained to the law authorities that they were attempted arson, giving names. There was an operation in the area and 20-30 people including kids and women were taken to the military barracks.

...Another day there was a knock on the door at 5am in the morning. A lieutenant accompanied by 3 soldiers entered the house. They said they were looking for somebody and asked if we knew him. They searched the house and left. Searches were carried out in the whole vicinity that night. We do not know how many were taken away or where they were taken to.

APPEAL

The CDDRT and the TSF is asking for all the student unions and the NUS Conference to pass a motion on Turkey to condemn the fascist junta and to send protest messages to the Turkish Cultural Department in London as well as your solidarity messages to TSF. We should fight together to give an end to fascist terror and repression to the students and workers of Turkey.

MOTION ON TURKEY

This Union Resolves:

1. To condemn the fascist coup which ensures the oppression of the peoples of Turkey.
2. To demand the opening of trade unions and all democratic organisations.
3. To demand the release of all anti-fascist political prisoners and end the torture against them.
4. To demand the Turkish troops out of Cyprus.
5. To affiliate to the CDDRT.

STOP PRESS...

Torture to death...

Another accident. This time police claim that a student from the Middle East Technical University had "fallen" down the stairs to his death while he was under interrogation (16.11.1980, *Hürriyet*).

Expelled from the University

16 students from the Middle East Technical University (METU) have been expelled from the university, because they took part in a demonstration.

Teachers face charges

The Teachers' Association TOB-DER was closed with the 12th September coup. The Association and its member had engaged in a heroic struggle for a better education facilities in Turkey. The junta has now started "legal" proceedings against the association and its members (16.11.1980, *Hürriyet*).

Junta chooses the university textbooks

Recently, junta decreed the withdrawal of works of Marx, Engels and Lenin from the reference textbooks lists in the Universities. When the academic staff at Middle East Technical University refused to obey, threatening to resign if they were made to obey, they were answered that "Any worker, any member of an academic staff who resigns may be sure that he will not be able to find a job elsewhere".

Sponsors to date

Eddie Loyden, MP
Dennis Skinner, MP
Sid Bidwell, MP
Geoffrey Edge, MP
Stan Newens, MP
Andrew Benneth, MP
Fred Evans, MP
Roy Hughes, MP
Stan Thorpe, MP
Joe Ashton, MP
Martin Flannery, MP
Frank Aillaun, MP
Jo Richardson, MP
Jim Marshall, MP
George Morton, MP
Ernie Roberts, MP
Bob Hughes, MP
Joan Maynard, MP

Bob Cryer, MP
Alf Lomas, MP
Richard Caborn, MP
Lord Fenner Brockway
Alan Sapper, ACCT
Lawrence Daly, NUM
Bob Wright, AUEW
Alex Kitson, TGWU
TGWU
NUM — Yorkshire
NUM — Derbyshire
ECATT — NW Region
AUEW — Kingston District
Hackney Trades Council
Rotterdam Trades Council
Leeds Trades Council
Stockport Trades Council
Colin Barnett — Secretary, NW Region TUC

Beryl Huffingley — Secretary, Yorkshire and Humberside Region TUC
EH Hughes, Vice President, NW Region TUC
J. Davidson, NW District Secretary FTAT
Communist Party of Great Britain
CPGB — Manchester Area
Portuguese Communist Party (organisation in Britain)
KNE — Communist Youth of Greece (Organisation in Britain)
Cyprus Students Society — Manchester University
Mgr. Bruce Kent — CND
Arthur Latham
William Pomeroy
Gordon Schaffer
London Co-op Political Committee

Affiliation to CDDRT

Help fight the barbaric fascist regime in Turkey. Affiliate to the Committee for Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey (CDDRT). Cost of affiliation for one year: national organisations £20 (can be negotiated), local organisations £5, individuals £2.

Name

Address

Send to: CDDRT, 28-29, Parkfield St., London N1. Tel: 01-226 3401. (Make cheques or postal order to CDDRT).