

AN UNFREE PRESS

by David Barchard

After three years of living with military censorship, Turkey's journalists have broken a self-imposed silence to fight off a draft Press Law which could cripple any remaining freedom of expression.

Under military rule closures of national newspapers, the banning of the entire Left wing and social democratic press, the gaoling of radical journalists, and hourly telephone calls from the authorities telling newspapers what they could or could not print have been accepted.

But a draft Bill recently placed before the nominated 160-man consultative assembly has dashed hopes that Turkey's press will regain earlier freedoms when civilian rule is officially restored. Instead, it looks as if it will be more dangerous than ever to work as a journalist.

Press fines go up by 3,000 per cent to around £400 for minor offending articles. Gaol sentences of up to two years will be handed down for "press offences" which are those that are not dealt with according to anti-Communist and anti-Kurdish legislation. Journalists will, of course, be eligible for sentences of up to 30 years or more. Printing presses and publishers can be shut down for a single item, even before it appears on the market.

There are no cartoons of Turkey's leaders these days, but anyone bold enough to publish one will risk a hefty gaol sentence. Worst of all, the tradition of punishing editors for everything that appears in their papers (so as to encourage self-censorship) is greatly strengthened.

"Journalists are being regarded as common criminals," said Mr Ahmet Akabay, president of the Modern Turkish Journalists' Association. "An insult to all patriotic Turkish citizens," thundered the normally innocuous and pro-Government Turkish Daily News.

The Turkish press has never been fully free in the Western sense. In democratic times it has operated with fewer restrictions, but also some would say with less responsibility

and regard for accuracy. Punitive prosecutions of journalists have always been common, but there was no doubt that the press was informative and lively.

Since the 1980 military take-over, a stifling climate of conformity has prevailed. All Marxist and leftist magazines have been shut down, including social democratic ones.

A typical week last month saw the gaoled editor of one Marxist pre-coup magazine get nine years in prison for insulting the army. Another got 7½ years for simply spreading communism. The current edition of the moderate newsmagazine *Yankı* was banned and seized without explanation. The latest issue of *Le Nouvel Observateur* was also banned.

Meanwhile, books and newspapers mentioning the forbidden word "Armenia" were being turned back by the post office and a commission was at work to ensure that geography and history books contain fewer facts about the outside world and more about Turkey as seen by its ruling generals.

The past year has seen the country's most distinguished Centre-Right journalist, Mrs Nazlı Ilıcak, in gaol for criticising a court decision to show the film *Emmanuelle*.

Journalists believe that it is against this background that the new Press Bill will actually reduce existing freedoms.

In the past two weeks laws have been introduced which give martial law commanders the right to banish suspicious people without trial for up to five years without explanation or appeal, and which exempt from prosecution soldiers who fire at civilians. Both laws were reported in brief without debate or comment by the press.

This article first appeared in The Guardian on 15 July 1983.

When An Election Is Not An Election

Trumpeting loudly about a 'return to democracy', President General Evren and his cohorts on the fascist military junta decided to fix 6 November 1983 as election day in Turkey. Notice the word 'fix': we shall come back to it.

Boldly the junta permitted a handful of parties to be created and to start carving out niches for themselves: one for failed conservatives, one for renegade social democrats, one for religious fanatics, and so on. Unfortunately for the junta's plans things went awry. Parties which were intended as mere foils to enable the junta's party to shine began to eclipse it! So low had their stock fallen with Turkey's people that the junta's choice politicians looked like being dumped before they could even hint at an electoral promise.

Caution being the better part of valour the fascist generals moved in for the kill. First on the chopping block was Demirel's preferred party — the Great Turkey Party — which was outlawed in May this year. Next to be led in was the Social Democratic Party, or at least most of its first leadership, 21 of whom have been banned from public life. The SDP's reserve team of leaders hastened to rally round, but to no avail: 13 of them were treated similarly in July. At

this stage the SDP is some way from achieving even its initial 30 founding members — the legal qualification for continued existence. To cap it all the Islamic fundamentalists' Party received a body blow, too. Its first batch of founders were pronounced unfit also. These are of course all precautions just to make absolutely sure no one spoils the generals' 'return to democracy' by any misunderstanding of what the junta means by 'democracy'. (There is no foundation to rumours that Turkish dictionaries are to redefine democracy!)

The plan is thus: to fix it so that the junta's National Democracy Party wins on 6 November, accompanied by a tame opposition that represents no challenge. Exposing this is every democrat's duty. The junta's election charade must be roundly condemned and its 'return to democracy' understood as a façade for continued fascist rule. Resolutions of protest will prevent the junta from pulling the wool over the eyes of world democratic opinion. Get your organisation to pass such a resolution and let us have a copy to publicize.

The Struggle Continues

by Aydın Meriç, DISK AGS

Although the new state of Turkey was established in the year 1920, the workers of Turkey only obtained the possibility of establishing organisations on a class basis in 1946. Nevertheless, organisations established under the name of trade unions in 1946 and, particularly, in 1947 were still deprived of the rights to strike and to conduct collective bargaining. In this respect, they resembled workers' solidarity organisations more than trade unions, in the contemporary meaning of the term.

The working class and trade union movement first obtained the legal rights to strike and to conduct collective bargaining 20 years ago, in July 1963. In this respect, July 1963 is an important anniversary for the trade union movement of Turkey.

In this 20-year period, the rights to strike and to conduct collective bargaining, which were very limited in any case, were twice abolished completely. First in the 1971—1973 period of military rule; secondly in the period of fascist rule since 1980. If these interruptions are deducted from the 20-year period, then the working class of Turkey has only been able to enjoy trade union rights, in the contemporary sense of the term, for a period of 14 years. Today, in appearance, there are trade unions in Turkey, but the working class of Turkey does not enjoy even the most fundamental trade union rights. The fascist junta has brought a series of changes in the law and abolished even the minimum trade union rights prescribed in the United Nations Charter on Human Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights. The most significant of these changes are the following:

A junta decree which went into effect in April 1983 deprived a large part of Turkey's working class and working people of the right to organise in trade unions by declaring them to be public employees. A very broad mass of workers and working people ranging from teachers and post office employees to steam locomotive mechanics and factory workers, are covered by this decree. If one considers the comprehensive role the state plays in economic life in Turkey, it will be seen that the overwhelming majority of working people who could become unionized in Turkey are today legally deprived of the right to become unionized.

The junta has also imposed restrictions on the workers for whom it recognizes the right to unionize. The new trade union law (no:2821) which came into effect on 7 May 1983 contains a whole series of anti-democratic decrees. The main changes brought about by this law can be listed as follows:

— Establishing trade unions has become more difficult.

— The aim of strengthening the trade union bureaucracy has been furthered by making it more difficult to be elected to trade union leadership.

— Restrictions have been imposed on the check-off system and a 10% minimum level must be met before it can be applied.

— Regulations designed to weaken the trade unions financially have been imposed.

— The temporary articles in the new law make it compulsory for all trade unions to hold their congresses before 1 January 1984 and to revise their constitutions and proceedings in accordance with the new law. Any trade union failing to do so will be considered as having dissolved itself. This article is particularly directed against unions which are members of DISK.

The junta has also changed the law concerning strikes and collective bargaining. According to the new law:

— The right to strike, which was already limited has been limited even further while it has been completely abolished for some branches of industry.

— Political and solidarity strikes have been banned, as have any strikes for rights. Only strikes which take place as the result of an impasse in collective bargaining talks are recognised.

— A whole series of new obstacles have been erected to prevent strikes, however restricted. At the same time, compulsory tri-partite arbitration (state—employer—trade union) has been imposed.

The junta has issued a directive which revises the branches of industry which can be the basis for unionisation. This revision is a means of further dividing the working class and placing the trade unions under closer state control.

— The 16 branches of industry which are stipulated in international and ILO standards have been raised to 28 by the fascist junta.



— A very broad section, including the automotive, textile, clothing, chemicals, etc., branches, has been deprived of the right to strike by having been declared to be branches of National Defence, something without precedent in any country in the world.

— The branches of industry have been split up in such a way as to break up the relatively progressive-minded trade unions existing in *Turk-İş*. The most recent example of this is the order to break up the *Petrol-İş* trade union.

— At the same time, compulsory unions have been stipulated in such a way as to subsume progressive-minded trade unions in *Turk-İş* in reactionary-minded trade unions. The best example of this was the order for the *Kristal-İş* trade union to join the *Çimse-İş* union.

Solidarity with the trade union movement of Turkey today must be considered as essentially giving support to the struggle to regain trade union rights in the contemporary sense of the term. Certainly solidarity with the trade unionists on trial, and particularly with the DISK militants, is important. Certainly aid, from a human point of view, must be provided to the trade union friends who have left the country and gone abroad. But life does not stop. The struggle continues. The struggle to regain trade union rights is also continuing. It is the duty of everyone who is on the side of human rights and democracy to support the struggle:

— For the right to form trade unions for all workers and working people, ending the distinction between workers and public employees,

— For the abolition of all restrictions on the right to strike,

— For the elimination of all obstacles to free and democratic unionisation.

Raising solidarity with the trade union movement of Turkey in this sense on the international level as well, will strengthen us greatly. We highly value the work of the CDDRT towards this end.

Women Resist Fascism

by H

In Turkey women are in a backward position in society. The position of the mass of women, continuing in the way it has for centuries, has been consolidated by law, by the structure of the family, by tradition, etc. There exist vivid examples which reveal the backward situation of women in every aspect of life. Some of these examples follow.

Women make up half the population of Turkey, although the proportion of working women in the workforce is one third. A significant part of the population of working women is engaged in agriculture — and these are often family workers who do not get paid. 13.5% of waged workers are women: this percentage has decreased in the recent period of mass unemployment and crisis.

Inequality is reflected in wages as well. In general, wages of female labourers are 60% of those of male labourers in the private sector and 70% of those in the public sector. One of the prime reasons for the difference in wages, even though they do the same work, is that the wages of female labourers is seen as 'additional income'. Textiles, clothing, food and chemical industries, and manufacturing in general are sectors of the economy where women are concentrated and where wages are the lowest. Their lack of education and organisation has turned women

into a cheap labour force.

The percentage of unemployment for women is very high compared to that for men. The percentage of women within the army of the unemployed (25% of the workforce) is rapidly increasing. Working women — receiving the lowest wages — are, furthermore, compelled to work whilst deprived of job security. The total number of workers insured is six million; the number of women workers so insured is only 180,000. Every year large numbers of women are sacked because they are pregnant, without any compensation. Either they are not given any leave at all and are forced to work until the day they give birth, or their holiday period is shortened and their wages are withheld. There are no creche facilities at workplaces: what is more, mothers who are workers continually face the threat of the sack.

The Civil Law of 1926 legally codified the position of women and approved the position of the woman as the slave of the man. Looking at only some of the Articles of this Civil Law confirms that this is its attitude:

"The husband is the head of the family." (Article 152.)

"The woman looks after the home, the man works." (Article 153.)

"Whether or not a woman works depends on the permission of her husband. If a woman does not work and does not look after the home then this gives the husband the right to a divorce." (Article 159.)

A woman's use of her political rights is more limited than a man's. In the 1924 Constitution there is no mention of women's political rights. In 1933 women had the right to take part only in municipal elections; they attained the right to elect and to be elected universally in 1934, ten years after the adoption of the First Constitution. The number of women who can take part in the administration of the state and participate in political parties is very few. Women cannot be President or hold office as a mayor.

Many girls are not sent to school for traditional reasons; what is more, they are often sold as virtual slaves in the rural areas for *başlık* (dowry). Today, 52% of women in Turkey are illiterate (the figure for men is 25%). 80% of those women who can read and write finished only primary school. Those who have entered higher education are a very small minority. The women of Kurdistan are under even more severe oppression.

Our women, who face such difficult living and working conditions, started taking an active part in the social events of the 1970's, when political life generally became more active in Turkey. Progressive women formed a women's organisation to struggle for the democratic demands of women — the Progressive Women's Association (İKD). İKD was formed in 1975 and centred in İstanbul. It carried on a struggle for social equality and the liberation of women. Representative branches were formed in 33 provinces in a very short time.

İKD raised as slogans equal work; motherhood socially rather than privately; education and for jobs; and in each district; abolition of the unequal position of women; permanent world peace and socialism.

İKD united 15,000 women under a national umbrella, educated them in activities to gain the important duties in the Turkey for equality. Because it was attacked many times by the fascist democracy, the fascists. İKD centre and from branch several times.

The military fascist junta after 12 September 1980 attacked against the leader combining the trials of the Communist Party of Turkey.

İKD had been formed by law. However, it was closed by law authorities in 1979 when its members were considered a subversive organisation. At this moment its leaders and members of the military prisons. Most of them suffered severe torture. Those İKD members who have not been arrested by the military authorities. They have been stripped of their Turkish citizenship by the fascist junta in its struggle against democratic organisations for women.

Now women workers are under exploitation under conditions of the fascist junta. With the proposed Law after 12 September 1980 prepared for women. All the Law aim to increase the severe exploitation of the progressive women in order to do the workers. What it has already become an indicator of the junta's intention.

The slogan of Hitler for 'children' has set an example in Turkey. The junta, too, has a slogan towards women: to be a housewife, economic dependency on the man, slave and to raise national children. Our women are spending their bitter days of their lives under the terror of the junta. In the face of unemployment, and in the face of combined with the most brutal arrests. Significant numbers of political prisoners are mothers, sisters, and spouses under physical and psychological torture. They are sacked for being political prisoners — this means s



ilya Ergün, İKD

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The most disgusting torture is practised on women in the torture centres of the fascist junta. Electric shock, *falaka* (beating the soles of the feet), rape, and torturing the children of detained women — these are only a few of the methods employed. Detainees are not allowed to see their relatives; not even the dead bodies of their children are shown to parents. Dozens of persons have been hanged for their political beliefs. Thousands more are on trial with the death penalty hanging over them: there are many women among them. The suffering of women in Turkey will not end without destroying fascism.

Today many progressives, democrats,

communists, and leaders of organisations are forced to live in exile. The tasks they face are to expose the face of the fascist dictatorship in Turkey and to raise solidarity with the antifascist movement in Turkey. Solidarity with the women's movement in Turkey, and its activists, is a part of this struggle. Achieving the solidarity of the world's democratic women's movement with Turkey's women's movement will be a telling blow against the fascist junta. It is the duty of all those who call themselves democrats to stand shoulder to shoulder in struggle with the women of Turkey against fascism, and for full equality and women's rights.

DEATH PENALTY

Britain's Parliament decisively showed its attitude to the death penalty on 14 July. It is now appropriate to look at current practice in all 21 member countries of the Council of Europe. In fact this is quite straightforward as capital punishment is nonexistent de facto or de jure in every one *except Turkey*. (Information from the Council of Europe Directorate of Human Rights quoted in a letter to *The Times* of 5 July 1983.)

The number of persons executed in Turkey since the fascist military coup on 12 September 1980 is 46. There are in addition hundreds of death sentences awaiting ratification and a total of 5,597 defendants against whom the death penalty is being demanded in current trials. The enormity of this murderous attack by the junta is underlined by the basis of conviction in the case of political prisoners: statements extracted under torture. There are no juries in the military courts which consider these tortured 'confessions'. The courts are very much part of the junta's means of oppressing and permanently disposing of its opponents.

The abhorrence of British democrats for the judicial murders by the junta (over and above deaths under torture) surfaced in the public debate in Britain before the House of Commons vote. Alastair Black, Under Sheriff of Greater London, speaking at the General Synod of the Church of England on 12 July in its debate on the death penalty, said "There is no experienced hangman now available. Are we to import an executioner from South Africa or Turkey?"... To reintroduce capital punishment would be "to move backwards into barbarity". (*The Times* 13 July 1983.) And that is the regime of Turkey's military junta — a regime of fascist barbarity.

The Council of Europe has still not expelled Turkey from membership, despite the efforts of democrats in its Assembly. Readers should write to Britain's Foreign Secretary and ask why Turkey remains a member of the Council of Europe. We would be interested in any reply you may receive. The address of the Foreign Secretary is: Foreign & Commonwealth Office, Downing St, London SW1.

NO DIVISIONS

by Jim Moody, General Secretary
of the CDDRT

Although the Committee for Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey (CDDRT) has now been around for five years, another organisation was recently founded, called the Solidarity Committee for Trade Union Rights and Democracy in Turkey (SCTURDT). (See July *Turkey Newsletter*.) The credence given to the SCTURDT in parts of the British working class movement means that the CDDRT must deal with this question again this month. You are asked to bear with us.

In an attempt to disabuse those approached by the SCTURDT of the idea that it is not a rival to the CDDRT, we have been forced to write to the Editor of the *Morning Star* and to issue an Open Letter to our supporters. This was immediately necessary because of an article in the *Morning Star* on 29 June 1983, in which the SCTURDT was promoted in place of the CDDRT. Our letter to the *Morning Star*'s Editor follows.

Dear Editor,

Your article 'Junta bosses rob Turkish union funds' by Chris Myant (29 June 1983) has strong positive and negative aspects. On the positive side the explanation of the Turkish junta's programme for taming and utilising the unions; on the negative side a seriously incorrect assessment of the solidarity movement in Britain.

As is well known by Chris Myant and the *Morning Star*, the Committee for Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey (CDDRT) has been in existence and occupying its offices at 29 Parkfield St, London N1 for the past five years. In that time it has held two Congresses, many public meetings and gathered the affiliation of several trade unions, CLP's, the Communist Party of Great Britain (in 1981) and the Young Communist League (this year).

Included among the national affiliates of the CDDRT are the Union of Turkish Progressives in Britain (UTPB), the Union of Turkish Women and the Union of Turkish Workers. The UTPB membership includes supporters of one wing of the Communist Party of Turkey ranged around the newspaper *İşçinin Sesi* (which means Worker's Voice). It is this wing of the Communist Party of Turkey that is referred to in Chris Myant's article as, "A breakaway from the Turkish (sic) Communist Party..." which, he says, "has gained a position of influence in one of the solidarity campaigns supported by several Labour MP's and trade union figures" (meaning the CDDRT; which now has 52* Labour MP's as its sponsors).

However, the article makes no mention of the fact that the Turkish individuals involved in establishing the two month old Solidarity Committee for Trade Union Rights and Democracy in Turkey (SCTURDT) are supporters of the other wing of the Communist Party of Turkey ranged around the newspaper *Atılım* (which means Leap) and headed by the Partizan group. Even if the *Morning Star* reflects the policy of the CPGB in favouring one wing of a

fellow communist party rather than another, surely its readers are entitled to all the facts if the question of ideology is raised in this way.

For our part CDDRT has always attempted to combine in one solidarity organisation all parties and currents which share our aims. These aims, printed every month in our *Turkey Newsletter*, are plainly to organise and develop solidarity in the British working class and progressive movements for Turkey's working people. Our Constitution has never been challenged by anyone. We invited the SCTURDT soon after it was set up in May this year to take part in our Second Congress later that month, but the only response to date has been a short acknowledgement.*

The article's description of SCTURDT as, "Aiming to make a new start and overcome these divisions..." is disingenuous and misleading. And to suggest, as the article does, that there is in any way TUC approval for SCTURDT rather than for CDDRT is a disgraceful attempt to capitalise on one interview given by Len Murray.

The "breakthrough in developing the British movement's understanding of the need to fight a campaign for democracy in Turkey" is being achieved through the hard slogging work of CDDRT's activists over the last five years. It is not due to, nor will it be helped by the *Morning Star* actively encouraging, johnny-come-latelys, splits or breakaways from the solidarity movement.

After we had written inviting the SCTURDT to our recent Congress we published the invitation letter in full in our monthly *Turkey Newsletter*. One response to this, which we feel typical of informed comment from the British working class movement, came from Rodney Bickerstaffe, General Secretary of the National Union of Public Employees. (NUPE is affiliated to CDDRT.) He wrote, "I accept the general sentiments expressed in your letter addressed to the Solidarity Committee for Trade Union Rights and Democracy in Turkey.

"I do hope, very much, that it will be possible for this new group to become affiliated to the CDDRT and so avoid any fragmentation of the campaigns in support of democratic rights in Turkey."

CDDRT demands nothing less than honesty and unity against the common enemy—Turkey's fascist junta.

CDDRT has written twice to the SCTURDT in a spirit of unity. This had even after several months, produced only a brief acknowledgement in reply.

* We received the following letter in mid-July from the SCTURDT:

Dear Mr Moody,

Steering Committee of our organisation carried the following resolution on your request for affiliating to the CDDRT:

"The Steering Committee, having noted the vital necessity of close cooperation with genuine representatives of Turkish trade unions and support of wide ranging democratic forces of Turkey for an effective solidarity work, resolves to reject the request for affiliation to and any relation with the CDDRT, in the belief that it will not serve the above purpose."

Yours sincerely

*Cahit Baylav,
General Secretary*

(Our emphasis)

In face of this our Open Letter to supporters of democratic rights in Turkey was essential. The Open Letter refers to "The Turkish individuals promoting the SCTURDT are in fact supporters of the other wing of the Communist Party of Turkey grouped around the newspaper *Atılım* (which means Leap). This by no means prevents the CDDRT from accepting the affiliation of their organisation, SCTURDT. CDDRT's invitation to the SCTURDT to affiliate remains open".

On 13 July last a meeting of the Steering Committee of the SCTURDT was held on the premises of the Transport & General Worker's Union in London. The membership of this Steering Committee is, however, unclear since several of those named as members in SCTURDT documents have denied such involvement. (There has been no founding conference of the SCTURDT; the CDDRT recently held its representative Second Congress to which SCTURDT failed to send delegates, though invited to do so.)

Apart from four Turkish instigators of the SCTURDT there were only three British trade unionists present at the 13 July Steering Committee meeting. This compares unfavourably with the list of ostensible members issued by the SCTURDT to suggest its degree of support. The CDDRT was not invited to attend, though its supporters were outside the meeting distributing our explanatory material. Also outside were representatives of Britain's progressive Turkish organisations, none of which had been invited; none are represented on this Steering Committee. (In contrast, CDDRT's General Council, elected at this year's Congress, contains prominent British and Turkish democrats as well as representatives from Britain's progressive Turkish organisations.)

Apparently after pressure from the T&GWU the Steering Committee decided late in its meeting to allow two representatives of the Turkish organisations to come in and speak to them for ten minutes.

That was certainly a positive first step. The CDDRT Congress looked forward to, and its General Council looks forward to, an end to what is an incipient division in the ranks of solidarity with Turkey's working people. We ask that the British working class movement do what it can to assist us in this task.

*As we went to press this number had risen to 58.

CONSTITUTION OF THE CDDRT

CDDRT General Council

1. The name of the organisation shall be the Committee for Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey (CDDRT).

2. The aims of CDDRT are as follows:
End military rule, martial law, torture and executions.
Release of political prisoners.
Freedom for all democratic organisations.
End national oppression of the Kurds and national minorities.
Stop expansionism; end the occupation of Cyprus.
Withdraw Turkey from NATO and close all NATO bases.
No military, political or economic support for the fascist junta.
Totally oppose junta harassment of overseas opponents.

Organise solidarity on the basis of the fore going utilising every means at our disposal.

3. Organisations and individuals accepting the aims of CDDRT can apply to affiliate. Such applications are subject to the approval of the General Council. Affiliation fees shall be set by the General Council and become payable from 1 January each year.

4. Congress is the highest body of CDDRT and shall meet every two years. It shall consist of delegates from Branches and affiliated organisations, and individual affiliates. Congress shall elect the General Council and consider reports and motions. The conduct of business shall be on the basis of Standing Orders approved by Congress. Pre-Congress arrangements are the responsibility of the retiring General Council. Each Congress shall decide the size of the General Council.

5. The General Council is the continuing body of Congress and shall meet quarterly. It shall appoint the Executive Committee which is responsible to it. The General Council shall have the right to co-option.

6. The Executive Committee shall consist of the General Secretary and such other members as the General Council may decide. The Executive Committee shall meet at least fortnightly and be responsible for the day to day work of CDDRT.

7. Local Branches of CDDRT are formed with the approval of the General Council.

8. This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority at a Congress.

9. The General Council may call, or upon request by two-thirds of affiliated national organisations shall call, a Special Congress.

Bedir AYDEMİR
Richard BALFE, MEP
John M BLOOM
Philip BRAY
Sandra HODGSON
Alf LOMAS, MEP
Aydn MERİÇ
Jim MOODY
Stan NEWENS
Ernie ROBERTS MP
Alan SAPPER
Marion SARAFI
Faik SINKİL
Tijen UĞURİŞ
Martin UPHAM
Bob WRIGHT
and one representative each from:
Turkish Students' Federation of the UK
Union of Turkish Progressives in Britain
Union of Turkish Women in Britain
Union of Turkish Workers

ICFTU Demands End To DISK Trial

The 13th World Congress of the ICFTU, meeting in Oslo from 23 to 30 June 1983, RECALLS the repeated resolutions on Turkey adopted by the Executive Board since the military takeover of September 1980;

NOTES WITH DISMAY that the quelling of the pre-coup political violence and sectarian clashes has been accompanied, quite unnecessarily, by persistent gross and systematic violations of human and trade union rights;

DENOUNCES the continued restrictions on labour activities, the more than 60,000 political arrests since September 1980, the impressive number of trials going on before military tribunals, the detention of thousands of political detainees, the climate of insecurity and suppression surrounding the trade union movement, the continued jailing of a large number of trade unionists against whom no violence is charged, the maltreatment inflicted on imprisoned suspects and the torture practices which continue to be part of the police interrogation system in Turkey;

CONDEMNS the failure to institute a true democracy by the new Constitution and other laws promulgated by the National Security Council which instead aims at establishing an authoritarian regime carrying the trappings but not the realities of democracy;

COMMENDS the determined campaign of Türk-İş against the restrictions on labour rights in the initial draft Constitution and in the recently promulgated legislation on trade unions and collective bargaining;

CONDEMNS the intolerable curbs in the Constitution and in the legislation on trade unions and on collective bargaining — in spite of the limited concessions made under Türk-İş and international pressure — which render the free exercise of trade union activity virtually impossible and flagrantly denies the ILO standards and the rights acquired by Turkish workers after years of struggle;

MAKES AN ULTIMATE APPEAL to the National Security Council to rescind

the measures passed in ignorance of their true implications, and which only serve to bring opprobrium on Turkey; and which thwart the most fundamental aspirations of the Turkish working people;

CALLS ON ALL democratic forces inside and outside of Turkey to assist in reversing these measures and also by action through the newly to be elected parliament, however limited its powers, to vote legislation which respects international labour standards;

DEMANDS once more the release of the detained trade unionists, the stopping of the farcical trials against DISK and its affiliated unions and a lifting of the ban on trade unions and on the restrictions on trade union activity;

PLEDGES ICFTU cooperation with all truly democratic forces in Turkey that will actively engage in this battle for trade union and civil liberties;

DECIDES to continue the ICFTU legal and relief aid in cooperation with ETUC for trade union victims of repression in Turkey.

Sponsors include

Peter Archer QC MP
Joe Ashton MP
Norman Atkinson MP
Clay Barnett MP
Margaret Beckett MP
Andrew Bennett MP
Syd Bidwell MP
Roland Boyes MP
Ron Brown MP
Richard Caborn MP
Dennis Canavan MP
Bob Clay MP
Harry Cohen MP
Jeremy Corbyn MP
Tom Cox MP
Harry Cowans MP
Stan Crowther MP
Ron Davies MP
Frank Dobson MP
Dick Douglas MP
Allred Dubs MP
Alexander Eadie MP
Ken Eastham MP
Bob Edwards MP
Derek Fatchett MP
Martin Flannery MP
George Foulkes MP
John Golding MP
Judith Hart MP
Doug Hoyk MP
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APEX Holborn Branch
ASLEF
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ASTMS Manchester HS Branch
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AUEW Sheffield District
AUEW (TASS) Div Council 9
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Fire Brigades Union
GMWU Burnley Branch
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GMWU 115 Manchester Branch
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GMWU Warrington Branch
NALGO Met Dist Council
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NAFFHE Leek

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Northern Ireland Public Service Alliance
SOGAT '82 LCA & EP Branch
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TGWU Reg. No.1
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GEC Openshaw JSSC
Union of Turkish Workers
Beckenham CLP
Bernonsey CLP

Chelmsford CLP
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Labour Party Young Socialists
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Communist Party of Great Britain
Young Communist League
Forening For Progressive Fr Tyrkia
Iraqi Students' Society UK (Branch of GUSIR)
KNE (Communist Youth of Greece) org. in Britain
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City of London Polytechnic Students' Union
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A PUBLIC MEETING

in Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1
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Speakers:
Turkish and British Trade Unionists

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