

TURKEY NEWSLETTER



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

Issue 64 June 1986

RAIDS AND ARRESTS



INCREASE

The regime “celebrates” the normalisation of relations with Europe

Since mid-April the Ankara regime's security forces have been conducting large-scale raids and arrests throughout the country aimed at suspected political opponents.

The regime is indicating that the operations are aimed at preventing the banned left working class and student movements in Turkey re-organising.

Suspected members of numerous organisations have been detained. The exact number of those arrested is not yet clear but runs into several hundred. A particular feature of the latest arrests is that the Turkish authorities and media are not naming the organisation or announcing arrests in the case of several organisations; for example: The *İşçinin Sesi (Workers' Voice)*, despite the fact that CDDRT has received reports of the detention of suspected members of this organisation in İstanbul, İzmir, Ankara and Zonguldak. In these cases the interrogation of the detainees is continuing.

These new attacks on human rights in Turkey have coincided with the normalisation of relations between the regime and the Council of Europe and the UN Human Rights Commission. Clearly, the regime feels it no longer has to give an impression of improving its human rights record in return for international respectability.

The situation is urgent, the CDDRT calls on democratic public opinion to condemn and expose these violations of human rights and democracy. These new operations, continued detention of thousands of political prisoners and the wide-spread use of torture make a mockery of the claims of the regime and its apologists abroad that there has been a return to democracy in Turkey.

Details of some recent 'operations' appear on page 5.

ANNEXATION DANGER GROWS

The latest attempt to settle the "Cyprus Question" shows every sign of failing, to the surprise of no one.

In March, UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar submitted the 3rd UN draft settlement plan for Cyprus to the government of Cyprus and the Turkish Cypriot administration in North Cyprus. The plan was, of course, also considered by the two administrations' respective sponsors; Greece and Turkey.

An intense diplomatic and propaganda war raged around these proposals. Far from providing a solution, the draft proposals have encouraged a drift towards permanent division of the island and the possible eventual annexation of North Cyprus by Turkey.

The position the Greek Cypriot government has found itself in was summed up by Andriana Ierodiaconoa in the *Financial Times* on 9th May.

"According to leaked reports of the plan in the Greek Cypriot press which have not been denied, the present document, as in January 1985, sketches out the organisation and functioning of a federal republic made up of a Greek Cypriot and a Turkish Cypriot federated state.

It does not go into detail, however, on the issues — viewed by the Greek Cypriots as very important — of the withdrawal of Turkish troops, guarantees for a settlement, and the freedom of movement, settlement and property ownership on the island, suggesting that outstanding details be relegated to working groups. This is a repeat of the 1985 procedural proposals.

The document has been accepted by the Turkish Cypriots whose position at the New York meeting had been that the two sides should first sign the existing papers on a settlement and then negotiate remaining issues at the level of working groups.

The Greek Cypriots have essentially reiterated their New York position on procedure, namely that the key issues of troop withdrawal, guarantees, and the "three freedoms", must be resolved first before any draft settlement plan dealing with the details of how the federal state will work can be considered.

In their response to Mr Perez de Cuellar on April 20, the Greek Cypriots urged him either to organise an international conference under UN auspices to resolve the "international aspect" of the Cyprus problem — namely the questions of troop withdrawal and guarantees — or to convene a new meeting between Mr Kyprianou and Mr Denktash to negotiate these two issues plus the "three freedoms".

Although in their formal response they avoided any comment on the plan, they have let it be known that they consider the latest proposals worse than the January 1985 ones, in giving the Turkish Cypriots more power in the legislature and the executive and a slightly more generous deal on territory."

The Denktash administration in North Cyprus has however made it clear that it will not attend any summit until the Greek Cypriots have adopted the De Guallar draft.

To strengthen its position further, apart from the permanent garrison of some 17,000 Turkish troops, 12,000 settlers from the mainland have been brought in.

In our view Turkey is now preparing to take another step towards the complete annexation of North Cyprus. Everything that has been done by Turkish regimes since the

landing of Turkish troops on the island in 1974 has been directed towards this aim. It was not possible for Turkey to annex Northern Cyprus outright because it would have conflicted with the interests of Britain, the USA and others. So, instead, a step-by-step approach has been pursued. First, Turkey separated North Cyprus economically from the rest of the island and established a separate economy dependent on Turkey. The next step was to proclaim the "independent" Turkish Republic of North Cyprus for which the Ankara regime tried (so far vainly) to get international recognition.

The question is, will the next step be a Hatay-style referendum? (In the 1930s the post-first world war "independent" state of Hatay on the Turkish-Syrian border was "re-united" with Turkey following a Turkish government planned referendum.)

To achieve this long-term ambition it is necessary for Turkish diplomacy to portray Greece and the Greek Cypriots as intransigent. To convince world public opinion that it is the Greeks who are making a solution to the problem impossible. So that there is a situation where there is "no alternative" to the continuation of the Turkish Republic of North Cyprus, whose citizens at a later date can "voluntarily" express the desire to be re-united to the Turkish 'motherland'.

The truth of this can be seen in the Turkish media's treatment of the 3rd draft UN proposals. First, the press reported that they were totally unacceptable to Turkey. But only a few days later they reported that the proposals were along lines acceptable to Ankara, that they were "elastic" and that Turkey could accept them. Even before the Greeks had questioned the draft as it stood, the Turkish press were reporting that Greece and the Greek Cypriots said "no".

In fact, learning that Greece had in effect rejected the draft, Turkey withdrew its own reservations. In fact, the state of North Cyprus formally accepted the draft first. Now Turkish diplomacy presents Turkey as having accepted the proposals after "running out of patience with Greece. It is obvious that if the Greek Cypriots had accepted the plan Turkey would never have accepted it. It did so only to score a diplomatic victory over Greece.

Before the Greek side had openly rejected the draft in early April, deputy leaders of many Turkish political parties went to North Cyprus to attend the 5th Congress of the National Unity Party. All the Turkish mainland parties agreed that they wanted international recognition for the "Turkish Republic of North Cyprus" (TRNC). Deputy leader of the Motherland Party (ANAP) the governing party in Turkey Pehlivanoglu said there were no Turkish-Cypriot people but one Turkish nation. "Anyone who wants to can live with the Greeks, or even go to Moscow. If there is a population decline (in North Cyprus) as a result, it will be reversed by everyone having ten children" (*Gunaydin*, 8th April). "After this," he said, "the abolition of the TRNC and living together with the Greeks will be inconceivable. No force can abolish the TRNC".

These words expressed the Turkish regime's real views, not its so-called "acceptance" of the UN proposals.

WATER ►

Gendarme units were called to 27 villages in the Akyazi area of Turkey following protests over water.

After years of complaint, the state finally laid piped water to the 27 villages earlier this year. However, the villagers' joy quickly turned to anger when the provincial authorities ordered the village councils to fix water meters to all pipes within ten days or the water would be cut-off to the villages. The price of one water meter is equivalent to 10 days wages.

Clashes broke out in several villages when gendarme units arrived to disconnect the water and the State Governor was prevented from entering the villages by the inhabitants. A village headman commented; "The State is now demanding money for drinking water... The government says there is no repression in our country but the State Governor bashes our heads in".

"LIES, DAMNED LIES AND STATISTICS"

On the 14th May the newspaper *Milliyet* carried revelations by Ülker Tuncer, an official sacked from the State Institute of Statistics (DIE), for objecting to the way figures for the economy were being 'cooked' to serve political interests. Ülker Tuncer who had worked for DIE since 1965 said the statistics for the economy "cannot be relied on... the figures are just made-up according to the needs of the politicians... In the institute there are no qualified statisticians any more — it has become a depot for political personnel". She went on to give details of how the statistics are distorted.

This is far from an academic problem, as hundreds of thousands of workers and pensioners are on index-linked incomes—especially in sectors where trade unions are forbidden or the right to strikes is completely banned; and the DIE figures constitute the official economic indexes. The distorted figures affect:

- * Civil service wages and pensions (which are adjusted according to the DIE prices index.
- * Wages of workers in the public sector,
- * Interest rates.
- * Farmers' income in the form of government-supported minimum purchase prices for agricultural produce.
- * Banks, businessmen etc, who want to study the Turkish economy.

Ülker Tuncer says the DIE authorities take a hostile attitude to the figures



produced by the big business-backed ITO — İstanbul trade organisation. This is quite understandable when one looks at the respective price indices for April: ITO showed that prices rose by 4.1%, the regime-backed DIE showed 0.5%.

Not surprisingly, the paper concluded that no one trusted the government statistics.

BREAD AND THE PEOPLE

Aziz Nesin, one of Turkey's leading writers and a defendant in several post-1980 political trials, is to launch a petition. "The Bread and Peoples' Charter." The Charter will be broader than the "Intellectuals Petition" of last year in which Nesin was also involved. He aims to get 10,000 signatures. The Charter will be in protest at the way the regime's economic policies are affecting the social and moral fabric of Turkey.

In a press conference to launch the Charter Aziz Nesin pointed out that the regime was still denying him a passport or permission to travel abroad. He also stated that "the government has got to be constantly disturbed."

AFRAID OF BOOKS

A survey in May showed that the price of books in Turkey had risen by between 200% and 800% in the last 6 months.

A leading publisher said "Before 1980 we used to sell 2500 copies of a book in 2 months, now it takes 5 months to do the same." The readers are mainly civil servants and students "now they have no money to spare for books"... "The affects of post-1980 Martial Law affected the readers; a habit developed for the reader to be afraid of books and for the authorities to ban books."

EVERY ONE A DEMOCRAT?

In the scramble of the old pre-1980 coup politicians to re-enter politics and out-bid each other as "fearless champions of democracy and human rights," none cuts a stranger figure than that of Türkeş. Former leader of the fascist Nationalist Action Party which spawned the notorious Grey Wolf terror gangs, Türkeş relaunched himself into politics with a cocktail party at the Bulvar Palas Hotel in Ankara. 1500 supporters including MPs from the ruling Motherland Party (ANAP) attended the party (to commemorate "Nationality Day," 3rd May). Former members of NAP joined in singing fascist anthems and shouting "our smiling days will come" and "Başbuğ (Führer) Türkeş". Türkeş however is looking for 'democratic' credentials. On 8th May Türkeş spoke out against torture; "We are against all torture, no matter if it is applied to spies, communists or anybody". Let us hope his supporters who infest Turkey's security apparatus and form the bulk of the torturers take note.



Holding hands but not sitting pretty: Söylemezoğlu of the dissolved right-wing Nationalist Democracy Party with Yazar of the newly formed, right-wing Free Democrat Party.

PARTY GAMES CONTINUED

The squabbling and frantic wheeling and dealing among the legal political parties in Turkey has intensified in recent months. This has been centred around two main trends.

Firstly, spring has been marked by massive touring campaigns by politicians. The most extensive being those of Demirel and Özal.

Demirel, pre-1980 coup prime minister of the Justice (conservative) Party, though supposedly banned from politics, has been touring the country addressing large rallies. Though banned from joining a political party, Demirel is working hard to build himself-up as the credible right-wing alternative to the present regime. He has links with the legal True Path Party (DYP). Attempting to cash-in on the widespread discontent with, and contempt for, the junta period and the present anti-democratic regime, Demirel poses as the fearless democrat; "There cannot be such a thing as 'controlled democracy'" and claims he "held his head high" during the post 1980 fascist terror.

Demirel is being answered by his former protege, the Prime Minister Özal, claiming that "if this was a controlled democracy Demirel couldn't go touring around" he too took to the road. At one stage in April and May there were occasions when, while Özal addressed a rally in "Demirel country", Demirel was doing the same in an area considered pro-Özal.

The cautious former Republican Peoples Party Prime Minister Ecevit has also become bold. Like Demirel, banned from joining political parties, Ecevit on May 19th spoke at the congress of his wife's Democratic Left Party (DSP) in Ankara. He bitterly attacked Turkey's present constitution saying "The constitution is based on the concept of a totalitarian regime" ... "while the rights of the workers are being abused I should not be silent". After the years of Junta rule when Ecevit remained quiet, now he says: "If I stay silent while they pluck the wings and arms of democracy I would fail my debt to Atatürk".

The other development was the self-dissolution of the Nationalist Democracy Party in May and the consequent scramble to win-over its MPs among the other parties.

The MDP was one of the original junta-approved parties.

At the MDP Congress on 5th May the party voted to disband itself by 354 votes to 55. Party leaders Söylemezoğlu hailed it as "a good example of Turkish democracy... those (members) who go to ANAP (the ruling Motherland Party) will regret it in a very short time" and "our people want the democratic right to unite".

However the dissolution does not mean more unity among the chronically divided right wing split between 9 parties. No sooner had the MDP closed its doors than the Free Democracy Party, headed by former President of the Union of Commerce and Industry, Mehmet Yazar, was established with 22 MPs from the MDP.

The Turkish Constitution forbids MPs from transferring from one Party to another without losing their seat.

This law was created firstly to try and prevent "non-approved" parties from getting into parliament and also to prevent the amazing scenes in the pre-coup parliaments where MPs were sold and traded like star footballers. However, as with so many laws introduced in the junta period, life itself is forcing their abandonment. In recent weeks nearly 70 MPs were affected by transfers. Mesut Yılmaz of ANAP defended this, claiming "this is not a transfer... its just a straightening-out procedure"... Cindoruk, leader of the True Path Party commented "nearly 200 MPs have changed parties since the elections... Our people have rejected the 8th

"We didn't leave a tear or a drop of blood behind us"

Demirel referring to his time as Prime Minister.



Under Demirel: Taksim Square 1977, police and fascist commandos slaughter workers taking part in a May Day rally. The old politicians cannot offer a real alternative to the present regime.

November political plan".

Right-wing commentators are expressing alarm that the 9 legal right wing opposition parties are confronted by a centre-left Social Democratic Populist Party which polls and by-elections suggest has 35-40% support among electors plus the small Democratic Left Party.

It is widely believed that the present ruling party ANAP — the last of the junta approved parties — will collapse in a new General election. As it is, ANAP is torn between two factions: The "nationalists" — followers of the former fascist Nationalist Action Party, and the "Salvationists" of the former pro-Islamic National Salvation Party. Özal himself, from the salvationist wing, maintains a precarious balancing act, holding the party together primarily by a careful and constantly changing division of the fruits of office among the rival factions.

All recent developments demonstrate yet again that the attempt to build a limited 'Turkish-type' democracy coupled with repression of the working people cannot be maintained for long. The crisis in Turkish society that the 1980 coup was meant to "solve" has reappeared in a more intense form.

The games and manoeuvres among the legal parties are a reflection of the bankruptcy of the political system and the growing impatience of the people of Turkey with the alternation between military coups and a "second class" type of democracy which has plagued modern Turkey. The only solution to Turkey's problems which has not yet been tried is a society based on no repression of the working people, a respect for all human rights and a genuine democracy.

ARRESTS, TRIALS AND PRISONS

One of the understandings which led the five European countries to withdraw their case against Turkey at the European Commission for Human Rights in December 1985 was that the Turkish regime would declare a "general amnesty" for political prisoners. The regime, as was to be expected did not keep its word. Having gained so many concessions from Europe for so little the regime sees no compelling reason to give concessions itself.

Instead of amnesty, the National Assembly on March 11, 1986, adopted a law which would reduce the prison term of those who have never disobeyed prison rules.

According to this law, prison terms of five years have been reduced to two years and three days; 10 years to four years and five days; 15 years to six years and seven days; 20 years to eight years and 10 days; 24 years to 9 years, seven months and 21 days and life imprisonment to 20 years. As for capital punishment, if it has not been ratified by the National Assembly, the prisoner will see 30 years in prison. A proposal to modify the law for the benefit of all those who have been sentenced to death from this commutation has been rejected by the government majority. So, despite the wish expressed by the European bodies, the death penalty is still in force, and political activists can be executed if the National Assembly ratifies their sentences.

The Ministry of Justice announced that some 48,000 prisoners would benefit from this law although some 30,000 remain in prison. Most significantly, the majority of political prisoners cannot benefit from this reduction because they are considered "disobedient to prison rule," due to their acts of resistance against the inhuman treatment in the prisons. To be able to benefit later from this reduction, they will have to be quite obedient in the nine months to come. Even a small discussion with a guard can deprive the prisoners of a reduction in his prison term... a discussion which might have been provoked by the prison authorities if they do not want the prisoner in question to be set free.

As for those sentenced to death, eighty-three cases are currently before the National Assembly for parliamentary ratification. Of these 83 prisoners whose life depends on a parliamentary majority, 44 are leftist, 10 rightist, 25 are common criminals and four are Palestinian militants.



ARRESTS — ISTANBUL

On the eve of May Day police carried out various operations in Istanbul. In one case the press reported the arrest of 5 students at the Istanbul Technical University. They are accused of preparing leaflets and cassette tapes for May Day.

POLITICAL TRIALS CONTINUE

The Belgium based publication *Info-Türk* reports that several trials begun in March are continuing:

On March 13, 77 people who took part in a workers demonstration in İzmir were tried for making slanderous slogans against government policy.

On March 18, new proceedings were started against eight trade union leaders and a member of the Union of Progressive Teachers for their activities before the coup.

Moreover, the DİSK Secretary General Fehmi Işıklar was brought to trial on March 28 in Istanbul for having insulted the military prosecutor during his defence in the mass trial before the military tribunal.

One of the most significant recent cases has been against five political activists who had just been freed through the new law on reduction in prison terms. The accused are Ziya Yılmaz and his four comrades who had succeeded in evading military prison in 1972 during the previous repressive period. They were later arrested to serve their sentence. After being freed on March 27, the prosecutor in Istanbul launched new judicial proceedings against them and has asked for prison terms of up to 13 years for them.

SENTENCES

On the 10th May, two trials against members of the Workers Party of Kurdistan (PKK) ended. In one case the Diyarbakır Military Court acquitted 28 defendants and sentenced 23 to prison terms of 2 to 24 years. In the second case all 14 defendants were sentenced to prison terms up to 15 years each.

Journalist and historian İlhan Bardakçı was sentenced by a military court to 17 years 6 months imprisonment. But a military appeal court has sent the case back for retrial.



RAIDS — İZMİR

On the eve of 30th April, police in İzmir, personally led by Security chief Ahmet Karakurt raided 160 student hostels and flats in a one hour operation. 1500 police took part in the raid. 300 suspects were detained. The press announced that the "interrogation of the captured finished on 14th May". 22 of those arrested were accused of being Communist Party members. The press also reported that the police found 1 duplicator, 5 typewriters, political education notes and banned publications during the raid.

TEACHER DENOUNCED

The Principal of Ortaklar High School in Aydın reported one of his own teachers. Philosophy teacher Adnan Fazioğlu to the authorities for setting as homework for his pupils a composition about peace.

Adnan Fazioğlu is to appear before the courts.

KURDISTAN

CONCENTRATION CAMP IN THE EAST

Ever more disturbing reports are coming out of Turkey's eastern-most provinces populated in the main by the oppressed Kurdish people who do not legally exist in Turkey. The reports indicate both increased military activities against the population itself and preparations for a possible war situation in the region.

Towards the end of 1985 an inquiry mission sent to the area by the Social Democratic Populist Party concluded that eastern Turkey had become a huge concentration camp under the martial law regime that is still in force there.

According to the SDPP MP's İhsan Elgin and Cüneyt Canver, the martial law commander in the region had stripped of their authority 49 elders (moukhtars) elected in 1984 in Tunceli Province and has deported 27 people accused of "activities harmful to the interest of the state."

The Minister of the Interior declared himself powerless before the practices of the martial law commander.

The two deputies classified Tunceli — one of those provinces where the proportion of police in relation to inhabitants is the highest — as "the biggest prison in Turkey."

In February of this year it was reported that 11 villages along the borders with Iran and Iraq were to be evacuated and that a buffer zone is to be created in the area. The evacuation will start with two villages near the border with Iran (*Tercüman*, 11 February 1986).

A few days later it was announced that measures are to be taken to consolidate and protect Turkey's border with Syria. Syria has been accused of encroaching bit by bit on Turkish land in areas where the border has not been clearly marked and of "having its eyes on 9 Turkish provinces". (*Tercüman*, 14 and 15 February 1986)

The reports led to questions being asked in parliament about measures taken to protect the border.

Subsequently newspapers reported that fences are being constructed along the border.

Only a few days later again there was an uproar in the press about mysterious Arabs who have allegedly been buying up blocks of land near the proposed Atatürk Dam. Again Syria was said to be the culprit acting behind the scenes. (*Hürriyet*, 19 February 1986).

As the Iran-Iraq war heated up again, newspaper headlines shouted that Iran



is heading towards Kirkuk (the starting point of the Iraqi oil pipeline to Turkey and an area which revanchists claim as part of Turkey).

Amid reports that "the Gulf War is turning against us" and that Turkey was preparing to issue a severe warning to Iran (*Günaydın*, 5 and 6 March 1986), the government issued an official statement expressing its "profound concern over the recent escalation in the war between Iran and Iraq" and declaring that "Turkey is prepared to help create a climate conducive to a just and honourable peace using her existing good and fraternal ties with both Iran and Iraq and calls on the parties involved."

The statement continued:

"Turkey sincerely wishes the parties involved to avoid clashes that could lead to fresh attacks, threaten security in the region and invite potentially dangerous developments originating from outside the region and urges them to start a process to end the war justly and honourably as soon as possible."

Until this statement, Turkey had always insisted that it would not offer itself as a mediator unless this was requested by both sides.

Meanwhile, during a recent tour of Erzurum, Kars and Erzincan, President Evren declared that the security forces will give "special importance" to the border cities "since those who want to sow seeds of dissent and divide the country would start their activities in those regions".

In Kars, Evren told the people that "certain organisations are still trying to stir up trouble among citizens" and denied reports that land near Kars would be expropriated in order to build a NATO base.

Military operations continue in Turkish Kurdistan.

The Turkish military authorities have announced that in the course of the Kurdish New Year (Nawroz), in March 16 soldiers, 6 village guards, one woman, 11 children and 12 Kurdish militants died in armed confrontations between Kurdish pesmergas (guerrillas) and the security forces.



Under the headline "Our target is UKU's", *Hürriyet* carried a report on 12th May, that the Turkish army is interested in developing UKU's. These are pilotless aircraft. According to the paper, the military are interested in UKUs "because we can use them against the terrorists (Kurdish militants) in south east Turkey."

Kurdish guerrillas from the Kurdistan Democratic Party are reported to be poised to take the strategic town of Dihok in Northern Iraq. This town controls the Turkey-Baghdad highway. The Turkish regime has warned Iran that, unless it "restrains" the KDP; presumed to be an Iranian ally, from threatening the highway and the adjacent oil pipeline, it will send troops into northern Iraq "to defend its interests".

CAMPAIGN GETS UNDER WAY

On the 27th April, Carole Tongue, Member of the European Parliament wrote to the Turkish Ambassador in London regarding the imprisonment of Aydan Bulutgil.

Dear Sir,

I write to urge you to intervene in the case of Aydan Bulutgil who was arrested and imprisoned in 1981 in Turkey, on the allegation that he was a leader of the Turkish Communist Party. Aydan Bulutgil was sentenced to 16 years imprisonment on the strength of this allegation. Whilst in prison Aydan Bulutgil has been so heavily tortured that he has been crippled and his health is deteriorating rapidly.

I urge you in the light of the serious effect that torture and imprisonment has had on Aydan Bulutgil's health to grant him immediate release and permission for him to leave the country to get urgent medical treatment.

Copies of a Free Aydan Bulutgil petition are available.

Also available are copies of *The Case of Aydan Bulutgil*, price 30p. These and details of forthcoming public meetings can be obtained from:

Free Aydan Bulutgil Campaign, c/o CDDRT,
129 Newington Green Road,
London N1 4RD

MAY DAY CELEBRATED

The CDDRT in London took part in two May Day marches this year. The first in Croydon on the 26th April and the second as part of the massive Turkish contingent on 1st May evening march to Wapping in East London to demonstrate support for the sacked print workers.



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 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

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 £

Name
Address
Date of affiliation

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Return to the CDDRT, 129 Newington Green Road, London N1. Tel: 01-226 2668.

TRIAL OF MUZAFFER SARAÇ

For the 11th time since 1980, Muzaffer Saraç — a leading figure in Turkish trade union and social democratic circles has gone on trial in Turkey.

This time charges relate to his visit to Britain and Ireland in June 1985 as a guest of GREATER LONDON ASSOCIATION OF TRADES COUNCILS and the IRISH DISTRIBUTIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE TRADE UNION. In both the UK and Ireland Muzaffer Saraç met representatives of the Labour Party, trade unions and, in Ireland the Department of Foreign Affairs.

While in Dublin Muzaffer Saraç spoke at a public meeting chaired by John Mitchell General Secretary of the Irish Distributive & Administrative Trade Union. Somebody in the audience, presumably from the Turkish Embassy reported his speech to the Turkish Interior Ministry.

In May of this year Muzaffer Saraç was detained by the security police, interrogated for 5 hours and brought before the State Security Court on 15th May accused of slandering the Turkish State abroad. Also named in the indictment are Adnan Bucak, Chair of Islington North Labour Party Turkish Section and Bedir Aydemir member of CDDRT General Council who were both present at the Dublin meeting.

Saraç has stated that he has spoken in the same way in speeches inside Turkey and that he stands by the views he expressed.

His trial is continuing. The prosecution are asking for a 5 year prison sentence. The CDDRT believes Trade Unionists and democrats in Britain and Ireland will join us in condemning this attack on those working for democracy and human rights in Turkey. This trial is yet further evidence of the Özal regime's attempts to intimidate its opponents and prevent international public opinion becoming aware of the real situation in Turkey.

The CDDRT in Dublin has called for a Picket of the Turkish Embassy at 5.30 on the 20th June in protest at the trial of Muzaffer Saraç.

Turk may be jailed for speech

From the *Irish Press*, 23rd May 1986

By Michael Farrell

A Turkish trade unionist and opposition leader could face five years in jail for speaking at a meeting in Dublin last summer. Muzaffer Saraç, a prominent member of the Turkish Social Democratic Populist Party, has gone on trial before the State Security Court in Ankara charged with slandering the Turkish State at the Dublin meeting.

The charges are based on a speech by Mr Saraç at the inaugural meeting of an Irish branch of the Committee for Democratic Rights in Turkey (CDDRT) in Dublin on June 11 last year. It is believed to be the first time anyone has ever been charged in a foreign state for a political speech made in Ireland. At the meeting, Mr Saraç criticised restrictions on democracy in Turkey and the number of political prisoners held there. There was a military coup in Turkey in 1980 and there has been a limited return to democracy recently, but a report by the Legal Council of Europe last January noted that there was still "torture on a wide scale" in Turkey and there had been no amnesty for political prisoners.

Mr Maurice Sheehan of the Irish Distributive and Administrative Union, who was one of the organisers of the meeting, said yesterday that Mr Saraç's speech was "low-key" and factual. He did not advocate unconstitutional action and his party is legal in Turkey. During his brief stay in Ireland he met representatives of the Labour Party and the ICTU.

STOP PRESS

In the last week of May Muzaffer Saraç was re-elected to the Executive Committee of the Social Democratic Populist Party.

**TURKEY
NEWSLETTER**



129 Newington Green Road,
London N1, England