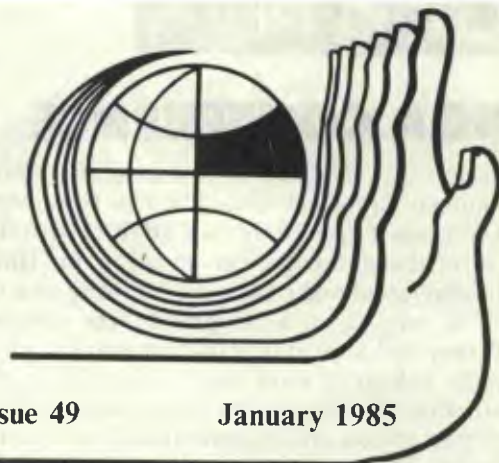


# TURKEY NEWSLETTER



Monthly publication of the Committee for  
Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey

Issue 49

January 1985

## DRAGNET IN KURDISTAN

See page 8



## NGA CONFERENCE

At a fringe meeting held during the Conference of the National Graphical Association in November at Blackpool Aydın Meriç, member of the CDDRT General Council spoke. He reviewed the present situation in Turkey as one of disintegration and transition. Drawing to a close he said: ... "It is only through struggle by the democratic forces in Turkey and abroad that the repressive regime can be rolled back. Solidarity work has a vital role to play in this new situation. The fact that the regime can be made to disintegrate further, imposes more active tasks than when the regime was fascist. There are cracks in the regime which we must take advantage of. One of these cracks is in the area of trade union work."

A. Meriç ended with a call for the labour movement to build solidarity with the rank and file forces in Türk-İş who are fighting to build it into a single, genuine trade union centre and for democracy.

## CDDRT GENERAL COUNCIL MEETS

The General Council of the CDDRT met on the 25th October under the chairmanship of Terry Fields MP.

Among the items on the agenda was a discussion of the current situation in Turkey, (see 'Report on Turkey' in Turkey Newsletter, October 1984). The analysis of the present situation in Turkey as one of transition was agreed. Leading on from this a series of concrete guidelines and activities for 1985 were developed by the General Council. These were based round the pressing need to establish contact and solidarity with the real movements which are developing inside Turkey — both in the Türk-İş trade unions and around such developments as the "intellectuals' charter". With the development of CDDRT's both in the USA and France, the General Council looks forward to 1985 as a year in which solidarity with the people of Turkey in the fight for genuine democracy will be consolidated.



## CDDRT-FRANCE FOUNDED

At a meeting held in Paris on the 6th of October 1984 a French Committee for Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey was founded. The meeting which was well attended by French democrats and progressives dwelled mainly on the issue of intensifying the struggle for democracy in the period of the disintegration of the reactionary regime in Turkey.

The CDDRT in France have also begun to publish a news bulletin regularly.



## NO MORE DEPORTATIONS!

On 10th November 1984 the CDDRT participated in a march from Hackney to Islington Town Hall.

The demonstration had been called by the Union of Turkish Workers in London to protest at the rising number of police raids and deportations directed at so-called 'illegal' workers.

The wide range of community organisations sponsoring the march reflected the growing concern particularly among the Turkish, Cypriot, Latin American and Asian communities in London. Slogans such as "no worker is illegal" and "no more deportations" reflected the mood of the march which was joined by a group of Yorkshire miners. In the evening a rally was held in Islington Town Hall. Among the many speakers were Ernie Roberts MP, Chris Smith MP, Jeremy Corbyn MP, Councillor Zizimos, an NUM speaker and many more.

The large audience included white and black people from every community in the area.

## EVENING FOR TURKEY

An evening for Turkey was held as part of the 'Vive La Resistance' International Copyart Exhibition and Festival at the Brixton Art Gallery on 17th October.

The event began with a brief speech on new development in Turkey by a CDDRT spokesman followed by questions from the audience. After a performance by the Union of Turkish Workers Folk Dance group, the discussion continued.

During the meeting there was lively participation by the audience. Apart from questions on the role of women and the effect of the Iran-Iraq war on Turkey, most interest centered around the CDDRT's views on the nature of fascism and its disintegration in Turkey.

It was pointed out by CDDRT supporters that the new situation demands an even higher degree of support for the peoples of Turkey in their struggle to overthrow the repressive and anti-democratic regime.

## TURKEY NEWSLETTER- AN AP LOGY

As readers and subscribers may have noticed, during the latter part of 1984 *Turkey Newsletter* did not appear monthly. We would like to apologise for this. All affiliations and subscriptions will be duly extended to take this into account. Starting with this issue we plan to produce *Turkey Newsletter* monthly throughout 1985.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### SECOND PEACE TRIAL

In the trial of the Turkish Peace Association Executive a military court has confirmed jail sentences of up to eight years on 23 leaders but six have been released on bail.

Among those freed is TPA President Mahmut Dikerdem and the former head of the İstanbul Bar Association Orhan Apaydin.

There is no doubt that the international outcry played a key role in forcing the regime to reluctantly release them.

A second trial involving members of the Turkish Peace Association began in İstanbul on 26th September. This is in addition to the main trial of the TPA Executive and involves a further 48 defendants. They are accused under the notorious article 141 of the Turkish Penal Code, of "forming and administering a society with the aim of overthrowing the constitutional order and engaging in illegal activities for the purpose." The indictment further accuses the Turkish Peace Association of "having been established and guided by the Communist Party of Turkey, which since 1920 has been trying to establish a pro-Soviet Marxist-Leninist administration in Turkey."

The prosecutor is demanding 5-15 years imprisonment for the 48 defendants, among whom are former MPs of the social democratic Republican Peoples Party, prominent writers, lawyers and artists.

Those committed to trial are:

Former RPP MPs Metin Tuzun and Mehmet Ali Pestilci; writers Aziz Nesin, Asim Bezirci, Aziz Unal Rutkay and Vedat Turkali; DİSK trade unionists Rıza Güven and Celal Kucuk; DISK advisor Prof. Sadun Aren; lawyers Erol Saracoglu, Musur Canpolat, Ertugrul Gunay, Halit Celenk, Turgut Kazan, Ali Galip Yildiz, Turgan Ariner, Mehmet Attila Coskun, Ayfer Coskun, Nezahat Gundogmus, Rasim Oz, Mustafa Ozkan; former newsreaders at the Turkish Radio and Television Julide Goksan, Erkan Oyal; Academic Dr. Ataman Gungor, engineer Yavuz Bayulken, architect Guner Elcin, journalist Suleyman Coskun; Garip Aydindag, Ilhan Alkan, Mustafa Birol Ozkay, Mehmet Sukru Guner, Ali Sen, Dr. Dora Kalkan, Tezer Eraslan, Gunduz Gozen, Birol Bora, Esat Ahmet Balim, Ozgul Erten, Sadettin Ulfer, Sadik Karamustafa, Mehmet Okcuoglu, Nurrettin Osman Cavdargil, Mustafa Yilmaz Kurtonay, Ferruh Yavuz; actors, Tarik Akan and Genco Erkal, actress Gulsen Tuncer.

### FIRST EXECUTION IN THE TRANSITION PERIOD

The first execution since the general elections in November was carried out on 7th October. İlyas Has, 29, a member of Dev-Yol (Revolutionary Path) was hanged immediately after his sentence was ratified by "President" Evren. The number of executions since the coup in September 1980 is now over 50.

Meanwhile 22 members of the "Marxist Leninist Armed Propoganda Unit" have been sentenced to death at the conclusion of a mass trial. A further 45 defendants were sentenced to life imprisonment. (*Hurriyet* 29 Sept.1984)

### OUTRAGE AT MURDERED WORKER'S FUNERAL

On the 10th November, Turkish workers of the Pirault works in Mantes de Jolie, France, who had been on strike for some time were shot at by gun-toting bosses of the factory. As a result of this cowardly attack on workers, Kemal Özgül was shot dead and three others were seriously wounded. Two trade union confederations — the CGT and CFTD called a 15 minute nation-wide strike on the 13th November which met with an extremely good response.

Subsequent developments served to expose yet another facet of the reactionary regime in Turkey.

The funeral of Kemal Özel was held in Malatya, Turkey. A delegation consisting of two journalists — reporters from the French dailies *Le Monde* and *L'Humanite* respectively, representatives of the Union of Democratic Lawyers and Human Rights Commission flew to Turkey to attend the funeral.

The area in which the funeral was to be held was invaded by police and army units. Road blocks were set-up and those who wished to attend the funeral were searched. Despite these 'measures' 1000 people managed to be present at the funeral. Immediately after the funeral the French delegation was arrested and taken to the local police station. They were interrogated about whom they had met and who they had interviewed. The photos shot by the reporters of *Le Monde* and *L'Humanite* were confiscated. Following this the delegation was put under house arrest and subsequently taken by car to İstanbul and put on the first flight to France.

### POTENTIAL IS BUILDING UP

After 4 years hiatus, a strike potential is now building up. That may soon break the violently imposed "calm" of labour relations in Turkey.

It is reported that an estimated 60 000 workers in the private sector and another 210,000 in the public sector are on the verge of taking industrial action. Union leaders are describing the prospect of reaching agreement in the collective bargaining talks which have just restarted, as "hopeless".

Public sector unions are particularly adamant that their demand to have the notorious "Public Coordination committee", which represents state employers, scrapped.

The unions contemplating strike action are all members of Turk-İs, the only operating trade union centre, and their leaderships have not had a happy history of representing their members' interests in the past. The militant noises coming from union leaders who have collaborated with the junta or at least given tacit approval to the abrogation of trade union rights in the last 4 years, reflects the enormous pressure building up from below, at rank-and-file level. Since the mass exodus of former DISK members to Turk-İs, the militant traditions of DISK are beginning to find a home inside Turk-İs and the struggle to turn Turk-İs into a genuine fighting organisation is mounting.

Unions and workplaces where strikes are in the pipeline are;

*Tek Gıda İs* (organised in the foodstuffs industry). Predict strike action for 30,000 workers in private industry as well as 40 000 at the State Monopolies (tobacco and alcohol), and a further 85 000 in state-run food industries.

*Belediye-İs* (Municipal Workers Union) strike action seen as inevitable by 1,700 workers in Sinop, Giresun and Balıkesir municipalities.

*Çimse-İs* (organised in the cement industry). Foresee strike action by 15,000 workers in 19 workplaces in public sector, 4 workplaces belonging to the military industrial complex OYAK, and another in the private sector.

*Yol-İs* (roadworks workers) will call out 10,000 workers in 27 workplaces in the private sector, and also 80,000 in the state road construction industry.

*Sağlık-İs* (Health workers): 125 workers set to strike at the İstanbul Tuberculosis Hospital, Bulgar Hospital and Balat Jewish Hospital.

*Türk-Metal* (metalworkers union). Strikes probable by 3000 workers in 10 private workplaces.

Ernie Roberts MP, in his opening referred to the principle that working class unity was all important in any struggle, and as internationalists, adherence to this principle also meant that the Labour and trade union movement were equally committed to the international unity of the working class. This was borne out by its support for the many struggles being waged for freedom, democracy and socialism in many parts of the world. The call to all was 'Workers of the World Unite!'.

Ernie Roberts noted that in Turkey, Britain's NATO ally, tens of thousands of political prisoners have been tortured and murdered by the military junta and that this is still going on.

He continued, "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. This is the way in which General Evren achieved power and exercised it when he got it."

Ernie Roberts also underlined the fact that the junta is now confronted with the farcical situation of an opposition unrepresented in parliament which gained 40% of the vote in the recent local elections.

Finally, he echoed the call for solidarity to all those working for the restoration of genuine democracy in Turkey: "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 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!'"

Stan Newens MEP, said that leaders of Western countries seeking to justify their policies claim that these policies are based upon the need to defend the free world and that democracy, free elections, freedom of the press, freedom of association are regarded as sacred objectives to which all the Western leaders habitually pay tribute. However, in reality, public opinion and our perceptions are being shaped by the media to the extent that the state has been able to impose an "ideological hegemony" over society. "I think that today in the Western world, we are faced with a very effective brain-washing machine which has succeeded in convincing people of the opposite to that which actually prevails", so that "the most illiterate and appalling lies are being told and the most flagrant hypocrisy is being practised in the name of defending democracy when in fact, we are imposing dictatorships on people".

Stan Newens also warned about the motives behind the huge sums spent on defence for military build-up in certain countries. "I believe that the biggest danger to freedom, a much bigger danger than from external invasion, has proved in the vast majority of countries to be the military establishment within."

Turning to the question of the struggle for democracy in Turkey, Stan Newens said "we must make a vow here that our work is designed not merely to prevent and reverse the atrocities that are happening in Turkey at the present time, but also as a step towards the achievement of a world in which all human beings can live in peace and freedom in decent conditions."

Bob Wright, concentrated on the developments within the trade union movement in Turkey since the junta took power.

# LABOUR FRINGE

*Chair:* Ernie Roberts MP. *Speakers:* Stan Newens MP, Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (AUEW), Aydın Meriç former Assistant General Secretary of the CDDRT held an animated and well attended fringe meeting. Below we print a summary of the speakers' contributions.

He said that he was pleased to see the disintegration of the fascist junta in Turkey and that the people were beginning to recover from the blows rained upon them during the period of fascism in the country. Recently, the most welcome and significant result of the DİSK trial was the release of its former General Secretary, Abdullah Basturk, from prison on bail. Such a result could be attributed to the enormous pressure which had developed within the more progressive forces in the Western world.

Bob Wright summarised the reasons which had prompted the staging of the 1980 coup by the junta we saw again the emergence of the fascist mentality when they were faced with the challenge of the working people demanding their rights. Repression became the order and this was a significant feature in the laws that were introduced.

Bob Wright also predicted that the effect of the disintegration process of fascism in Turkey would also be felt in the campaign against the junta's anti-democratic practices and human rights violations. In the field of solidarity work, this task would become more difficult because the regime would cleverly weave a facade of democracy by allowing certain political parties to begin operating. Türk-İş, despite being heavily restricted under the new laws, was intended to be a state trade union movement, but the emergence within that organisation of the crux of the DİSK members and activists had maintained the pressure for the broadening of workers' demands. The forces were beginning to build Türk-İş into a genuine trade union organisation. Against this background, Bob Wright advised, "we have got to understand and carefully study the small print of what is happening in Turkey at the moment, in order that we can maintain the pressure for the return of real democracy to the people of Turkey. They will then be able to challenge the state system and to replace it with a progressive or socialist system". He emphasised that such a system must ultimately be the choice of the Turkish people. "We can never impose our will in that direction. We can only give the encouragement to those in Turkey and international solidarity to them... we will encourage directly not only by a few words, but by assistance, by using our own government to make an international commitment, by using the pressures that we can in the United Nations, in the European Parliament or any other centre, and through the international trade union movement". Bob Wright said that it was to the credit of both the WFTU and the ICFTU that they had

# PARTY MEETING

MEP, Bob Wright — Assistant General Secretary, EW), Chris Smith MP, Jeremy Corbyn MP, and DİSK. Large meeting at the 1984 Labour Party Conference. tions.

continued to pressurise the Turkish regime on the question of human rights and freedoms.

Bob Wright also had this message for British trade unionists: “we should never forget that the structure of the people’s rights can be removed as class frontiers, and then we arrive at the same situation as in Turkey. We are equally sowing the seeds of destruction of many centres of our own democracy and that encourages reaction and the privileged to seize that opportunity to argue for even more stringent restrictions than what we experience in Britain today. This is because there is a world-wide reaction in the Western capitalist world against any force that they regard as endangering their privileges and their interests. That is a real policy which emerges particularly in times of economic stress”.

Bob Wright finished his speech with some words of encouragement for his comrades from Turkey, reiterating that those involved in the struggle for democracy in Turkey had the full support of the Labour and trade union movement in Britain for the challenges ahead and to ensure that the gradual or limited licence that is being given to Turkey shall not deter us from demanding real freedom for the people of Turkey”.

Chris Smith MP was a member of the delegation which went to Turkey on behalf of the CDDRT last year to investigate violations of human rights and prison conditions in the junta’s jails.

Chris Smith stressed that although there have been changes in the situation in Turkey, there was still a need to campaign for democratic rights in Turkey and that solidarity work around it must continue, because “we have to remind ourselves that there are still trials going on, and even though Başturk has been released on bail, he is still on trial with all the other DİSK defendants. The Amnesty International Report chronicled an enormous number of continuing instances of torture in Turkish prisons and we read in the ‘Guardian’ of the rounding-up and imprisonment of some one thousand Kurdish nationals in the eastern part of Turkey”.

“We must not be fooled by the regime’s moves. What seems to be happening is that the Turkish government is getting better at presentation. They bail people rather than locking them up when they are on trial and they try to divert international attention away from the full horror of repression which is still very active in Turkey”.

The military continued to exercise great power therefore it was absolutely vital for us to expose the regime for what it is.

“Here in Britain, it is not just public, written and spoken support which the government has given, nor is it just protective votes in the Council of Europe, it is actual trade, cash, and military links which have occurred.” Chris Smith pointed to the various trade delegations that have been out to Turkey recently, especially the representatives of companies in the arms industry.

He ended by recalling how touched he and his colleagues were by the grateful words of Basturk in the DİSK trial which they attended in Turkey: “he said, ‘thank you for coming, thank you for your solidarity’. And that is important to Basturk and that is important to us”.

Jeremy Corbyn MP was also on a delegation to Turkey in 1983 on a similar mission to report back on human rights and prison conditions.

Remarking on Turkey’s NATO connections Jeremy Corbyn said, “in Cyprus the Turkish government is supposed to be a guarantor of Cypriot independence along with the Greek and British governments under the 1960 treaty. However, Turkish troops have continued to occupy northern Cyprus and the declaration of independence in northern Cyprus seems to have been followed by a linking of the legal and financial systems”.

Jeremy Corbyn was also concerned about the problems being faced by the Turkish community in Britain. These were mainly due to the immigration and nationally laws, employment practices and poverty. “We also face the problem of political exiles being denied the right to return or in some cases, being thrown back into Turkey by the British government and all the danger that goes with it for them and their families... we will press for the amnesty for those political prisoners and demand an end to the arms sales to Turkey”. He felt that the time was ripe for a high-level delegation of the British Trades Union Congress and the Labour Party to go to Turkey to examine the violations of human rights. They could meet those active and conscious workers who are trying to build trade unionism in Turkey in whatever form they can, examine the social changes that have taken place in Turkey, report back and so enthuse the rest of the Labour movement.

Jeremy Corbyn hoped that by raising the issues on Turkey now, a future Labour government would adopt a proper policy of isolating the Turkish regime and giving their support to progressive opinion amongst the Turkish community here and in Turkey.

Aydın Meriç remarked that the regime is still extremely repressive, with thousands of political prisoners and many facing the death penalty. However.. “We are not facing the same political situation as we did a year ago and the regime is not what it was one year ago.” Monolithicism within the political structure was disintegrating and the regime could no longer be described as fascist.

Speaking of Turkey’s Trade Union movement he pointed out: “However reactionary the top leadership of Türk-İş is, its the only existing and largest Trade Union centre. The junta has never succeeded in making a corporate state body out of this TU centre. Even in the gloomiest days there always existed a very strong organised opposition within Türk-İş”.

Aydın Meriç said the progressives *within* Turkey were looking to establish contact with the democratic forces of other countries — we must play our role in this. He concluded by reminding everyone of the threat posed to peace in the region and the world by the present regime in Turkey and thanked the British Labour movement for its support.

## STILL IN TRANSITION

The following editorial was published in *The Times* on 11th September 1984 calling attention to the prevalence of military rule, undiminished use of torture and persecution, and state-sponsored terrorism in Turkey.

Tomorrow's fourth anniversary of the military take over generally seen inside and outside the country as a necessary and justified response to extremist violence which a paralysed parliamentary system was powerless to check, sees Turkey with civil peace, a new constitution, an elected parliament and a civilian government. Political leaders of the former period have been banned from public life and their parties dissolved. New parties and new leaders have been allowed to emerge only after the most rigorous military vetting.

Turkey is not yet fully democratic, and does not claim to be. "But it does boast a constitutional structure, designed to ensure as much freedom as would be feasible in the circumstances, which have proved acceptable *ad interim* to the vast majority of Turks. Its various blemishes should have largely disappeared, and the full 'democratic normalisation' demanded by the Council of Europe achieved, by the time of the next general election in 1988"

That is the argument put forward by Mr Kenneth Mackenzie in a recent pamphlet (*Turkey In Transition: The West's Neglected Ally — European Security Studies No. 1*) published by The Institute for European Defence and Strategic Studies, and more generally by the friends and advocates of the present regime in the West.

The first sentence is no doubt broadly correct. The second is an expression of hope which all genuine friends of Turkey whatever their political persuasion must share. But is it justified?

For the time being Mr Turgut Özal's government is concentrating its main energies on economic policy. In a daring reversal of a tradition going back to Atatürk it has thrown the country open to foreign competition. The shock to Turkish industry may prove salutary in the long run but is well nigh devastating in the short. Meanwhile law and order in the main cities, and the Kurdish East, are left in the hands of the armed forces.

The continuing detention of "non-violent" alleged Marxists,

such as the leaders of the Turkish Peace Association, the apparently undiminished use of torture in interrogating prisoners, the prosecution of intellectuals who signed a mildly phrased document, urging an end to such abuses, the strict limits on the press which prevented publication of any part of this document even when the Prime Minister himself quoted it in a press conference — all this has been recently mentioned in these columns. It should be added that the imposition of ideological conformity on the universities continues unchanged under the new government.

It is at this point that Turkey's Western friends must begin to feel some unease. The terrorism that plagued Turkey before 1980 was at least as much the work of the Extreme Right as the Extreme Left, and the military intervention was ostensibly directed equally against both. Indeed the leader of the extreme Right Nationalist Action Party, (NAP), Mr Alpaslan Türkeş remains in prison and a recent attempt to free him by friends within the armed forces is known to have been severely punished. Yet friends of Mr Türkeş and former members of his party occupy many important posts in the administration and form perhaps the most influential element within the Motherland Party.

In particular they have taken effective control of the State Radio and TV Corporation, whose new director was formerly a senior figure in the NAP ideology department. Another former NAP member is Secretary of the Ministry of Employment.

The latest development, even more sinister, is the appointment of two deputy directors of the National Police Force, one of whom was in charge of the torture centre in Ankara during the previous military regime in 1971 and had since been kept out of-sight, while the other's name was found among the secret documents of the NAP as the future director of the National Police Force had the NAP captured power. Such appointments raise the question whether the 1980 intervention was really a comprehensive defeat for terrorism as its authors claimed.

## TORTURED TURKS SEEK ASYLUM

Sema Ogur and Nursal Yilmaz were two student friends at Ankara University, active in human rights affairs and members of a banned youth organization, when they were arrested in February, 1981. The two young women were charged with "making communist propaganda" and held at Ankara Police Headquarters — notorious in recent years as a torture centre — before being sent on to Mamak Military Prison, where they were again beaten, kicked, given electric shocks and suspended by ropes from the ceiling.

Mrs Ogur's husband Mehmet, arrested at the same time and also severely beaten, was forced to watch his wife's torture. She, in turn was made to witness his.

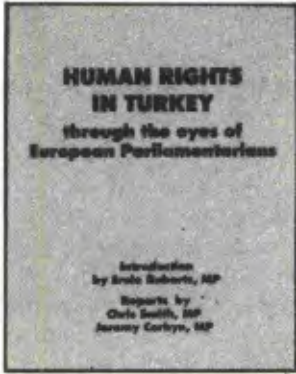
Today the two women are in London, waiting to hear whether their request for political asylum has been granted. They escaped from Turkey together, on black market

passports, at a brief moment between trial and reimprisonment.

Their cases are being highlighted by Amnesty International, which commemorates its annual Prisoner of Conscience Week this year by focusing on women political prisoners — "women of courage" — who, they argue, are specially vulnerable to certain techniques of torture and suffer repercussions applicable only to them, such as rape and the risk of pregnancy.

For Mrs Ogur the torture began immediately after arrival at the police headquarters.

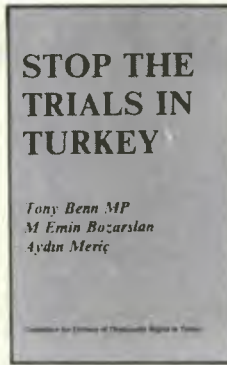
"During the first 21 days I was twice taken to hospital," she says. "I spent one night in the emergency ward on a drip. I had been punched, the soles of my feet had been beaten and I had been left hanging in a crucifixion position. The pain was so bad that my screams drowned the torturers' voices."



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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  
 Phillip BRAY  
 Sandra HODGSON  
 Alf LOMAS, MEP  
 Aydın MERİÇ  
 Stan NEWENS MEP  
 Ernie ROBERTS MP  
 Alan SAPPER  
 Marion SARAFI  
 Faik SINKIL  
 Tijen UĞURİŞ  
 Martin UPHAM  
 Bob WRIGHT  
 and one representative each from:  
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 Union of Turkish Progressives in Britain  
 Union of Turkish Women in Britain  
 Union of Turkish Workers

**Sponsors include**

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 Joe Ashton MP  
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 Kevin McNamara MP  
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 Joan Maynard MP  
 Michael Meacher MP  
 Martin O'Neil MP  
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 Terry Patchett MP  
 Jo Richardson MP  
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 Barbara Castle MEP  
 Ann Clywd MEP  
 Kenneth D Collins MEP  
 Brian Key MEP  
 Alf Lomas MEP

- Stan Newens MEP  
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 Ken Brett, AGS AUEW  
 Stan Cole AUEW NC  
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 Lawrence Daly, NUM  
 J. Davidson, NW FTAT  
 Beryl Huffinkey, Yorks & Humb TUC  
 E.V. Hughes, NW TUC  
 Alex Kison, TGWU  
 Mick McGahey, NUM  
 Alan Sapper, ACTT  
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 ASTMS Manchester HS Branch  
 AUEW Kingston District  
 AUEW N. Manchester District  
 AUEW Sheffield District  
 AUEW (TASS) Div Council 9  
 COHSE Caterham Branch  
 Fire Brigades Union  
 GMWU Burnley Branch  
 GMWU 22 Bury Branch  
 GMWU 115 Manchester Branch  
 GMWU Pendle 122 Branch  
 GMWU Warrington Branch  
 NALGO Met. Dist. Council  
 NALGO Hackney Branch  
 NALGO Southwark  
 NATFHE Leek

- NUM  
 NUM Derbyshire  
 NUM Scotland  
 NUM Yorkshire  
 NUPE  
 NUPE Northern Ireland Div  
 NUPE West Midlands Div  
 NUR Manchester  
 Northern Ireland Public Service Alliance  
 SOGAT '82 LCA & EP Branch  
 TGWU  
 TGWU Reg. No. 1  
 UCATT London Region  
 UCATT NW Region  
 Greater London Association of Trades Councils  
 Cambridge & Dist Trades Council  
 Gloucester Trades Council  
 Greenwich Trades Council  
 Hackney Trades Council  
 Kingston & Dist Trades Council  
 Leeds Trades Council  
 Cities of London & Westminster Trades Council  
 Preston Trades Council  
 Rotherham Trades Council  
 Stockport Trades Council  
 Waltham Forest Trades Council  
 GLC Openshaw JSSC  
 Union of Turkish Workers  
 Beckenham CLP  
 Bermondsey CLP

- Chelmsford CLP  
 Greenwich CLP  
 Hazelgrove CLP  
 High Peak CLP  
 Keighley CLP  
 Walthamstow CLP  
 Wigan CLP  
 Labour Party Young Socialists  
 National Organisation of Labour Students  
 Forening For Progressive Fr Tyrkia  
 Iraqi Students' Society UK (Branch of GUSIR)  
 KNE (Communist Youth of Greece) org. in Britain  
 Kurdish Students Society in Europe (UK)  
 Communist Party of Portugal (org. in Britain)  
 Union of Turkish Progressives in Britain  
 Turkish Students' Federation in the UK  
 City of London Polytechnic Students' Union  
 Cyprus Students' Society — Manchester University  
 Leeds University Union  
 UMIST Students' Union  
 Manchester Poly Students' Union  
 Manchester University SU

- Teesside Polytechnic Students' Union  
 Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation  
 Demokrat Norway  
 Haldane Society of Socialist Lawyers  
 London CRS Political Committee  
 Frank Allau  
 Lord Fgnner Brockway  
 Alan Bush  
 Bob Cryer  
 Arthur Davidson QC  
 Frank Hooley  
 Les Huckfield  
 Lord Jenkins of Putney  
 Mgr. Bruce Kent  
 Arthur Latham  
 Ken Livingstone  
 Robert J. Longue  
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 William Pomeroy  
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# ATTACK ON KURDISTAN

Since the second half of August, the regime in Turkey has stepped-up its aggression against the whole of Kurdistan. Turkish troops have now operated on the territory of both Iraq and Iran to a depth of up to 50 kilometres. Although these 'operations' are being conducted within the framework of a general agreement on 'border issues', Turkey is no longer bothering to ask 'permission' in order to carry out specific operations in either country.

During a period when Iraq and Iran are at war and their forces are severely stretched, the Turkish regime has set itself the task of attempting to crush the Kurdish national movement throughout the region. The reason for this desire to become a local gendarme is explained if we see the striving of Turkish Capital and the regime to become imperialist. They see the possibility for exploiting both their 'own' internal colony of Kurdistan in Turkey but of expanding in the region. This is particularly clear from their trading policy towards Iraq and now also from the fact that Turkey has effectively established its military control of Iraq's two oil-rich provinces — Kirkuk and Mosul. Both areas historically

claimed by Turkey.

The fighting caused by Turkey's adventure across the borders has now spilled into Turkish Kurdistan as well.

The regime has embarked on a policy aimed at eliminating the democratic and revolutionary forces in Turkish Kurdistan at all costs. The army is raiding Kurdish villages, conducting house to house searches, deporting entire villages, carrying out mass arrests and public beatings on any pretext. Both Özal and Evren have visited Kurdistan and spent their time threatening the "divisionists". Evren has significantly called for the arming of some villagers against "the divisionists" in other words legalising the formation and arming of fascist terror gangs throughout the area. All this has been accompanied by the most extreme chauvinist propaganda in the Turkish press.

Recent events bare out what the CDDRT has been saying for some time: That is the striving of Turkish capital to join the imperialist club poses the threat of genocide against the Kurds and a threat to regional peace.

## INTELLECTUALS CHARTER

50 prominent intellectuals in Turkey — well-known writers, lawyers, journalists, actors, doctors and others are facing trial in Ankara's MAMAK barracks. The 'crime' they stand accused of is drafting and signing a petition which they had the temerity to present to 'president' Evren on 16th May last year.

This petition, which was described by the 'Times' as 'mildly phrased', calls among other things for an end to extraordinary judicial procedures, the abolition of capital punishment, a speedy end to the 3-4 years old mass political trials, university autonomy, a free press and an end to torture. The petition makes 'subversive' statements such as; "In the life of any society, the existence of elements such as liberty, variety and renewal is necessary for the future and for the capacity of development of society."

The petition has been signed by 1383 leading intellectuals. The immediate response of the martial law authorities was to ban its publication in the media. Not content with this Evren

responded in his usual sophisticated way by ordering the arrest and interrogation of the signators and a trial. Evren pontificated that the "self-styled" intellectuals upheld the right of free association so that all former wickedness could be resumed under the roofs of innocent-looking associations, trade unions or professional bodies", and that they all "become traitors in the end".

The attempt by the present regime to present Turkey as a "respectable" real democracy must be exposed when people face the just mentioned treatment for a petition which states... "The main aim of education is to raise free thinking, learned, capable and creative people. Contrary to this, it is incompatible with the evolution of our time and with pluralistic democracy to produce a one-type man"...

The task is for, especially those concerned with academic and intellectual freedom throughout Europe and America to raise their voices in protest at the treatment of these intellectuals in Turkey. And to provide concrete support to those struggling inside Turkey for real democracy.

**TURKEY**  
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