

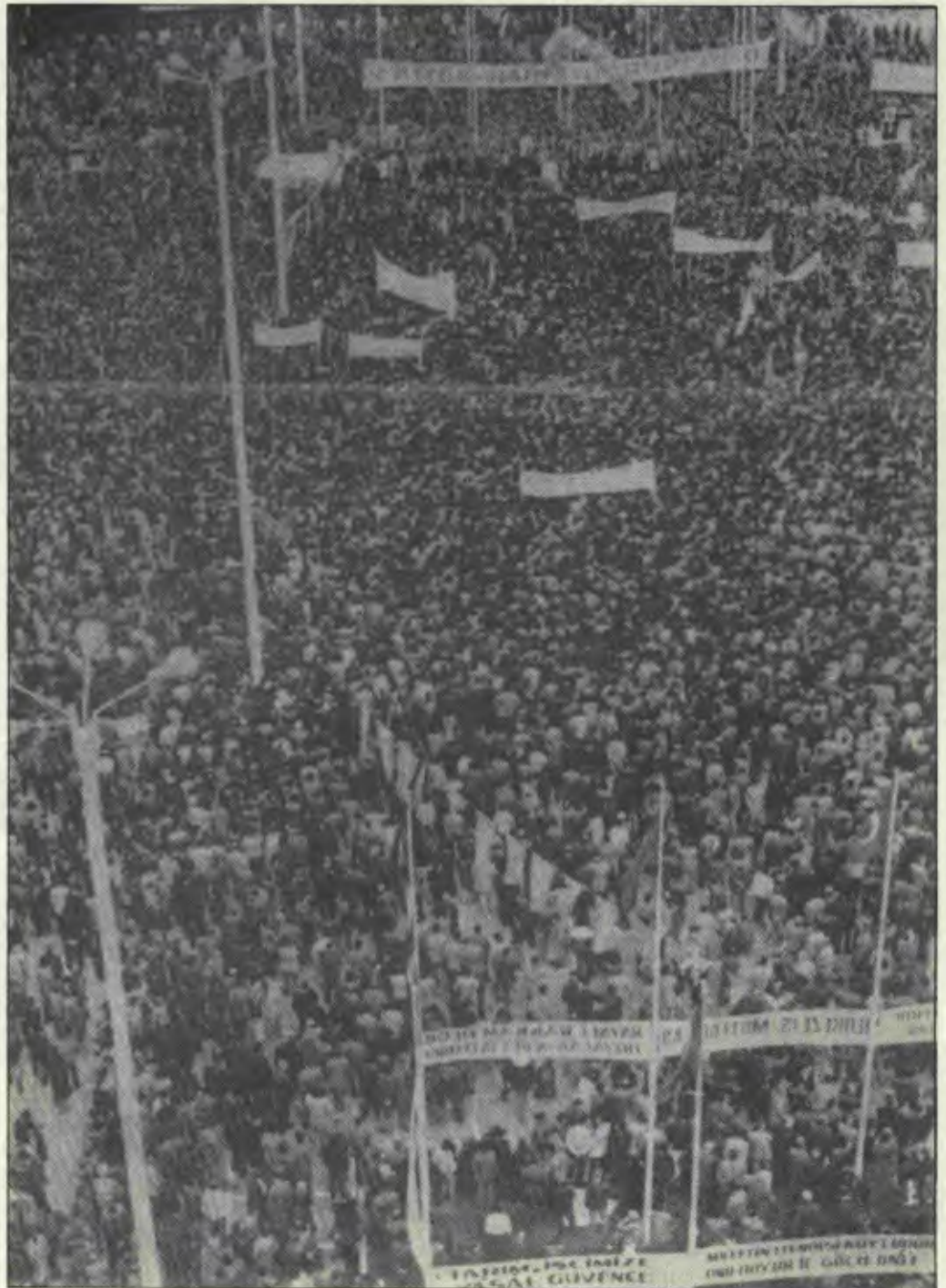
# TURKEY NEWSLETTER

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



Issue 62    March 1986

## WORKERS RALLY IN IZMIR



Long live International Women's Day!

## CDDRT NEWS

### IRELAND: A SUCCESSFUL EVENT

On the 27th January the Irish Committee for Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey organised a showing of Yılmaz Güney's film *Yol* at the Academy Cinema in Dublin.

In addition to the film, a large audience representing a wide cross-section of Dublin's political and trade union life were



*The delegation met Proinsias de Rossa TD at the Dail*



*The delegation also visited the Department of Foreign Affairs*



*The Irish CDDRT held a lively and well-attended rally and film show*

addressed by members of a delegation representing the CDDRT in Britain and the Comité de Défense des Droits Démocratiques en Turquie of France. While in Dublin, the delegation also visited the Irish Republic's Department of Foreign Affairs who they briefed on new developments in Turkey and met Workers' Party TD P. De Rossa at the Dail (Parliament).

Delegation member Dr Bedir Aydemir was also interviewed on Irish Radio. The ability of the CDDRT in Dublin to mount such a successful event and the high level of enthusiasm that accompanied it, mark a big step forward both in the work of Irish CDDRT and in close cooperation between the Committees in Ireland, France and Britain.

## OZAL GETS THE MESSAGE

Despite the high security-low profile nature of Turkish Prime Minister Özal's visit to London, (his first State visit to a European country), on February 17th, 18th and 19th, he did not escape the attention of democrats and the Turkish community in Britain.

On the 18th February, the CDDRT and the Union of Turkish Progressives in Britain called a lunch-time picket of the Turkish Embassy. A large crowd of many nationalities, political groups and trade unionists sent a message loud and clear to Özal and his gang — Özal out!

At the end of the picket MPs Jeremy Corbyn and Chris Smith attempted to deliver a letter to the Embassy on behalf of Turkish workers in London who were demanding a meeting with Özal, in which the workers had written.

"The government of Mr T. Özal has brought about nothing but hunger, torture and repression for our working people.

The living standards of working people have been reduced to starvation level. The jails are full of genuine democrats. The

working masses are subjected to the economic and political violence of the state.

"The Prime Minister, T. Özal, must give an account of the inhuman treatment during his government's reign..."

Such is the spineless of the regime's diplomats in London that the MPs were informed by the police that the Embassy did not wish anybody to even approach the steps of the Embassy to present the letter and that any message should be given to the police.

The Turkish press paid some attention to the picket with *Tercüman* (a right-wing daily), claiming the picket was organised by "terrorist" organisations.

Other pickets of the Embassy were also held by Amnesty International and the writers' organisation PEN.

On the day Özal was due to leave Britain, demonstrators gathered outside the Dorchester Hotel (where he was staying) to send Özal on his way with slogans such as "Özal out, stop the torture, Özal out, free the prisoners" etc.



CDDRT picket of the Turkish Embassy

During Özal's visit several letters of protest appeared in the press. Below we reprint two from the *Guardian*.

**"An unwelcome visitor**

"Sir — You have reported (January 11) that the prime minister of Turkey, Turgut Özal, will pay an official visit to the UK on Monday. This will be the first visit of its kind to a major Western democracy since the military regime was established in Turkey in September 1980.

"In the meantime democratic rights and freedoms have either been abrogated altogether or are under constant threat in the name of combatting 'terrorism'. Freedom of thought, of the press and association have been repressed. Educational institutions, including the universities have been turned into barracks.

"Intellectuals face loss of their jobs, imprisonment, and even torture for their thoughts, or what they are alleged to be thinking. Arts and sciences are trammelled by arbitrary and brutal measures.

"Under these conditions, it is impossible to speak of a democratic regime in Turkey, all claims of a 'return to democracy' notwithstanding. We would therefore like to take this opportunity to declare our full support for writers, artists, jurists, and scientists in Turkey who are being prosecuted for 'crimes' that, had we been in Turkey, we would probably have committed ourselves.

"We cannot avoid expressing our regret that the visit is going to be used to bolster the public image of the Turkish regime abroad, and thus continue to frustrate the opposition inside the country.



Jeremy Corbyn MP, and Chris Smith MP addressed the picket

"For this reason, we refuse to be part of the conspiracy of silence surrounding the brutal repression of our colleagues in Turkey which has made this visit possible. We call for an end to all cases of prosecution for 'crimes' of thought and of the press, the release of all those held under arrest on such charges, and for the curbs on the freedom of thought, the press and association to be lifted. — Yours sincerely, **Glenys Kinnock, Norman Buchan, MP, Ken Loach, Pete Townsend, Susannah York, Dora Russell, Ben Kingsley, (Prof) J. M. Marks.**"

**"A military menu of shame**

"Sir — You report (February 19) that the visit of Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Özal was 'shrouded in secrecy' and 'surrounded by extraordinary security.' Small wonder, as Mr Özal represents a highly militarised regime with an appalling human rights record, including the use of 'systematic torture' according to Amnesty International.



Özal meets Thatcher. The purchase of 40 Tornado aircraft by the Ankara regime merited long talks, the fate of Turkey's 20,000 political prisoners none.

"Perhaps most disturbing, are your comments that Mrs Thatcher's guest list at the official dinner held for Mr Özal at No 10 was 'heavily weighted' to include members of British military industry. Turkey is reconstructing its military industry and wants the help of British military expertise to do so (incidentally this would not provide jobs for British arms workers as Turkey is interested in building weapons itself under licence.)

It is a matter of shame that the British Government have used an official function to make it easier — at taxpayers' expense — for Turkey to reinforce its military capacity even further.

"The Campaign Against Arms Trade has written to Mrs Thatcher urging the Government not to grant licences for the export of yet more military equipment to Turkey. It is gravely disturbing that Britain can contemplate further arming a regime with such a bad human rights record, and send yet more weaponry to the troubled Middle East — Stephen Chappell (Joint Coordinator) Campaign Against Arms Trade, 11 Goodwin Street, London N4."

James Naughtie, again in the *Guardian* reported:

"Neil Kinnock, the Labour Party leader, yesterday protested strongly to Mr Turgut Özal, the Turkish Prime Minister, about reported human rights abuses under his government.

"He asked for full civil rights to be established in Turkey, for an end to torture and 'appalling prison conditions,' academic and press freedom, and full implementation of Turkish commitments under the European Convention of Human Rights.

"Mr Kinnock also referred to the ban placed this week on Mr Tony Benn, who was to deliver a lecture in Turkey. Mr Özal, who has been visiting Britain, told him it was a personal exclusion and that the organisation which invited Mr Benn was a commercial concern and therefore prohibited from political activity. According to Mr Kinnock's office, Mr Özal said Mr Benn was welcome at any time to speak on politics.

"He denied that there was systematic torture in Turkey and

claimed that most of the allegations made by Amnesty International were unfounded."



While working women can hardly afford bread in Turkey Mrs Özal paws the goods in Harrods.

## BENN DENIED FREE SPEECH

British MP Tony Benn was refused permission to speak at a conference organised by a group of intellectuals in Istanbul on 17th February. The ban on Mr Benn was imposed by the Istanbul Regional Governor using emergency regulations.

## PR FILE F A REACTIONARY

Below we reprint a profile of Turgut Özal which appeared in the February issue of *Turkey Today*.

Prime Minister Özal is best known in Turkey and abroad for the economic policies of liberalisation and austerity he introduced on January 24 1980. From January to September 1980 he implemented these policies under the government of Süleyman Demirel. When that government was overthrown in a military coup, Özal served the fascist junta as the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs in the Ulusu government it appointed. Özal's first act in that position was to raise the price of basic necessities such as fuel, petrol and sugar by 20%.

Towards the end of 1982 Özal resigned from the government over a difference of opinion about the implementation of his economic package. Nevertheless, its main lines continued to be implemented until Özal returned, this time as Prime Minister, after the November 1983 general elections. In the meantime he had founded the Motherland Party which became one of only three parties which the junta allowed to run in the elections. Twelve other parties were disallowed, along with 40% of the candidates who stood forward.

One of Özal's first steps in office was to express his "gratitude to the Turkish Armed Forces who made possible the realisation of the national will".

As Prime Minister under a constitution designed by the junta, Özal is subordinate to President Evren to whom he reports once a week. His Council of Ministers, which can be convened directly by the President, is only one of several councils which are directly subordinate to the President and over which the Prime Minister and his government have no control. This has enabled Özal to decline any responsibility for, and often any knowledge of torture, martial law, censorship, military courts, and even certain foreign policy issues.

Today when the continued practice of torture under his government has been well documented by Amnesty International and opposition parties are calling for a debate in parliament, Özal is blocking such a debate and says that



"there is too much fuss about torture". (*Cumhuriyet*, 3 February 1986) He has also come out against proposals to prevent torture by requiring that lawyers be present during the interrogation of arrested suspects. According to Özal, there is no country in the world where this is allowed! (*Tercüman*, 11 January 1986)

Thus the second best thing for which Özal is known both at home and abroad is his close subordination to and identification with the fascist junta that ruled Turkey by force and decree from 1980 to 1983, and since 1983 has ruled "constitutionally" as the "Presidential Council" headed by Evren. As much as for his harsh austerity measures, he is hated for his identification with fascism, torture, executions, military courts and prisons.

Thirdly, Özal is closely identified with the United States. He is said to be a "close friend" of President Reagan, and to have his complete trust. He founded his Motherland Party with American support and was widely criticised for introducing American election gimmicks into Turkey and running an American-style campaign during the 1983 elections. His wife, Semra Özal, is known as the "First Lady" and plays an active supporting role although lately she has come in for much criticism for extravagance.

His American associations have not helped Özal whose government has also had to weather a series of scandals and most polls now show it to be trailing far behind the opposition Social Democratic Populist Party. Although general elections are not scheduled until 1988, the mid-term elections scheduled for April will be a severe test for Özal.

## MURDER

In February, a military prosecutor confirmed that 31 prisoners had died in Diyarbakır prison between 1981 and 1984. He claimed 14 had 'committed suicide' or died on hunger strike, 16 died of 'natural causes' and only one death was "under investigation".

## SELL OFF

The US bankers, Morgan Guaranty, have presented a preliminary report to the Turkish government on which state economic enterprises could be easily sold off to the private sector.

## DISK

The trial of leaders and members of the pre-coup Revolutionary Confederation of Trade Unions has now entered its fifth year. Though most of the defendants are now out on bail, (many having already served 4 years in pre-trial detention), the trial shows no sign of ending.

In the meantime DISK remains closed-down with all its assets in the hands of the regime.

## DOCTORS ON TRIAL

On 23rd December 1983 six doctors, members of the Central Council of the Turkish Medical Association, were brought to trial in Ankara charged with having "overstepped the bounds of their

duty" by signing a petition calling for the abolition of the death penalty.

## PEACE TRIAL

Six of the 12 leaders of the Turkish Peace Association have been released from prison while their retrial is in progress. This must encourage efforts to redouble the pressure on the regime to release all the TPA members and drop all charges against them.

Reha İsvan, TPA leader who has been released after spending nearly 5 years in military prison on trumped-up charges.

## DEATH SENTENCES

A military court has sentenced 23 Kurdish militants to death, six to life imprisonment, and 151 to up to 25 years imprisonment. The trial was part of the drive by the Ankara regime against Kurdish militants fighting for national rights in Turkish Kurdistan.

## PERLE IN TURKEY

US Deputy Secretary of Defence arrived in Turkey at the end of February. Matters discussed were the continued problems over the Turkish-American defence co-operation agreement, (Özal wants even more aid from its US backers), the modernisation of the Turkish army and \$4.2 billion project to build F-16 fighters under licence in Turkey.

## ACQUITTAL

59 intellectuals have been acquitted by the Ankara military court of the charge of breaching martial law by circulating a petition to 'President' Evren calling for an end to torture, capital punishment and for freedom of the press.

## STATISTICS OF REPRESSION

According to Info-Turk

The General Headquarters of the Turkish Armed Forces published on December 31, 1985, the results of the military tribunals' activities from December 26, 1978, to November 1, 1985.

During a seven-year period, the military tribunals have tried 45,613 cases, of which 44,507 have ended in judgements:

- 15,897 convictions
- 13,603 acquittals
- 15,007 withdrawals, etc.

For the moment, there are still 1,106 cases which are still being tried by the military tribunals. The total number of people sentenced has risen to 44,256. The details of these sentences are as follows:

- 22,912 persons sentenced to up to a year in prison;
- 10,783, to up to 5 years;
- 6,166, from 5 to 10 years;
- 2,396, from 10 to 20 years;
- 939, to more than 20 years;
- 630, to life in prison;
- 429, to death.

Of the death sentences, 32 have been ratified and 27 carried out. Four of those sentenced have escaped from prison and the security forces have shot dead one during an act of resistance. Eighty death sentences which have already been approved by the military Court of Cessation still wait for the National Assembly's ratification.

According to the same source, 67,304 people were the object of an arrest order during the same period. On the day when the communiqué was published, 15,307 people found themselves in military prison — 9,805 sentenced and 5,502 under arrest.

In fact, it is necessary to note that the number of people who have passed through prison or military detention centers without being under arrest have risen to more than 200,000. They have been placed under guard on the basis of preliminary inquiries, but the majority have been released after having been temporarily deprived of their freedom.

The number of people that security forces are still seeking for political crimes has risen to 5,624.



"Don't play with our bread!" So shouted stallholders and patrons of one of Istanbul's largest open air markets when Özal visited the site to officially launch construction work to build a new market and other buildings. Protestors shouted that they got their bread from the market which would be seriously curtailed in the new plans for the area. (Milliyet, 31. January 1986)

# 100,000 WORKERS



The first big workers' action since the 1980 coup in Turkey took place in Izmir on February 23rd. 100,000 workers filled Republic Square to demonstrate that their patience was coming to an end.

The rally called by the largest Trade Union centre Turk-Is, was its first big meeting for 16 years and only the 6th since it was founded in 1953.

The rally was called as a result of rank-and-file pressure on Turk-Is President Sevket Yilmaz and ex-junta minister and Turk-Is General-Secretary Sadik Side to stop begging the regime for crumbs and take the workers on to the streets.

The rally was preceded by a series of chaotic meetings culminating in Turk-Is' 'Appeal to Parliamentarians' meeting where Yilmaz was confronted not with a big audience of MPs but with 1800 trade union who shouted from the floor such things as "No decisions benefitting the workers will come out of parliament; workers hand in hand towards a general strike..."

On the eve of the Izmir rally Yilmaz made a last appeal to the regime in which he declared; "We want pre 12th September (12th September 1980 coup) economic conditions... We want to end the sufferings of the nation, we want our rights... the question 'do you want a return to pre 12th September situation' (meaning the political violence of the 1970s), is being used as a weapon against us by the government. But the question should not be directed at us". Yilmaz went on to say "Before 12th September, the workers had to wait in long queues at the shops but were able to take home a kilo of meat eventually. But today when the shops are full of everything from underwear to bananas and there are no queues, a worker can't even afford to go near the shops". He appealed to parliament to "put an end to a situation that will lead to discontent and chaos". Even the regime's own figures show that the workers' share of the national income has fallen from 51.3% in 1977 to 26% in 1984. Turk-Is set-up a special commission of Union presidents to decide who should speak at the rally; it became deadlocked. Yilmaz proposed allowing the notorious right-wing extremist and Metal-Is leader Ozbek, and the social democrat Harb-Is (defence industry union) president K. Durukan to speak. This led to intense criticism, with one union leader saying "Yilmaz has chosen two princes, one



from the right and one from the left" to give an impression of unity.

**"A system where the workers are working like slaves cannot last for ever. Eventually there will be such an explosion that the roofs of the factories are blown on to the employers' heads".**

A significant comment before the rally came from leading press commentator Nazli Ilıcak. She is widely regarded as the foremost spokesperson for the most developed section of Turkish monopoly capital. In an article published in *Tercüman* she called for support for the Turk-Is meeting in order to support the present Turk-Is leaders against their opponents. She wrote "Sevket Yilmaz's idea of responsible trade unionism... — there must be strong trade unions for democracy. It is important not to destroy but preserve responsible trade unionism in order to preserve the multi-party system, democracy and the private sector. In responsible trade unionism is a strategy that can preserve both workers' rights and the employers. Under democracy there must

not be war but civilisation between employer and

A system where work cannot last for ever. Eventually there will be such an explosion that the roofs of the factories are blown on to the employers' heads".

Nazlı Ilıcak's comment was popular in Turkey too. It reflected the mood of the working class 'explosion'. The increasing exploitation of workers was just about able to phys all sections of the Turkish working class. It was the danger of a return to the 1970s — but in an

Both new legal parties recognise this and are court the workers. The DYP (True Path Party) rally calling it "a turning point in Turkish Democracy". (Social Democratic Party) person as did the Nation

## Police Mobilisation

Every precaution was taken to ensure that the workers did nothing to

# WORKERS RALLY IN IZMIR



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police leave was cancelled, head of security Ahmet Karakurt flew back from the USA, where he is undergoing 'anti-terrorist' training to take personal charge of police operations. 100,000 police were mobilised — 220 armed police ringed the square and occupied surrounding buildings, helicopters hovered overhead. Gendarmes sealed-off Izmir and subjected every worker in the fleet of 1500 buses which brought people from all over aegean Turkey to a search. 700 special security police were held in reserve. Thousands of pro- leadership Turk-Is stewards searched everyone actually entering the square — even children were searched. "unauthorised" or subversive leaflets and banners were confiscated. People were arrested for having anti-government leaflets and police announced they had arrested members of "an illegal organisation" who were planning an "action" at the rally.

The stewards were ordered to issue every 25 person with a Turkish flag and Yilmaz decreed that all slogans should be "soft" — no attacks on the Ozal regime — and only official slogans should be shouted. The Turk-Is official slogans were: "Bread, Peace, Freedom", "Jobs for everyone" "Food for the kitchen", "Equality for workers", "The peasant is the master of the Turks, feed them and prevent internal migration", "Free Trade

Unions are the basis of Democracy", "we want democracy".

**"The workers are the greatest.  
Nobody is greater."**

The start of meeting was delayed and tension was high because of rough treatment by police and stewards of people arriving from outside Izmir. At one point speakers had to appeal to stewards "not to humiliate our worker brothers".

As soon as the rally got under way official slogans were drowned out by workers shouting "Ozal must go", "Empty the dungeons" — "general amnesty now", repeatedly and significantly — "the workers are the greatest, Nobody is greater", also "democratic Turkey — the constitution must change", "free DISK", "bring the torturers to account", "we will seize our right to a general strike", and many more.

Sevket Yilmaz rose to speak amid booing and the shouting of slogans against the constitution and for a general strike.

**"One day the popular masses will  
come to a point where they cannot be  
controlled"**

Even though Yilmaz characteristically aimed his speech at begging the regime rather than at his audience the mood of the workers forced him to say "If they (the regime) don't want a return to pre-12th September, they had better to listen to us... Never in the Republic's history has there been a time when workers' interests were so disregarded... Ozal is telling foreign companies to come to Turkey because of the cheap labour". The rise in suicides, crime, gambling and prostitution is a result of the general hopelessness. "The government cannot expect us to show respect for the laws or care about these laws, so they should give up their dangerous measures ... "one day the popular masses will come to a point where they

*continued on page 12*



# TORTURE

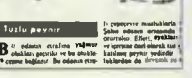
İTİFAKLAR / CANERİN ANILATIMI  
**"Filitistli banyo"**

İTİFAKLAR / CANERİN ANILATIMI  
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## "MY HUSBAND DIED UNDER TORTURE"



The wife of 24 year old Open University student Yaşar Durmaz has sent a telegram to the President, Prime Minister, Chief of Police and leaders of all political parties pointing out that her husband who was claimed to have committed suicide by throwing himself from the third floor of the Central Headquarters of the Gendarmery in Samsun had in reality died under torture and then been thrown out of the third floor window.

Mrs Buket Durmaz (21) said: "We were very happy. Everything happened one night. They have killed my husband with torture, then they have tried to make it look like a suicide. I want the murderers of my husband found".

The Governor of Samsun, replied in a statement and said: "There is no torture as is claimed. The man went there by chance and threw himself off. There is a disease in Turkey; everybody talks about torture. This is all foreign-induced. These claims are directed from abroad. The autopsy did not show any sign of torture..."

### MORE

It is reported that a PKK (Workers' Party of Kurdistan) member Ali Savibal was killed during torture in Diyarbakir prison together with 13 of his friends and that this fact has been proved by solid evidence.

*Milliyet*, 15th February.

The wife of Siddik Bilgin, has written to the chairman of parliament and asked for the body of her husband, who was killed under torture, to be returned to her. It is reported that Siddik Bilgin, a teacher from Bingol was killed under torture on 31st July.

*Milliyet*, 14th February.

### TORTURE DEFENDED

Istanbul MP of the ruling 'Motherland Party' (ANAP) Professor Mrs Rezzan Şahinkaya declared to the Turkish Press Agency:

"If you think objectively, there is not one country which does not use torture. All of them practice torture — those who deny it lie.

"Take for example Mehmet Ali Agca, he did not kill the Pope, he only shot him, but look at the poor man, they have driven him crazy. He thinks he is a prophet... The people in our prisons are not angels... in Europe, in the USA, in the Iron Curtain countries they torture without leaving a trace. But our poor ones (police), as they use the old methods you can see the traces".

The issue of torture is increasingly coming to the fore in the struggle for human rights in Turkey. In recent weeks both Amnesty International, the Turkish media and the CDDRT have published evidence which shows that torture of political suspects is still continuing, is systematic, and is an integral part of state policy. On the 2nd February 1986, the Turkish weekly magazine *Nokta* published the confessions of Police torturer Sedat Caner.

These confessions have sent shock-waves through the Turkish media and the State apparatus.

There have been many well-reported cases of torture in Turkey both before and after the 1980 coup. Many such cases have been made known by such bodies as Amnesty International. However, until recent developments, most evidence for systematic torture has come from the victims themselves or friends and relatives. Now, for the first time one of the torturers himself has spoken-out and laid bare the torture apparatus of the regime in Turkey.

Inside Turkey, Sedat Caner's confessions have led to two main reactions: Firstly, the Press has been opened to a flood of articles, reports and information on Torture in the prisons and interrogation centres. It has further increased the demands by the mass of the people of Turkey for an end to such practices and the release of all political prisoners. Not since before the 1980 coup has the country so openly discussed the criminal methods by which successive governments have sought to terrorise their opponents.

The case has unleashed a flood of publicity about more recent torture cases.

***In February Prime Minister Özal said "nobody has the right to accuse Turkey of torture or ill-treatment."***

### "ERADICATE HER FERTILITY"

In CDDRT Torture Report 2, Interrogator Sedat Caner recalled "She was a little girl in Pazarçık secondary school. She was raped with a police truncheon. One person was responsible for this. He (the torturer) said something like this: "This girl is an Alevi (Shi'ite), she will bear children later. Let this not be so. You must eradicate her fertility. The child born by this girl would become a communist".

***Also in February, Interior Affairs Minister Akbulut said: "The Turkish state has never and will never tolerate violation of human rights and liberties".***



## WOMEN STORM TOWN HALL

*On February 14th, women relatives of political prisoners invaded Adana Town Hall shouting "down with torture we want to see our children".*

*The Adana Mayor, Director of Security and Gendarmery Commander tried to calm the protestors by promising to look into complaints. Mothers, who had not been allowed to see their sons and daughters who are political prisoners, and fearing for the prisoners' lives wrote to various government ministers expressing their fears.*

*According to reports a hunger-strike by 299 prisoners has been in progress at Adana Prison since 29th January 1986. The prisoners are protesting at poor conditions and torture.*

*TORTURE REPORT 1 and 2  
are available from the CDDRT  
office price 40p each inc. pp.*



## WOMEN IN TURKEY: IN THE FRONT LINE

*On March 8th, International Women's Day, The Committee for Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey extends greetings and solidarity to women everywhere.*

*In Turkey today, women have been subjected to particularly savage oppression and economic exploitation. Despite this, in the streets, factories and prisons women are in the forefront of the battle for their rights and democracy.*

A big crowd of members of the London Turkish community and of friends from the British and other ethnic communities packed into the new premises of the Union of Turkish Women in Britain to witness its official opening. The new premises at 110 Clarendon Rd, Hackney, will provide a large and vital centre for women of the Turkish community in Hackney. The Mayors of Hackney and Islington, the deputy leader of the GLC and Alf Lomas MEP were among the guests who took part in the opening ceremony.

## NEW WOMEN'S CENTRE OPENS



## Turkey needs freedom

Mr Turgut Özal is Turkey's first civilian Prime Minister since the soldiers began their slow march back to the barracks. He is also the last unreconstructed worshipper at the twin altars of Reaganomics and of Thatcherism. He is pressing urgently for closer ties with the Common Market and an opening of Turkey's traditionally protected economy to the bracing winds of Western private investment. Above all, his large and strategically placed nation is dedicated to Nato defence policies. No wonder Mr Özal was given the full official visit treatment — first-class with gold-plated knobs on — during his three days in London. No wonder that the colleagues round the Downing Street dinner table on Tuesday night were liberally interlaced with captains of industry — particularly captains of defence industry. Britain is determined to grab its share of the Turkish cake. No more nonsenses like last year's failure to gain the juicy contract for a second Bosphorus Bridge because Japanese trade policies are a sight more generous, sophisticated and trusting than ours.

That is the upside. The downside has been the unprecedented secrecy and security surrounding the visit as a result of the chorus of protests from senior Labour figures, from Amnesty International and from a mass of moderate-minded civil libertarians. Even Mrs Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey Howe made passing reference to Turkey's quite appalling record of torture, mass detention of political prisoners (20,000 on some counts), and the swingeing charges still outstanding against leaders of the trade union movement, DISK, and of the CND style Turkish Peace Movement.

The standard answers to such complaints from those accompanying Mr Özal have been pretty thin stuff. Turkey has always had a tradition of repressive and brutal treatment of prisoners — political or otherwise. So don't blame the generals, and still less Mr Özal. Which may well be true. But it is hardly encouraging. Next, it is said, things have got better since the election of 1983 which brought Mr Özal to power. Well, yes, at the margin. But torture is still widespread and systematic. Ask the political affairs committee

of the European Parliament. Ask the Danish Government which has led the protest at the European Court. Ask Amnesty International.

Finally, the Turks argue that western democratic standards simply cannot be applied automatically in their still backward nation, lacking a stable democratic past and riven by nationalistic, religious fundamentalist and Marxist pressures. It is a forceful argument — albeit an appallingly patronising one if made openly by first world nations. But it sounds merely paradoxical and opportunistic coming from a nation bent upon displaying, post-Ataturk, its essential Europeanness and its commitment to Western values. As Franco's Spain, Salazar's Portugal and the Junta's Greece all discovered, membership of the Euroclub is not automatic. Western democratic values with all their shortcomings, are not some fancy optional extra. They are meant to be the reason the club exists. Mr. Özal sees a Turkey on the move. A fundamental part of that movement must put human rights at the centre of the new Turkey, not tucked at its dingy peripheries.

*Guardian* editorial 20th February 1986.



## CYPRUS VISIT CONDEMNED

By Brendan O Cathaoir

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Barry, has condemned the visit by seven members of the Oireachtas to Turkish-occupied Cyprus last month. In reply to a Dail question by Mr Proisias de Rossa on Thursday, Mr Barry said he regretted the visit to the self-styled "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus", which was not recognised by Ireland and which the UN Security Council had deemed legally invalid.

The Department of Foreign Affairs pointed out that Mr Barry had not been consulted about the trip. He would have discouraged it, but it was not in his power to prevent TDs and senators accepting such invitations.

Mr Sean Barrett, the Fine Gael chief whip, was asked to comment about seven members of his Parliamentary Party defying Government policy. Mr Barrett said he would be meeting the people involved next Tuesday, and added that he hoped the situation would not recur.

They are Mr Liam Burke TD, Mr Frank Crowley TD, Mr Godfrey Timmons TD, and Senators Brian Fleming, Charles McDonald, Jack Daly and Denis Cregan.

The Department of Foreign Affairs reaffirmed to *The Irish Times* the Government's commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity of the Republic of Cyprus.

In a brief bloody operation in August, 1974, the Turkish army invaded northern Cyprus and expelled the indigenous Greek Cypriot population. Ireland supports the implementation of UN Resolutions 541 and 550.

The 18 per cent Turkish-Cypriot minority has been swollen by the introduction of settlers into the northern third of the island, along with troops from the Turkish mainland.

The *Special News Bulletin* of northern Cyprus, which is distributed from Turkey, recently published a picture of the "senators and MPs from the Irish Republic of Eire". The photograph was taken before they were brought from northern Cyprus to Turkey for a State reception on January 8th.

The bulletin describes Mr Burke as "leader of the party" and an MEP (which he is not). It goes on to quote Mr Burke as saying "he would advocate the full representation of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus to the EEC Council in Strasbourg ... He would be pleased to see more "positive relationships established between the Irish Republic or Eire and the Turkish Republic of Cyprus in the important fields of trade and in tourism, which he personally would strive to encourage to the mutual benefit of both Republics".

Contacted at his home in Cork, Mr Burke declined to discuss the Cyprus visit.

*Irish Times*, 8th February 1986.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

If you want to do more to assist the struggle for genuine democracy in Turkey there are several ways you can help. You, or an organisation to which you belong, can affiliate to the CDDRT. You can take extra copies of *Turkey Newsletter* to distribute to friends and colleagues or raise the issue of Turkey in your Trade Union, Party Branch etc... The CDDRT can provide speakers.

Join or help establish local branches in your area.

If you live within reach of London you can participate in the work of the Executive Committee.

## CDDRT Addresses:

**Britain: 129 Newington Green Road, London N1**

**France: 7 Rue Leclerc 75014 Paris**

**Ireland: 9 Cavendish Row, Dublin 1**

**USA: Box 90, 924 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago, IL 60657**

## CONSTITUTION OF THE CDDRT

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

2. The aims of the CDDRT are as follows:  
End all vestiges 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 anti-democratic regime.

Totally oppose the regime's harassment of overseas opponents.

Organise solidarity on the basis of the foregoing

utilising every means at our disposal.

3. Organisations and individuals accepting the aims of the 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 the 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 the 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 the CDDRT.

7. Local Branches of the 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.

## CDDRT General Council

Bedir AYDEMIR  
John M BLOOM  
Jeremy CORBYN, MP  
Bill DEAL  
Max HIRONS

Sandra HODGSON  
Ali LOMAS, MEP  
Aydin MERİÇ  
Ernie ROBERTS, MP  
Marion SARAFI  
Faik ŞİNKİL  
Peter SPALDING  
Tijen UĞURUŞ

and one representative each from:  
Turkish Students' Federation in the UK  
Union of Turkish Progressive in Britain  
Union of Turkish Women in Britain  
Union of Turkish Workers

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GEC Openshaw JSSC  
Union of Turkish Workers

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Union of Turkish Progressives in Britain  
Turkish Students' Federation in the UK  
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Cyprus Students' Society — Manchester University  
Leeds University Union  
UMIST Students' Union  
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## Affiliate to the CDDRT

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

To the Committee for Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey.

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

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Continued from page 7

cannot be controlled and that will be a tragedy for them (the regime and the country)" ... "Things are not going well".

## "Our stomachs are full of empty words."

While Yılmaz spoke the jeering of the workers intensified, people fell off the overcrowded rostrum, Şevket Yılmaz, for reasons best known to himself threw flowers to the crowd. This led the audience; particularly members of Petrol-İs and Otomobil-İş — (whose leaders had been denied the right to speak) to shout "sell-out Şevket", "down with Şevket" and "dance Şevket dance".

A section of the crowd cheered the appearance of Social Democratic leader Gürkan and took up the opposition politicians' call for a constituent assembly.

Harb-İş president, Durukan said "The rich are not worried about the lack of democracy... Sabancı, Koç etc., (financial holdings) — maybe they don't need democracy, maybe it makes them uncomfortable because it means trade union rights".

The leader of the Railway Workers' Union said "Our stomachs are full of empty words... we want to live like human beings — the knife has hit the bone".

The anger and fighting spirit of the crowd finally led to Yılmaz hurriedly leaving the square and the meeting being brought to a premature close.

## Aftermath

The day following the rally, police announced they had arrested 77 people "mainly girl students and working women"; 11 were later released. In addition, 3 people received injuries as a result of police batoning. The governor of Izmir claimed "a lake of blood" had been prevented by police action.

The general feeling following the rally was that it had backfired on the collaborationist Türk-İş leadership, renewing calls for Yılmaz and Şide's resignations. At the same time the rally has let the genie out of the bottle, the workers are recovering their confidence after the black period of total terror following the 1980 coup. The "social peace" in Turkey which had been imposed on the workers at the point of the bayonet is over.

The mood of the 100,000 workers in Izmir shows the 'explosion' which will bring real democracy to Turkey and which the regime and its backers dread is beginning to loom on the horizon.

## Test-run

Before the main rally in Izmir, Türk-İş unions called a protest in the town of Balıkesir. 2,000 women workers took part. The banner reads "for 5 months in 400 homes the pots have been empty".



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