



# Committee for the Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey

## NEWSLETTER

Issue No: 16 26 September 1981

### FASCIST JUNTA DESTROYS DEMOCRACY

Ever since the first day of the fascist coup which was staged in Turkey on 12 September last year, the junta of the National Security Council (NSC) has maintained that it acted against terrorism of the left and of the right. The fact that the vast majority of the 5000 murdered in two years up until then came from the left was ignored.

Turkey's economic problems pressed hardest on its working class and all working people, including in Kurdistan. Many organised within the militant trade union confederation DISK, which was able to mobilise half a million in May day demonstrations in the late '70s. Still the problems of inflation of over 100% and unemployment 20-25% became more pressing: such pressure on workers even developed to the stage of armed confrontation.

The generals decided to move to head off what seemed to them a dangerous situation. Fascist measures brought in over a period (using laws almost word for word similar to Mussolini's), the use of fascist murder gangs and capitalism's inability to buy off sections of workers meant that democratic means were insufficient to contain the workers' anger. A fascist junta was installed, well over 100,000 were rounded up and tortured (some to death) and, recently, demands made for death sentences against 52 DISK leaders soon to go on trial. (Ten persons have been executed since the coup.) All the old political parties, including the Socialist International affiliate, the Republican Peoples' Party (RPP), were banned and, together with DISK, are to remain so. Indeed all former politicians are barred from political life. The RPP leader, Bülent Ecevit, is to be tried for "harming the honour of the state". This accusation is based on excerpts from four speeches made 5-6 years ago, quoted by

the newspaper *Hürriyet* (13.9.81) as

"The oppression of the National Front Government" (20.11.75); "distortions in the annual plan are deceits previously unseen in history" (12.2.76); "capitalism, fascism and every sort of reaction are united in today's fascist government" (accusing the National Front Government at the RPP Youth Section Rally, 18.4.76); and, "it is a rude, disgraceful betrayal" (in a speech to visiting trade unionists, 18.8.76). The National Front Government referred to was a coalition of the Justice Party, the Nationalist Action Party (fascist) and the National Salvation Party.

The junta closed Parliament and scrapped the Constitution, which after a charade will be replaced. The first act in the charade is the convening of a "constituent assembly" in October 1981, but even conservatives are concerned that it will not even give the appearance of democracy. Nazlı Ilıcak, writing in *Tercüman* on 13 September, was worried about "a system in which the political parties have been pushed into the background. It does not matter how much we force ourselves, we cannot give it the name democracy. Even if we give it, we cannot persuade anybody".

The truth about "moves to democracy" (a phrase so beloved by apologists for the fascist junta) was given in a speech by leading junta fascist General Kenan Evren (Head of State) which was broadcast nationwide on radio and television on 12 September 1981 and reported by *Milliyet*:

"...We could not create the conditions where the political parties will carry on fighting. So we have to choose a group or committee. It is quite natural that the National Security Council, which has proved its aims by its actions, should have the right of electing this...

We can give only the date for convening the constituent assembly ... 23 October 1981. The following steps will depend on the work of the constituent assembly and it will depend on time. It is not possible to give any further date for anything... It is not correct to give further dates... It is not thought that executions should be stopped for political reasons, as in the old days, in order that justice will find its place in the way that decisions are taken by the courts."

General Evren shows no mercy for opponents nor an interest anything other than staging a fake assembly to cover a complete lack of democracy. The fascist junta cannot grant the democracy it destroyed; that will be established by the people of Turkey. A continuing high inflation rate (officially 40%), street killings (533 in the last year — *Tercüman*), "political crimes" reaching 5972 (*Tercüman*), and unemployment as high or higher than the pre-coup level of 25% all lead to the conclusion that Turkey's fascist junta cannot last.

Send protests at the DISK trials and trials of Kurdish democrats to:

General Kenan Evren, Head of State, Çankaya, Ankara, Turkey.

IE The Ambassador, Embassy of the Republic of Turkey, 43 Belgrave Square, London, SW1.

CDDRT would appreciate a copy of any protest made. Ask your LP or TU Branch, your CLP, your trade union or co-op at District, Regional and National levels to affiliate to CDDRT.

Come to this Committee's meeting at Labour Party Conference: 5.15pm, Monday 28 September. See the back page for details.

LP Conference  
Issue

# PUBLIC PROTEST AND SOLIDARITY



Lawrence Daly, NUM Secretary, addresses the Rally.

On 12 September 1981, the first anniversary of the fascist coup in Turkey, over 90 were present on a CDDRT picket outside the Turkish Embassy in London. More than a dozen MP's agreed to sign a protest letter handed in during the picket. It read as follows:

HE The Ambassador,  
Embassy of Republic of Turkey,  
43 Belgrave Square, London, SW1

Dear Sir,  
Chilean Anti-Fascist Committee, El Salvador Solidarity Campaign and Committee for the Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey have joined together to organise a rally and solidarity concert. Our common enemy takes one form in the junta whose representative you are.

This letter is delivered to you as a form of protest at the repressive actions of the ruling fascist junta in Turkey culminating in the International Day Against Fascism on Sunday 13 September 1981.

Now that death sentences have been demanded for 52 leading trade unionists, another DISK leader has been shot dead, and thousands of rank and file members of trade unions are imprisoned and tortured (some to their death), the nature of the junta is clarified: it exists to destroy the genuine trade union and labour movement of Turkey.

We demand an end to the oppression and misery over which your government sits, and the release of the tortured, prisoners and detainees. You can rest assured that the campaign to restore democratic rights and freedoms in Turkey will not falter, but will grow to form an important act of solidarity with the people of Turkey, who will finally banish fascism from their country.

The following day, Sunday 13 September 1981, observed by progressives all over the world as the International Remembrance Day for the Victims of Fascism and the Day of Struggle Against Fascism and Imperialist War, a Rally and Solidarity Concert were held in the Camden Centre, London.

## TUC

This year's TUC in Blackpool lined up Britain's trade unionists behind Turkey's workers. In the section of the General Council's International Report concerning Turkey, and running to over two pages, TUC efforts in the ICFTU, ETUC and ILO were outlined.

"In December the General Council received a report that DISK, the second largest national centre, and two smaller trade union groupings had been banned and scores of trade unionists had been detained without trial. ... The TUC had supported a decision to send an ICFTU mission to Turkey to make representations to the regime on behalf of the banned organisations and their leaders in detention, and the ICFTU view that the double responsibilities of the Türk-Iş General Secretary (*who*) had taken the post of minister of social security in the Government ... seriously impaired its standing. In June the TUC asked the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary to use the influence of the British Government with the Turkish regime on behalf of the DISK representatives and to concert pressures in the EEC, in the Council of Europe, and in other international organisations, with which both the UK and Turkey were associated, to have normal trade union freedoms restored."

(Section (313) Turkey, TUC General Council's Report 1981, accepted by Congress 10.9.81).

Such concrete solidarity will doubtless find its strong echo in individual trade unions: already protests have been made to the Turkish authorities by several national unions, including the NUM who have now affiliated to the Committee for the Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey (CDDRT).



Melike Demirağ in the Solidarity Concert

The Rally in the afternoon was chaired by Ernie Roberts MP, who welcomed the audience of 200 thus: "labour and trade union movement internationally have the same enemies: the enemy of fascism, the enemy of the multinationals... 46 Labour MPs recently signed a motion in the House of Commons which I put down protesting against the invitation to the dictator of Turkey... followed by another similar motion again protesting against the visit ... signed by 56 MPs...". Ernie Roberts displayed a Maden-Iş banner given him by Kemal Türkler, its President, who was murdered by fascists in summer 1980.

Lawrence Daly, Secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers, was first to address the Rally: "... I am very proud indeed to bring you the fraternal greetings of a quarter of a million British coal miners who decided recently to become affiliated to the Committee for the Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey — and at our annual conference in July we passed unanimously an emergency resolution protesting against the dictatorship in Turkey and calling for the development of a mass protest movement calling for a return of democratic rights for the people of Turkey... The immediate problem is that 52 leaders of ... DISK in Turkey are on trial. Faced with the possibility — indeed if the junta get away with it — almost the certainty of the sentence of death. ... it will not be until we have achieved the downfall of the junta in Ankara that there will be the possibility of advancing towards genuine freedom and liberation for the people of Kurdistan and the people of Cyprus, together with all the other people who live in Turkey. That will only be done on the basis of unity and solidarity in Britain and in every other country with all the democratic forces from Turkey ... only ultimately with the downfall of capitalism and every form of imperialism — political, military and economic — will it be possible for the people of Turkey and many other countries to assure that they will have the opportunity to advance toward genuine freedom and democracy."

Bob Wright, Assistant General Secretary of the AUEW declared that "...fascism is used as the instrument of repression of any force that questions and demands freedom and the right to organise in trade unions... In Turkey the present officially recognised, encouraged timid, trade union centre (Türk-Iş-Newsletter) ... has surrendered to the demands and the power of the present generals and their fascist regime ... This happens in other countries where centres are established under state management to be organised as puppets of the fascist regimes ... arrest of the 52 colleagues and leaders of DISK — that itself is part of the repression mechanism that reflects the nature of the regime and the support that it has from international capital..."

Speakers also came from the organiser's of the Day's events.

In the evening, Chilean musicians Pueblo and Raul Valencia performed in the first half of the program at the Solidarity Concert. Melike Demirağ from Turkey, received an enthusiastic reception in the second half: she and Şanar Yurdatapan presented an encouraging mixture of speech and singing. So much so that the audience of around 500 became a waving sea of linked hands during the song "Hand in hand".

Making an appeal for cash during the evening, Richard Balfe MEP gave the welcome news that the Danish Cabinet had decided on 9 September 1981 to block all moves by Turkey in the Council of Europe and generally obstruct their manoeuvres. Collections totalled £131.70.

# LETTERS FROM TURKEY

## It is our duty to topple this regime

We'd like to inform people about an event that took place in Menemen. In a village near Menemen a bust of Atatürk was erected and the martial law commander, the leading official in the district, the town mayor, etc all went to the village for the unveiling. When they arrived, they saw only a few people in the square. So the commander asked where the others were and was told that they were all at work in the fields. Then he asked where the teacher was. Again he was told that he was teaching at school. They postponed the ceremony.

The commander ordered his soldiers to fetch the villagers, which they did, bringing them to the square by beating and assault. Those who objected to this, including the teacher, were taken to the torture-rooms and only released after 15 days. We have to topple this regime!

*Izmir*

## Military school students are under pressure

Depression and disorder in the army is gradually increasing these days. The following is an example of that. All the registers of military schools and the parents of students are being investigated: if ever they find any relation, the student is dismissed from the school. They can be accused of being the son of a former candidate of the labour party or being the brother of someone who has been caught flyposting, and so on.

In fact even the most conservative student who is unaware of such things is investigated in the hope that he may provide some information. They suspect everyone — 16 students from the air force have been expelled from schools so far, and some others are being dismissed. This infuriates the other students whose friends are thus dismissed when they have only three more months left before they graduate. The depression is gradually increasing. Though the junta tries to hide it we learn everything.

*Izmir*

## The aggression will be repulsed

The bourgeoisie is extremely aggressive. All the torture-rooms are full; more than two hundred thousand revolutionaries are in prison; the unemployment rate has increased by 100% since September last. The construction, textile and car industries operate at only 30% of capacity. Those who become a member of a progressive union are immediately found out and given the sack. Renault laid off 800 workers, and some others are given the sack one by one without awakening public opinion.

They are trying to establish a new relief system instead of the minimum wage system. That is, a worker will not be laid off but he asked to work 2-3 hours every day and then paid according to the hours worked. The military dictatorship wants to adopt fascism using its political power, but could not be successful in this. (They could not achieve this because the people are against them.) Starvation is threatening the people. All the people in the country are uneasy, and everyone is asking the same question: what's going to happen in the end?

*Bursa*

## Trade union, politician and composer add protests

Dear Sir,

At their meeting on the 3rd September this Region's Emergency and General Purposes Committee discussed the prosecution which took place in the first week of July which demanded the death penalty of 52 DISK Trade Union leaders in Istanbul.

Grave concern was expressed by this Committee at the attack on basic Trade Union rights and democratic freedoms and request was made that the views of the Committee be conveyed to you.

Yours,

*S. Staden,*

*Regional Secretary, T&GWU Region 1*

Dear Sir,

Once again I write to protest at the latest attack by Turkey's military junta on basic trade union rights and democratic freedoms. Allegations of torture have, of course, been substantiated by reputable organisations such as Amnesty International.

It is clear that any dissension from the junta's viewpoint is ruthlessly suppressed.

Those of us who are aware of the circumstances existing in Turkey at this time will continue to draw attention of as many people as possible to them.

Yours faithfully,

*Ann Clwyd, MEP*

Your Excellency,

My attention has been drawn to the trials in Istanbul of fifty-two DISK trade-union leaders, at which the prosecution is demanding the death penalty for all of them. The legislation according to which the trial is being enacted arises from articles of the present Turkish Penal Code, which follow precisely the barbarous penal code of the late Mussolini, whose government aroused the contempt and hatred of the entire civilised world and whose downfall was a matter of rejoicing to all except for the barbarous Adolf Hitler.

I ask you to convey the detail of this protest to the judicial organisations of your country and remain,

Yours very truly,

*Alan Bush, D. MUS, FRAM, FRSA*

## National Conference on Turkey

Organisations of the labour, trade union and progressive movements are invited to apply to CDDRT for delegates' credentials for a very important National Conference on Turkey to be held on Saturday 12 December 1981. The Conference will be held at NUFTO Hall, 14 Jockey's Fields, London WC1 from 10.30am to 5.00pm, and will consider methods of improving and extending solidarity with the people of Turkey. Discussion contributions are expected from leading members of the labour movement from Turkey and Britain. The Conference fee is £3.00 per delegate.

### Application for Conference Credentials

This organisation applies for credentials for the National Conference on Turkey to be held on Saturday 12 December 1981.

Organisation .....

Secretary's name & address .....

Delegate(s) name(s) and address(es) .....

Delegate fee(s) enclosed £

When completed, please return to CDDRT, 29 Parkfield St., London, N1

## SUPPORT THE HAZEL GROVE EMERGENCY

"This Conference notes with concern the plight of Turkish nationals living in the United Kingdom, who are being subjected to intense pressure and harassment by the Fascist government in Turkey through the withdrawal of their student status.

"Conference considers that these moves are intended to secure the deportation of such people, and that, if they are forced to return to Turkey, they will be subject to imprisonment or death.

"Conference calls on Her Majesty's Government to ensure that the Home Office resists such moves, and ensures that all Turkish nationals living in fear of persecution by the Turkish government are allowed to live a free and peaceful life in the United Kingdom."

Proposed by Hazel Grove CLP  
Stockport North CLP  
Stockport South CLP  
Moss Side CLP  
Darlington CLP  
Knutsford CLP  
Hackney Central CLP  
Islington South CLP  
West Renfrewshire CLP

## FRINGE MEETING AT LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE

## TURKEY'S JUNTA - DESTROYER OF DEMOCRACY

5.15pm MONDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER  
LEWES ROOM, ROYAL ALBION HOTEL,  
OLD STEINE

CHAIR: STAN NEWENS MP

SPEAKERS:

RICHARD BALFE MEP

BOB WRIGHT, AUEW

LIZ NASH, LP International Dept.,

CLr KEN BAGNALL

For further details contact Kevin Flack, Committee for the Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey, telephone Brighton 698111.

### Sponsors to date include

Frank Allaun, MP  
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Guy Barnett, MP  
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Tom Cox, MP  
Bob Cryer, MP  
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APEX — Holborn Branch  
ASTMS — Manchester HS Branch  
AUEW — Kingston District  
AUEW — N. Manch. District  
AUEW — Sheffield District  
GMWU 115 Manch. Branch  
NALGO — Hackney Branch  
NUM  
NUPE  
NUR — Manchester  
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TGWU Reg. No.1  
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Cambridge & District Trades Council  
Hackney Trades Council  
Leeds Trades Council  
Cities of London & Westminster Trades Council  
Rotherham Trades Council  
Stockport Trades Council  
Waltham Forest Trades Council  
GEC Openshaw JSSC  
Ardwick CLP  
Hazelgrove CLP  
Runcorn CLP  
St. Helens CLP  
Wavertree CLP  
LPYS  
NOLS

Communist Party of Great Britain  
Association of Cypriot Women in Britain  
KNE — Communist Youth of Greece  
(org. in Britain)  
Portuguese Communist Party  
(org. in Britain)  
Cyprus Students' Soc. — Man. Univ.  
Organisation of Supporters of Iranian  
People's Fedaii (Maj) — Britain  
Committee for the Defence of  
the Iranian Revolution  
Iraqi Student's Society — UK  
(Branch of GUSIR)  
Kurdish Students' Society  
in Europe (UK)  
City of London Polytechnic  
Students' Union  
UMIST — Students' Union  
Man. Poly Students' Union  
Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation  
London Co-op Political Committee  
Lord Fenner Brockway  
Mgr. Bruce Kent  
Arthur Latham  
Robert J. Longuey  
William Pomeroy  
Marion Sarafi  
Gordon Schaffer  
E.P. Thompson

### What is CDDRT?

CDDRT works to build solidarity in the struggle against fascist oppression of the working class, democratic and revolutionary movements in Turkey; against the genocide of the Kurdish nation; and against the expansionism of Turkey's finance capital, presently experienced by the peoples of Cyprus.

CDDRT considers it is necessary to campaign vigorously within the labour and trade union and student movements, organising demonstrations and meetings, to stop torture of political prisoners and ensure their release, bring an end to the violent judicial attack on DISK trade union confederation leaders and members, and prevent the consolidation of fascism in Turkey.

We call for an end to military rule, freedom for all democratic organisations, withdrawal of Turkey from NATO and cessation of all military, political and economic support, and an end to the occupation of Cyprus.

Wider sections of public opinion are becoming aware of the situation of the people of Turkey under the fascist junta. Ensure that you and your organisation play their part: **affiliate to CDDRT NOW!**

### Affiliation to CDDRT

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

Name: .....  
Address: .....  
Send to: CDDRT, 29 Parkfield Street, London, N1 Tel: 01-226 3401. (Make cheques or postal orders payable to CDDRT).