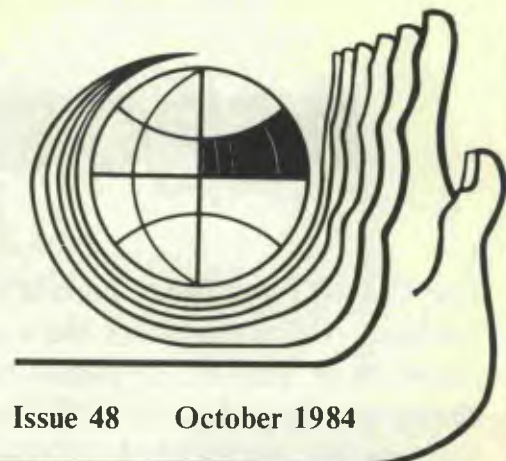
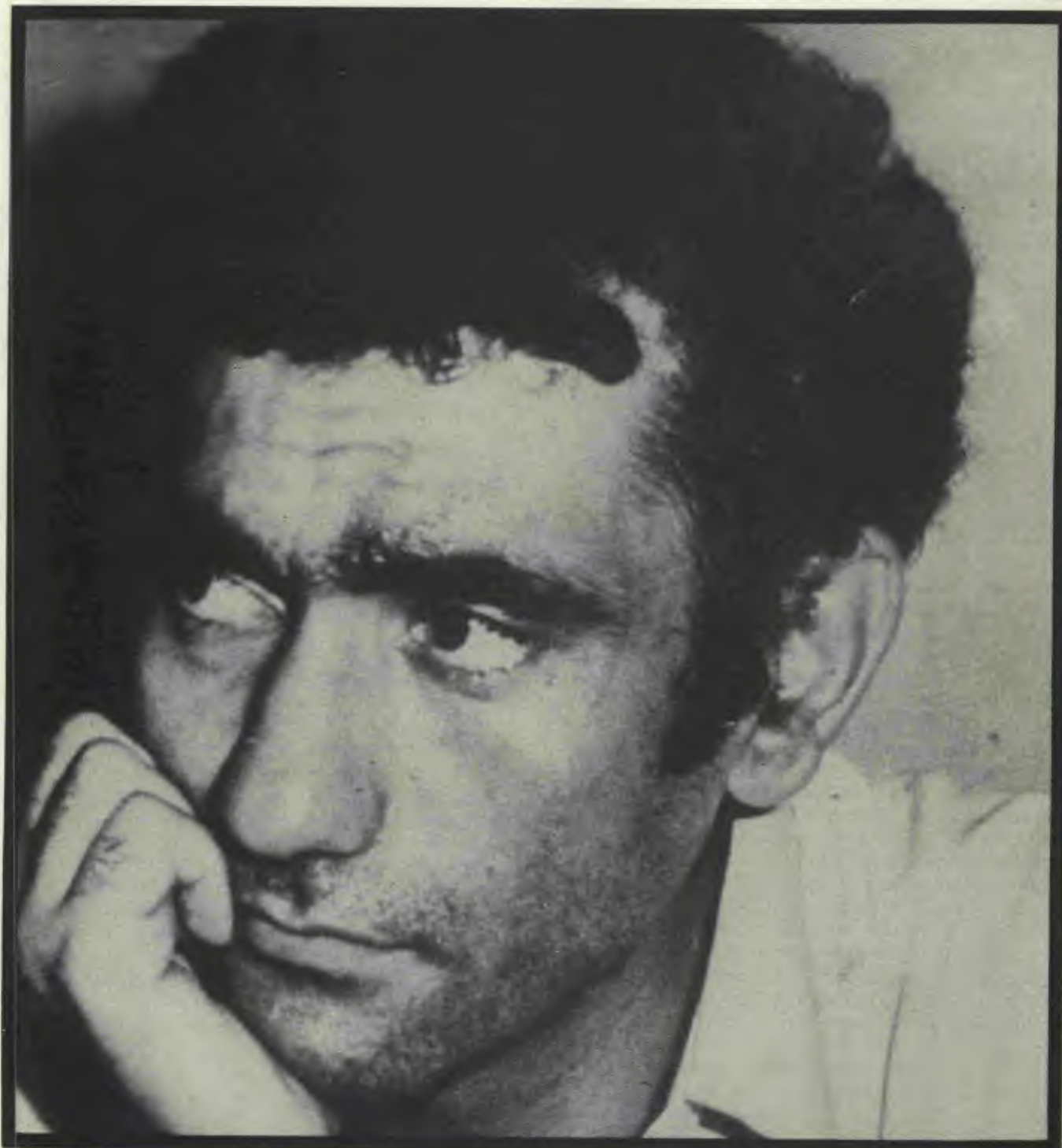


# TURKEY NEWSLETTER



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# REPORT ON TURKEY

**The CDDRT publishes here its 'Report on Turkey', which evaluates the current situation in Turkey, emphasising the changes reflected in the 1982 constitution, the general and local elections, and the general inability of the then fascist regime to build itself a mass base of popular support within the society. The new period, which we now see in Turkey, has witnessed the disintegration of the regime to the extent, where it can no longer be termed fascist.**

The 12th September coup had two fundamental aims. Its *immediate* aim was to suppress the revolutionary situation which existed in the country. In this it succeeded. Hundreds of thousands of revolutionaries and democrats were arrested, parliament was dissolved, political parties, societies and trade union activity were banned. The press was heavily censored. All potential and real opposition was either mercilessly crushed or coerced into silence.

Its second, and *long-term*, objective was to overcome the profound social and economic crisis underlying the revolutionary situation, effecting a transition to becoming a minor imperialist country. This, naturally, could only take place under the tutelage of its imperialists masters. Nevertheless, Turkish finance capital clearly saw the need to expand into foreign markets if it was to survive. In this aim, however, it has failed.

Not only has the projected expansion into foreign markets not taken place, but also the economic recovery which was to have launched it, is floundering. What "gains" were made, have been at the expense of such brutal attacks on the wages and standards of living of ordinary working people, that the hostility provoked by these attacks now poses a serious threat to the stability of the regime. Inflation is still running at 74%, unemployment has risen to over 3½ million (official figures), and real wages have suffered a cut to below their 1964 level.

The fascist coup was carried out by the uniformed section of finance capital: the top army echelons which control the monopoly OYAK\*. The separation of the executive, legislative and judicial powers was done away with, all three functions being concentrated into the hands of a five man junta led by Chief of General Staff Kenan Evren.

This monolithic concentration of power was a necessary prerequisite for achieving the immediate aim mentioned previously of suppressing the revolutionary situation. Moreover, this is something which every fascist regime strives for along with development of a corporate form of state (i.e., the organisation of all political, economic and social life under, and around, a ruling core). The regime in Turkey also attempted to forge such a corporate state structure, with particular emphasis on turning the trade union confederation, Turk-İş, into a fascist-type "state-union". However, in this the junta has also failed.

The efforts of the junta towards a corporate state structure were hampered by one crucial fact: that it had come to power without the kind of mass support necessary to sustain such a structure, and moreover, was unable to build for itself that mass support after it had come to power. On the contrary, the economic and political repression backfired on the junta, as popular discontent rose.

This, in effect, meant that the fragile power bloc the junta originally enjoyed with the other sections of the ruling class began to crack. These sections, of which Demirel and Ecevit were the spokesman, had been willing to remain silent for the purpose of seeing out the junta's immediate objective of crushing the revolutionary movement. But once this had been done, to remain silent in the face of growing popular discontent at the economic and political repression, would have only helped channel this discontent back into more "dangerous" revolutionary alternatives. Thus in 1982, we saw the first outbursts by Ecevit and Demirel, signalling that the honeymoon was over.

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***The process of the disintegration of the fascist regime has reached a qualitatively new stage whereby the present regime in Turkey can no longer be described as fascist. This is not to say that the disintegration process has resulted in a democratic regime... The present regime is anti-democratic and repressive in the extreme. But the new situation calls on all of us to redouble our efforts for true democracy in Turkey, because the opportunities for raising the democratic struggle are now increasing.***

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The response of the fascist regime to this new balance of forces was ingenious: it engineered the sham of a "return to democracy". Through this manoeuvre it hoped to pull the rug from under the feet of Ecevit and Demirel. They would have their constitutional regime, but the "constitution" would prop up the junta. They would have their parliament, but "parliament" would tow the junta's line. They would have their political parties, but those "parties" would be civilian surrogates for the generals'. Such was the plan to preempt and neutralise the opposition.

But in the context of the conditions within the country and, in particular, the balance of forces, the "game" turned into a reality. Power, the junta failed to recognise, is the one element of the human condition which it is impossible to fake. The

\* OYAK (the Army Mutual Assistance Fund), embraces such spheres as the military industrial complex (including the automobile industry).



constitution adopted in November 1982 gave a "legal" facade to the arbitrary rule of the junta. But in doing so, it effectively removed the monolithic concentration of power in its hands. Into the field of opportunity created by the formation of three puppet parties leapt a dozen *real* parties. As an end result of this, the puppet parties had also to function, at least formally, as real parties to maintain credibility with the electorate.

This is the context in which the sham November '83 general elections, and the March '84 local elections must be evaluated. Designed as a measure to strengthen the regime, they in fact had the opposite effect of accelerating its disintegration. Today we are confronted with the farcical situation of an opposition unrepresented in parliament, but which carried 40% of the vote in the local elections.

*The process of the disintegration of the fascist regime, which, in essence, began with the adoption of the 1982 constitution, has thus reached a qualitatively new stage whereby the present regime in Turkey can no longer be described as fascist.*

This is *not* to say that the disintegration process has resulted in a democratic regime, or that disintegration can be equated to democratisation or liberalisation. Far from it. The present regime is anti-democratic and repressive in the

extreme. But if we are to define "fascism" scientifically and correctly, the present state structure in Turkey does not fit that description. This fact, however, does not, in the least, detract from the importance of waging a struggle for true democracy in Turkey. On the contrary, it calls on all of us to redouble our efforts in this direction, because the *opportunities* for raising the democratic struggle are now increasing.

Turkey is presently going through a *transitional period*, which can evolve in either of two directions. Either, the fascists (who maintain positions of enormous power, via their links with the military) will reassert themselves. If this happens, then we will see a return to the monolithic fascism which existed prior to the constitution. Or, on the other hand, the present regime will continue to disintegrate, and *through struggle*, a greater measure of democracy will eventually come about. Whether that democracy will be a limited affair or the full democracy we all hope for, rests very much on the ability of the democratic forces in Turkey to raise the struggle and rally the people to this cause. Solidarity has a vital role to play in raising this struggle. That is why we say: "THE STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRACY IS INTENSIFYING!"

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### STRIKES BEGIN

The Dock Workers' Union (DOCK Gemi-İş) is set to strike in Desan and Yıldırım Dockyards in Tuzla, the first such action since the coup 4 years ago. The Martial Law Commander has given official permission for the strike of 67 workers to go ahead on Tuesday, 2nd October.

The president of the Union, Nazım Tur has requested fraternal unions to support them financially and morally.

Although the strikes have official permission, this should not be regarded as official sanctioning, but rather official recognition that to prevent them would lead to even greater unrest.

### BAŞTÜRK RELEASED

Abdullah Baştürk, the former General Secretary of Turkey's banned trade union confederation, DİSK, has been released from Sağmacılar Prison in Istanbul. He was set free on the evening of 19th September after four years in gaol. Baştürk was brought to trial in 1980 after DİSK had been banned by the military junta which came to power on 12th September. His release was ordered by an Istanbul Martial Law Court after the Court of Appeal in Ankara decided that a 6 month prison sentence should run concurrently with the four years he has already spent in goal.

Greeted by his wife Ayten and other members of his family, Baştürk was obviously dazed and answered questions with some difficulty. He said that he felt exhausted and



needed to rest for a while in order to sort himself out. Later, at his home in an Istanbul suburb, he spoke of his joy at being reunited with his family. (*Hürriyet*, 20 September 1984)

### BOMBS EXPLODE

Four bombs exploded in the premises of four branches of the ruling Motherland Party on 14th September 1984. A number of undetonated ones were also discovered, but were rendered harmless before they could go off. (*Hürriyet*, 25 September 1984).



# LABOUR MOVEMENT CONFERENCE ON TURKEY

The Labour Movement Conference on Turkey is over. Unfortunately, but predictably, it was not a resounding success. "Unfortunately", because a conference launched by the Turkey Parliamentary Group of seven Labour MPs should have been nothing short of spectacular. And "predictably", because this is precisely the outcome that was visible from miles away, and which the CDDRT warned of well beforehand.

In short, to quote a Turkish expression: "The mountain gave birth to a mouse". What were the reasons for this failure?

The CDDRT had raised two fundamental objections prior to the conference, concerning its success. The first objection related to its timing. This we felt was inconducive to the conference gaining the attention it deserved, given the present level of commitments within the British trade union and labour movements. We pressed for the conference to be postponed to a more favourable time, which would allow broad and proper representation to be achieved.

Our fears proved to be justified. Only 2 MPs were able to attend and trade union representation was minimal. The labour movement is no better informed today about the situation in Turkey and the tasks of the solidarity movement in this country than before the conference. This is a great pity.

Our second objection related to the composition of the invited Turkish platform speakers. This, we pointed out, was unrepresentative and extremely narrow. In the event, the platform was even more narrow than had been originally envisaged. The two Turkish trade union representatives who had been invited, Yücel Top and Gültekin Bekdemir did not attend, and only one of the speakers nominated by the Solidarity Committee for Trade Union Rights and Democracy in Turkey (SCTURDT), turned up. It will be remembered that the SCTURDT had vetoed any platform speakers other than those it approved of and in fact, had told us that the speakers they had nominated were unwilling to share a platform with anyone but themselves. As a result, the only "representative" of the labour movement of Turkey present was Kemal Burkay: The fact that Kemal Burkay is the leader of only one small Kurdish group in exile should cast some doubt on the representative nature of the platform, and it has already upset many of the Kurdish groups in Europe that he was presented as the representative of the Kurdish movement at large.

The fact that Yücel Top and Gültekin Bekdemir, did not attend should be evaluated in the light of the release of the DİSK leaders in Turkey from prison.

We have now heard that Abdullah Baştürk has also been released from detention. Yücel Top was representing the DİSK leaders in Europe *while they were in prison*. We argued before the Conference that it would be extreme short sightedness on our part if we did not at least seek ways of making contact with the DİSK leaders who had been released, to consult them and obtain their suggestions on the question of DİSK representation at the Conference. We argued for postponement of the Conference also on these grounds, to allow these contacts to be made. All these suggestions were turned down by SCTURDT and TSC to the detriment of the conference, where on the day, there was nobody representing DİSK.

From the beginning, the CDDRT had pressed for broad and proper representation of the Turkish labour and

democratic movement. For example we cited the Manifesto signed by over 1000 intellectuals in May as evidence disproving the argument that there is no point in inviting people from Turkey because they will never speak out against the regime. We argued for prominent signatories to the Manifesto to be invited to the Conference, or at least consulted about representation.

Among the speakers we had proposed was Yılmaz Güney, the film-maker, who died tragically only days before the conference. His name had also been vetoed by the SCTURDT on the basis that he was a "dubious character". But at the conference, the SCTURDT representatives were obliged to stand in silence in memory of this courageous fighter for the people, on the initiative of the CDDRT.

Despite our objections, the CDDRT did everything possible to make the conference a success. This is borne out by the impressive participation of the representatives of the CDDRT and its affiliated organisations at the conference, to the extent that these formed a majority of all those attending. Representation by the other organisations on the other hand, particularly SCTURDT, was only symbolic.

At this point it is also necessary to draw attention to the attitude of Turkey Solidarity Campaign (TSC). Ignoring our objections summed up above, the TSC was adamant on holding the conference at this time and in these conditions, only to withdraw inexplicably at the last minute. This can only be regarded as sabotage of the conference.

In conclusion, the conference contributed nothing to the British labour movement's understanding of the situation and tasks with regard to Turkey. This result, together with the way in which the preparations for the conference were conducted, also contributed nothing to the drawing together of the three separate solidarity organisations connected with Turkey.

However, this should not lead us to abandon our efforts for campaigns for democracy in Turkey. It should teach us that such campaigns cannot be divorced from the specific features of the struggle for democracy in Turkey, and that they cannot be waged by bowing to the vetoes of organisations such as SCTURDT and TSC, which are only pursuing their own narrow, sectarian interests.

An urgent task is to raise our solidarity with the struggle of the working class being waged inside Türk-İş. We should continue supporting and campaigning on behalf of former DİSK members who have been imprisoned and are waiting trial. However, we should fight most determinedly any attempts to resurrect DİSK, which is organisationally dead, but whose traditions are today being spread within Türk-İş by former DİSK members. The re-organisation of DİSK would mean dividing the working class and isolating the advanced and militant workers from the more backward sections of the working class. We must not let this happen.

Efforts to raise solidarity with the struggle for democracy in Turkey should now be redoubled and in this connection, we invite all trade unionists, MPs and constituency Labour parties who want to do something about the situation in Turkey, to attend CDDRT's Labour Party Conference Fringe Meeting on 2nd October 1984. This will be an opportunity to overturn the negative result of the "Labour Movement Conference on Turkey" and to discuss properly the tasks of the solidarity movement at this truly critical stage of the struggle in Turkey.

# YILMAZ GÜNEY



On Sunday 9th September, Yılmaz Güney, Turkey's leading film maker and a fighter for the people's cause, died at the age of 47. He had been suffering from cancer of the stomach — an illness exacerbated by years of imprisonment and persecution at the hands of successive repressive regimes in Turkey.

Yılmaz Güney was born in 1937 in Adana. Both his parents were Kurdish peasants. Like others with a similar social background he achieved a higher education while supporting himself through working at a variety of jobs, including shepherding, water carrying and as an assistant to a film distributor. He was acting and writing scripts by the age of 21. Three years later he served his first term as a political prisoner during the 1960 coup.

In the following years Yılmaz Güney became one of Turkey's leading film actors. Dubbed the 'ugly King' he played the leading role in many films, at one time appearing in up to 21 films a year. In time he also began making his own films, rejecting the imitative and pulp-style movies then prevalent. In his films he focused on social and moral questions, especially of backward rural areas of Turkey.

As a successful actor and film maker Yılmaz Güney could have lived a luxurious life, feted by the Turkish establishment. Instead he took the road of opposition to reaction and barbarity which led to a total of twelve years in prison and a shortened life.

Some of his most famous films (such as Cannes prize winner YOL) were directed from behind prison bars. In 1982 after serving five years of a prison sentence on a trumped up charge, Yılmaz Güney escaped to Europe. He then set about making his last and arguably greatest film — 'The Wall', which movingly describes life in Turkish prisons under the present regime.

In 1983 Yılmaz Güney was refused entry to Britain and the CDDRT waged a campaign against this. Preparations were in hand to revive this campaign in

connection with his latest film when news of his untimely death reached us.

In Turkey today his films are banned, to mention his name in the press is a punishable offence. But Yılmaz Güney, principled artist and fighter for the people, will live on in the hearts of the people of Turkey and all those throughout the world who battle for freedom and democracy.

## 1937-1984



*Yılmaz Güney with Elia Kazan and friend in Toptaşı Prison.*



The CDDRT jointly organised with the Union of Turkish Workers a fringe meeting at the TUC Conference, the main topic being "No More Deportations". However, the wider subject of the situation in Turkey was also dealt with. The fringe meeting was a significant step in raising the voice of Turkish workers who are fighting for their rights as part of the working class of Britain.

The first speaker was *Fevzi Solt*, who began by summarising events since the 12th September 1980 fascist coup in Turkey. He spoke of the attack on the working class by the fascist junta and the drastic fall in the living standards of working people. He also mentioned the imprisonment, mass trials and torture of trade unionists, Peace Council leaders and thousands of revolutionaries and progressives.

Fevzi Solt then went on to evaluate recent developments in Turkey and explained how the disintegration of fascism in Turkey had come about as follows:

"The monopolies in Turkey, are still in deep crisis, as they were before the coup, for the fascist junta proved unable to solve the economic problems of the country through repression and attacks on the working class and the living standards of the people. In short, the junta failed to rescue its class from the crisis, a crisis which is part of the economic crisis affecting all medium-level developed capitalist countries in the world. In other words, it is a structural crisis which faces all these countries, and Turkey is no exception.

Through demagoguery, deception and chauvinism, the fascist junta had tried to forge for itself mass support, but in this, too, it failed because of its lack of success in other fields. Therefore at the moment, the regime is slowly but surely crumbling. Obviously the ship of capitalism is beginning to take water.

After a very reactionary constitution prepared by the fascist junta was adopted, so-called general elections were held last November, followed by local elections in March this year. Developments like these, whether the junta likes it or not, have served to focus the people's attention on politics, and the process has necessarily involved their increased participation. For example, the manifesto signed by about 1500 individuals comprising leading intellectuals, authors, artists, journalists and former politicians, was an outright protest lodged against the fascist junta. In fact, the signatories of this document have since been put on trial for daring to speak out as they did. Even then, they must have known that the junta would be quick to retaliate, yet they went ahead and took the risks.

The ruling class realises that discontent is bubbling from below and growing daily. Therefore to avert this menace, it has tried to divert the discontent and particularly, the discontent of the working class, into safe channels. For this purpose, the ruling class made their manoeuvres within Türk-İş, the only existing trade union confederation in Turkey. Following several meetings in Izmir, Türk-İş called a meeting of 7,000 rank-and-file members in Istanbul. Through Türk-İş, the regime was seeking endorsement for their policies. But as it happened, the meeting turned into a nightmare for them. Apart from shouting the slogan "Bread, Peace and Freedom" at this meeting, the thousands of rank-and-file members went on boldly to demand the right to strike, warning the

# TUC FRINGE

*Chair: Peter Spalding, Chairman, Greater London Council*  
*Speakers: Bill Deal, President, Fire Brigades Union*  
*Fevzi Şolt, former President, Chamber of Commerce*



*From left to right: Representative of Union of Turkish Workers, Bill Deal, Peter Spalding, Fevzi Şolt*

reactionary leadership of Türk-İş that if they were not granted this right, they would know how to take it by force.

It seems that the working class in Turkey is once more surging forward and prepared to take up the struggle against the domination of the monopolies and control from above. It is resolutely advancing towards this goal.

We should recognise how absolutely vital it is for the working class to consolidate and unite the trade union movement around Türk-İş, by drawing the class — conscious workers who are former DISK members and who now have nowhere else to go, into the struggle. In this way, it is possible to inculcate the revolutionary traditions of DISK amongst Türk-İş members and to transform Türk-İş into a proper trade union centre to fight for the rights of the working class.

So on the one hand we see this boiling discontent from below which could, if given proper leadership, turn into a revolutionary potential — and that is why the bourgeoisie is trying to sectionalise interests — and on the other hand, we see the dilemma the junta faces from having to retreat because of the social pressure it encounters.

It is precisely at this stage that our most important task is to channel this discontent into a revolutionary perspective because as long as we fail to achieve this, the door will always be left open for more and new fascist coups to take place. Then, again, the working class will be faced with the prospects of torture, hunger and severe repression.

But let us all be absolutely clear about one thing. The process of disintegration of fascism in Turkey today, has got



# THE MEETING

London Association of Trades Councils  
Brigades Union; Jeremy Corbyn MP;  
Association of Mechanical Engineers of Turkey



Bill Deal, Peter Spalding (chair), Jeremy Corbyn MP, Fevzi Şolt.

Nothing to do with the democratisation or liberalisation of the regime. On the contrary, the repression is getting worse, for the regime is becoming more aggressive in the wake of the disintegration of fascism and this is particularly true in Kurdistan where military action is being intensified.

It is our task to explain to people that the struggle for true democracy is still being waged in Turkey and the aim is to finally overthrow this exploitative and barbaric regime.

I can sum up our tasks as follows — to follow closely the developments in Turkey and to carefully analyse the situation so that we are not deceived by the claim that Turkey is moving towards democracy, for as I have explained before, the dissolution of fascism has not meant less repression for the people; to demand an amnesty for all political prisoners — let us not forget their just struggle in the prisons; to raise solidarity against the continuing repression and torture, and to expose to the world, the colonialist, expansionist and war-mongering policy of the regime, especially in its war against the Kurds and against the other peoples in the region. Our struggle is strengthened by the full support of the British working class, which throughout its history has resisted exploitation and defended the rights of the working class everywhere in the world for “Bread, Peace and Freedom”. And the British miners’ struggle is a source of hope and inspiration for us all, as well.

Long live our working class solidarity!

Long live the unity of workers all over the world!

Bill Deal, said that the international situation troubled him. He was alarmed by the tremendous move to the right worldwide. In Britain, he cited the attacks of the Thatcher government and the curtailment of opportunities for trade unionists to conduct their business on behalf of their members. So too, with Reagan’s style of administration and his war-mongering in the United States. “You can see that the right, the ruling class in the world, are fighting as hard as they can to repress anyone who wants any kind of democracy, and that is no different in Turkey.”

Bill Deal made it clear that there was no democracy in Turkey, despite the general elections in November last year, and warned that no one should be deluded by the subsequent staging of local elections, either. The junta had vetted the few parties that were allowed to contest so as to make absolutely certain that the kind of oppression that existed before the elections would continue.

There were other features to this disgraceful state of affairs in Turkey. He referred to the continuation of martial law in 54 provinces and a state of emergency in another 8. There was heavy press censorship and the media acted as the government’s mouth-piece. People in Turkey were fearful of expressing their political beliefs openly, especially if their beliefs happened to be contrary to those of the government.

“On the trade union side, an integral part of democracy in any country, when the fascist junta came to power in 1980, it took away from workers in Turkey, the right to strike and in fact, the right to even bargain collectively. That is a massive strike against democracy — that is superbly oppressive! That means that no one in Turkey can possibly negotiate, collectively bargain, to maintain their standard of living. They closed down the Revolutionary Trades Union Confederation (DISK). Since then we have had 78 leaders of DISK on trial and 68 of them face the death penalty... We are talking about people who come before trial in a court with no law and with the judges, before they arrive, committed to finding them guilty on the instruction of the people who control the government in Turkey.” As a result these trade unionists were in fact being murdered because without a fair trial there can be no execution, only murder.

Bill Deal gave some disturbing facts and figures. “We have got 7,611 people either killed or under threat of death for holding political views that are contrary to that of the ruling class in Turkey. *The Guardian* tells us that there are 33,000 political prisoners in Turkey.” He pointed out that the present inflation rate in Turkey is around 50%, yet the government has declared that only a few people, those who tow the line, will get a pay rise and then, only up to 25%.

On the crucial question of what to do about Turkey, Bill Deal said, “I think we need to get a concerted campaign in this country of trade unionists on behalf of the people in Turkey. All of us must approach our politicians, and not duck out even if they are Tories, because we are appealing to the basic feelings of ordinary, decent human beings. ... What we need is international pressure upon the Turkish regime to revise its ways. I believe we can do it if we put pressure on our politicians and the trade union movement.”

“It is not going to be easy. We have got a government in this country that is determined to turn a blind eye not only to Turkey, but anywhere else in the world that suits them, whether they are torturing, massacring or killing people, because it is about capitalism. What we have got to do as a working class is to overthrow them, is to get democracy not only in this country and in Turkey, but throughout the world so we can live in peace and understand one another and live in a way that socialists understand.”



The next speaker was *Jeremy Corbyn*, MP for Islington North and Finsbury.

Jeremy Corbyn dealt with a problem which he frequently encounters in his work in his constituency, where the Turks form a large population in the ethnic mix of Greeks, Turkish and Greek Cypriots, Bangladeshis, Sri Lankans, West Indians and people from India. He wanted to dispel once and for all, any myths about the fairness and rationality of British nationality and immigration laws. "Under British law, if someone's paternal grandparents were born in Britain, then their descendants have a right of entry and a right of permanent abode in this country... The reality of that is that white South Africans, white Australians, white Canadians and white New Zealanders can come and live in Britain. Black people from Africa, the Caribbean, from the sub-continent and from many other parts of the world cannot. That is the basic racism of British nationality law that was introduced in 1971. And it is to the eternal shame of the last Labour government that it did nothing to repeal that particularly racist piece of immigration law. One demand that I am determined to see carried out by a future Labour government is the repeal of all the racist immigration laws that operate in this country."

Jeremy Corbyn went on to detail the consequences of being "technically" an illegal immigrant in this country. He described how "illegal" immigrants and their families have the fear of being found out and deported constantly hanging over their heads. Although there were possibilities of appeal on their behalf, he conceded these were not usually very successful. So eventually, the families were deported back, often to a very dangerous political situation. The adults might possibly end up in court and go to prison and the children were sent to a country they had never been to.

But the ultimate danger for these families was the possibility of blackmail. "If you are an illegal immigrant, you are not going to register for unemployment benefit or for supplementary benefit with the Department of Health and Social Security, nor are you going to register as unemployed. You are not in a position to use the National Health Service facilities or get a NHS number. If you are working anywhere, you are working illegally, therefore the employer has total control over your life because once you poke your head above the parapet and say, 'I do not like the conditions in this factory, I do not like the way that the boss is treating me', the boss will turn around and say, 'well, if you do not like it, you can go' or 'if you carry on like that, I will phone up the Home Office and tell them what your position is here.'" This situation could be compared to that of the Irish migrant workers in New York in 1910, he said. Now thousands of people within the Turkish community were living in fear. Recently, Home Office officials had been going on fishing raids in certain clothing factories, demanding to see the papers of everyone working there. Jeremy Corbyn asked, "What kind of society is it that allows people to live and work in this twilight existence, open to every manner of exploitation, street-corner moneylender and pawnbroker?" That was the reality of British immigration and nationality law at the moment.

Jeremy Corbyn gave credit to organisations like the CDDRT and the Union of Turkish Workers for having consistently been prepared to take up these issues.

In the past, British trade unions like the National Union of Public Employees, NALGO and the General and Municipal Workers Union, had defended their immigrant worker members threatened with deportation.

What was needed was a policy within the trade union movement committed to defending the rights of migrant workers in this country. "I want to see the TUC as a whole,

saying that we demand of a future Labour government an amnesty for all those people who are living in such fear here at the present time. And we demand a policy towards migrant peoples that is not racist, that does not encourage exploitation, low wages and dangerous working conditions. If you think about it, if you have got no status in this country, no right to dole or to health or to education or to housing, what position are you in to argue about wages?"

Jeremy Corbyn went on to discuss the wider topic of the solidarity struggle for democracy in Turkey. Commenting on his visit to Turkey last year, he said that he found the aura of national pride imposed by the junta on life in Turkey, quite frightening. "They have this concept of supreme nationalism. When I asked some soldiers why they were so opposed to these people that were on trial they said, 'well, they are anti-Turkish. They are supporting foreign concepts.' I asked 'what foreign concepts are those?' They said 'Socialism!'"

It was clear, Jeremy Corbyn said, that the regime was trying to destroy any kind of working class solidarity and any kind of working class organisation in Turkey. He believed that the reasons why the British and American governments have so far not condemned the injustices in Turkey is because she is a member of NATO and is strategically very important as a base from which American forces can be used for the stationing of nuclear weapons and for the siting of listening posts against the Soviet Union. These governments were also secure in the knowledge that the present regime in Turkey would actively encourage these bases to be there and continue to allow the further militarisation of Turkey. "I also believe that they are prepared to allow the continued division of Cyprus because they are more interested in NATO's presence in the eastern Mediterranean and in Turkey, than they are in the reunification of Cyprus."

Finally, Jeremy Corbyn outlined the tasks of the labour movement and of a future Labour government in Britain. "Our job has to be as a labour movement, to stand for minorities and the way they are treated in this country and also to stand up for people in other parts of the world and the way that they are repressed. Messages of solidarity mean a lot. It gives them heart for struggle.

"There is a tremendous job to be done to demand that a future Labour government does not continue arms sales to the regime in Turkey or support the violations of human rights or stay silent while hunger strikes are on in Diyarbakir prison, whilst a war goes on against the Kurdish people and whilst the oppression of the trades unionists and members of the Peace Association and other organisations continues... That means we need from the labour movement's leadership, a lead against racism, against the oppression of minorities and the ill-treatment of minorities in this country and also against oppression in other parts of the world. We want true solidarity with the working class organisations in other parts of the world."

*Peter Spalding* in closing the meeting said: "... Over the last two or three years, I have met a number of comrades from the CDDRT.

I think it is important to say that the CDDRT is a very effective organisation. You have achieved a tremendously good profile within the trade union movement in this country. You have got a real basis to build upon. With the support of people like Bill and Jeremy and with the support of unions like NUPE and Fire Brigades Union, I do not think you could possibly fail in your objective.

So if you take all the off- Jeremy and Bill and others make, and I offer the further support of my organisation, the Trades Councils in London, then I think victory for your cause is inevitable."



# COMING TOGETHER FOR EQUAL RIGHTS



## MIGRANTS, IMMIGRANTS & REFUGEES CONFERENCE

**SATURDAY 6 & SUNDAY 7 OCTOBER 1984**

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# CDDRT'S EMBASSY PICKET

On the 12th September, to mark the fourth anniversary of the fascist coup in Turkey, supporters of human rights and democracy in Turkey gathered outside the Turkish Embassy in Belgrave Square, London to voice their dissent at the regime.

The protesters picketed the embassy for over two hours, singing songs and chanting slogans. The picket, which was organised by the CDDRT, brought together representatives and supporters from 10 different organisations, all of

whom united with the CDDRT in its slogans against the vicious repressive regime: Fight for democracy in Turkey! Fight for human rights in Turkey! No more genocide in Kurdistan! Turkey out of Cyprus, NATO out of Turkey!

Jeremy Corbyn, MP, and a supporter of the cause of solidarity with the democracy struggle in Turkey gave a speech in support of our aims.

Alongside the Turkish organisations with a strong presence at the picket, i.e. the Union of Turkish Progressives in

Britain; the Union of Turkish Workers; the Union of Turkish Women in Britain and the Turkish Student Federation, we were pleased to see a truly impressive representation by Kurdish organisations: the Kurdish Students Society in Europe (UK Branch) and the Union of Kurdish Youth and Students.

This presence underlined for all, especially those in the Embassy, the truth of our common slogan: "Turks and Kurds unite, this is a common fight!"

## Earthquake in Kurdistan

An earthquake with a force of 6.4 on the Richter scale hit north eastern Turkey on 19th September. The tremor, whose epicentre was in neighbouring Georgia, affected areas close to the Soviet border, especially the province of Erzurum. The first shock came at about 4.28 in the afternoon and lasted 10 seconds. Panic gripped the inhabitants of the area, who were only just recovering from a disastrous earthquake which occurred last year.

According to the first official estimates, three people were killed in villages north east of Erzurum, which suffered a second tremor at 5.35pm, and thirty people were seriously injured. There was also considerable damage to village homes. In one village near the town of Senkaya, the school had only just closed for the day and been cleared of its 100 pupils when the earthquake struck and the building collapsed.

The low rate of casualties was in great contrast to the earthquake at 6.2 on Richter scale which affected the same area



on 30th September last year. On that occasion, 1165 people were killed and 1137 people were seriously injured. It is thought that the fact that the tremors occurred at a time in the afternoon when most people were working in the fields reduced the number of casualties significantly. (*Hürriyet*, 20 September 1984).



YOL

UNION OF TURKISH WORKERS

## A TRIBUTE TO YILMAZ GÜNEY

**30 September - Sunday**

**Speakers**

**Film Show: The Way (Yol)**

**Place: Mayville Community Centre,  
Woodwill Road, N16**

**Time: 17.00**



**HUMAN RIGHTS  
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**CONSTITUTION OF THE CDDRT**

- The name of the organisation shall be the Committee for Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey (CDDRT).
- 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 foregoing utilising every means at our disposal.

- 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.
- 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.

- 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.
- 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.
- Local Branches of CDDRT are formed with the approval of the General Council.
- This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority at a Congress.
- The General Council may call, or upon request by two-thirds of affiliated national organisations shall call, a Special Congress.

**CDDRT General Council**

- Bedir AYDEMİR  
Richard BALFE, MEP  
John M BLOOM  
Philip BRAY  
Sandra HODGSON  
AIF LOMAS, MEP  
Aydin MERIC  
Stan NEWENS MEP  
Ernie ROBERTS MP  
Alan SAPPER  
Marion SARAFI  
Faik SINKIL  
Tijen UGURLU  
Martin UPHAM  
Bob WRIGHT  
and one representative each from:  
Turkish Students' Federation in the UK  
Union of Turkish Progressives in Britain  
Union of Turkish Workers

**Sponsors include**

- |                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Peter Archer QC MP  | Roy Hughes MP         |
| Joe Ashton MP       | Lewis Carter-Jones MP |
| Norman Atkinson MP  | Robert Kilroy-Silk MP |
| Tony Banks MP       | Neil Kinnock MP       |
| Guy Barnett MP      | James Lamond MP       |
| Margaret Beckett MP | R. Leighton MP        |
| Tony Benn MP        | Bob Litherland MP     |
| Andrew Bennett MP   | Allen McKay MP        |
| Syd Bidwell MP      | William McKelvey MP   |
| Roland Boyes MP     | Kevin McNamara MP     |
| Ron Brown MP        | Bob McTaggart MP      |
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| Dennis Canavan MP   | Michael Meacher MP    |
| Bob Clay MP         | Martin O'Neil MP      |
| Harry Cohen MP      | Stan Orme MP          |
| Jeremy Corbyn MP    | Bob Parry MP          |
| Tom Cox MP          | Terry Patchett MP     |
| Harry Cowans MP     | Jo Richardson MP      |
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ASLEF  
ASTMS Divisional Council 8  
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AUEW N. Manchester District  
AUEW Sheffield District  
AUEW (TASS) Div Council 9  
COHSE Caterham Branch  
Fire Brigades Union  
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GMWU 22 Bury Branch  
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Kurdish Students Society in Europe (UK)  
Communist Party of Portugal (org. in Britain)  
Union of Turkish Progressives in Britain  
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**Affiliate to CDDRT**

Annual affiliation fees are: national organisation £25, local organisation £10, individual £6.

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I/we\* wish to affiliate to CDDRT and enclose a cheque/PO for £

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**Tuesday 2nd October, 6.30pm  
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*Chair:*

*Ernie Roberts MP*

*Speakers:*

*Chris Smith MP*

*Stan Newens MEP*

*Bob Wright AGS, AUEW*

*Aydın Meriç,*

*Former Assistant General Secretary of DISK*