

TURKEY NEWSLETTER



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Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey

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“ON THE SEVENTH FLOOR OF HELL” - POLITICAL PRISONERS’ STRUGGLE CONTINUES

CONTENTS:

P.2: Crooked elections, P.3: News in Brief - Teachers asked to spy, P.4-5: Strike wave. P.6,7,8: Political Prisoners, P.9: From the press, P.10-11: CDDRT activities.

POLITICS

REFERENDUM



Gendarmes on the orders of Ozal, disperse anti-government protestors during the referendum campaign.

On 6th September the people voted in a referendum on whether or not to lift the ban on political activities by 100 pre-1980 coup politicians.

Last May the Turkish Grand National Assembly (Parliament) voted to lift the ten-year ban on participation in politics by former political party leaders. The ban was included as one of the temporary articles of the constitution adopted in 1982. The most prominent of the banned politicians were former prime ministers Demirel and Ecevit both of whom have openly flouted the ban especially in the past year.

However by law a referendum was needed to make the lifting of the bans complete. Lifting of the bans enables Demirel and Ecevit to become official leaders of the parties they have been leading from behind the scenes - The True Path Party and the Democratic Left Party respectively.

Despite the threat posed by the wily Demirel there were strong reasons for Ozal's regime to allow old politicians the chance to re-enter politics. Firstly, it would prevent the regime's application to join the EEC being rejected on the grounds of "a lack of democracy." Secondly, it would be better to have the old politicians in parliament than outside trying to undermine the political structure.

In the referendum campaign Ozal fought for a 'No' vote. Among ordinary people there was great cynicism about the whole process with many taking the view that it was all very well to give political freedom to a handful of politicians, but what about physical freedom for thousands of political prisoners?

The referendum was marked by violence and "confusion" which disenfranchised nearly 2 million voters.

At Isparta (Demirel's fief) police and gendarmes attacked a crowd who were booing Ozal and a fight broke out in Erzurum during an Ozal rally on 22nd August.

SCANDAL

Nothing was ignored by ANAP (the ruling Motherland Party) in its efforts to get a 'No' vote.

In order to win votes in the crucial city of Bursa it's football team was promoted to the 1st Division *by government decree!*

Unequal time on TV, "confusion" over ballot boxes - even in one case the appointment of a blind chief teller all helped to 'even-out' the vote. In the end the Yes vote won by a mere 2% - only an 80,000 vote difference in the 23 million votes cast.

BETTER THAN MARIE ANTONETTE



The Prime Ministers' wife Semra Ozal laughs when women in Erzurum surround her car shouting "we are starving, we want food".

TV BLUES

In the recent referendum campaign *Nokta* reports that TRT (Turkish state

TV) cut 9 minutes from an ANAP Party political film. The reason being that it was longer than allowed for in electoral law. In the middle of the night Prime Minister Ozal rang TRT's director and demanded: "... who do you think you are? ... Why did you cut the film off?"

TRT director: "Dear Prime Minister, let me explain ..."

Ozal: "shut up".

When the director finally managed to explain that the film was against the law, Ozal replied "forget about this law".

A CROOKED ELECTION

As soon as the first referendum results began to come in, Ozal in a surprise move called a General Election for 1st November. Ozal had carefully prepared for this event by secretly drafting Bills which cut the time taken to call a general election from 90 to 45 days thereby depriving his opponents of time to properly organise.

Every election in Turkey has been held under a different Electoral law from its predecessors. This in itself is a damning indictment of the political and moral bankruptcy of successive regimes in Turkey.

This latest election is being fought under one of the most dishonest electoral procedures ever. Candidates are not being selected by the parties but *personally* by the party leaders. Electoral boundaries are being rigged in favour of the ruling party. Millions of electors through various procedures have been denied their right to vote.

As usual in Turkey views to the left of the Social Democratic Populist Party are outlawed.

The system of voting has been fixed so that the party which only takes 30% of the vote gains an overwhelming majority of seats in Parliament.

For Democrats in Turkey and for the CDDRT this election is a sham. In no way can it be argued that this election represents a step towards greater democracy. On the contrary, the November General Election, if it takes place is designed to freeze the democratic process and turn the ruling ANAP Party into the permanent party of government.

In addition to new restrictions, the elections will undoubtedly be marked by intimidation and open bribery. The process has already begun with the Ozal government forgetting it's monetarist principals and spending money like drunken sailors in order to buy votes. On the 13th September it was announced

that the payday for most Civil Servants will be altered so that two weeks before the election they will receive 2 week's extra salary on top of their monthly pay. A 20% pay rise is also expected at the beginning of November. In addition, pensioners are to get concessionary coal and 130 billion TL worth of promotions are to be handed-out to Civil Servants.

As Ozal's party contains less 'famous names' than the opposition parties backed by the pre-coup politicians the electoral law has been changed so that only the Party's name appears on the ballot paper - not the candidates!

CANDIDATE

One prospective parliamentary candidate will be Ahmet Turk - Kurdish Asret (Clan) leader and former MP. He will fight a Mardin constituency for the Social Democratic Populist Party. However, he will be running his campaign from Diyarbakir prison, where he is serving 1 1/2 years for suspected Kurdish nationalist sympathies.



Former Prime Minister Ecevit will split the social democratic vote in the November elections.

By David Barchard in the *Financial Times*, 19.10.1987.

Mr Turgut Ozal, the Prime Minister of Turkey, appears to have beaten off a challenge from opposition parties in parliament and got the country on course again for early elections, though these will now have to be held on November 29 rather than on November 1 as originally planned.

However, opposition parties are still dangling the threat of an election boycott and seem likely to apply once more to the constitutional court to cancel some of the legislation.

Mr Ozal emerged the victor after a stormy session of parliament, lasting into the small hours on Saturday night, revised the election law passed in September but partially annulled on October 9 by the constitutional court.

Despite fears that defectors from the ruling Motherland Party could endanger his majority. Mr Ozal won by 238 to 132 in the assembly when the first vote was taken. The opposition parties then left the chamber and the remainder of the debate was conducted by the government side alone.

NEWS IN BRIEF

GUN BATTLE

A gun battle broke out in Ankara on 3rd September when police clashed with Dev Sol (Revolutionary Left) militants putting-up placards calling for a boycott in the referendum. One unarmed militant was captured - the rest escaped.

BOMB

On 12th September an unknown organisation called "16th January" (date of the 1971 workers' uprising) exploded a noise bomb in Taksim Square, Istanbul.

REFUGEES

Over 200 refugees from Turkey - mainly Kurds and Assyrian Christians have applied for political asylum in West Germany.

CYPRUS - ARMS BUILD-UP CONTINUES

A serious military confrontation may be imminent on Cyprus as the result of a potentially dangerous military build-up which is taking place there, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Senior Javier Peres de Cuellar, says in a report to this week's UN General Assembly.

In language whose strength has taken diplomats and military observers there

by surprise, the Secretary-General says in his annual report: "The state of affairs in Cyprus gives increasing cause for concern ... a potentially dangerous military build-up is taking place on the island. The possibility of serious confrontations cannot be excluded in the months ahead if present trends continue."

Two years ago the Institute for Strategie Studies estimated there were 17,000 Turkish troops holding the sector taken during the 1974 invasion. Last year the figure had risen to 23,000. Now the UN estimates that the numbers are as high as 29,000 and says that the number of tanks in northern Cyprus has substantially increased. Greek Cypriots claim that Turkey has also deployed air-to-surface rockets, new anti-tank weapons and transport trucks and modernised its fleet of attack helicopters.

The Times 21.9.1987.

TO SPY ABROAD

Turkish teachers about to be sent abroad (mainly to West Germany) to teach Turkish migrant children were sent on a 'special course'.

This 1 month special course was held in August and organised by the Ministry of Education and the *Turkish Army GHQ*.

The aim was to give the 465 teachers some MIT (Turkish Intelligence Organisation) assignments.

The teachers, who are carefully selected by the regime, were told that they should educate Turkish children abroad "in such a way as not to lose their national identity". Furthermore, they were told that "some Turks brought up abroad have degenerated". They were asked to watch Turkish teachers already resident in European countries and employed by local education authorities.

The reason being that some of the latter were "even giving Kurdish language courses or teaching children to believe that there should be a Kurdish State". To counter this the "reliable" teachers should give "correct" Turkish history courses and courses on Turkish institutions and "the everlasting nature of the Turkish State".

In every city the teachers are sent to, they were told they would be contacted by a MIT officer. They were asked to spy on other Turkish teachers and collect information on the children and their parents.

The teachers were told that the MIT officer "will visit you and ask you questions regularly" ... "some payments will also be made."

TRADE UNION NEWS

VISIT TO TURKEY

Between October 2-5 1987, John Mitchell, General Secretary of the Irish Distributive and Administrative Trade Union and Chair of the Irish Committee for Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey visited Istanbul.

The main purpose of the visit was to investigate the current trade union situation in Turkey and express solidarity with workers on strike.

Below is John Mitchell's report of his visit.

SHOP WORKERS' STRIKE

The huge strike in the Migros chain of supermarkets is now 2 months old. In 33 locations throughout Istanbul, 1,100 workers are on strike. Four main issues are involved:

Pay

The current pay is approximately 90 per month. According to independent sources, this amount is required for food alone for an average size family. Rent for a shanty is 45 and transportation costs another 45. So workers earn less than 50% of what is required to merely exist. Income is supplemented through a second "job", e.g. polishing shoes, selling tickets, waiting at tables. Because of economic pressure, prostitution is becoming more prevalent. Incidentally, inflation is 55%.

Working Hours

The strikers are seeking a reduction from 45 hours to 39.

Transferability

The strikers want an end to the practice where staff may be transferred to any branch in Istanbul, a huge city. This is frequently used to punish union activists.

Job Specifications

At present a staff member may be cleaning the floor one day, operating a check-out the next, packing shelves the next, etc. They require job specification for all.

Turkey is a semi-democratic country and the rights of unions are severely restricted, e.g. only two persons are allowed on a picket line and solidarity strikes are banned. It is also illegal for a union in Turkey to receive financial aid from abroad.

The strikers are members of TEZ-Koop-Is, an affiliate of Turk-Is and Fiet.

Financial assistance has been given by Fiet and Idatu. The union has only paid a total of 15 in strike pay since the dispute began. Letters of support should be sent to:

Aynur Karaaslan,
Tez-Koop-Is,
Ist. 3 Nolu Sube Baskanligi,
Mesih Pasa Mah.,
Ceylan Sok., Tosunlar Han,
Kat 5, No. 11/12,
Laleli - Istanbul,
Turkey.

Financial support may be sent to the above address but the bank draft should be made payable to:
Sakine Altintas and Niza Mettin Afacan,
a/c No. 741258 T.C. Ziraat Bankasi



TRANSPORT WORKERS' STRIKE

In this case 715 members of Tumlis are on strike in 104 workplaces throughout Turkey since 16 September. The union is affiliated to Turk-Is and organises 4,000 land-based transport workers - drivers, helpers, porters, etc.

The issues are lack of democratic rights, compulsory overtime (employers are forcing 20 hours overtime per week on exhausted workers), equality of pay between unionised and non-unionised workers (the latter are paid 2 1/2 times the former, who earn merely 60 per month).

Apart from the above, the working conditions are atrocious 20% of the unions members get T.B. After 10 years many workers are not fit to continue and they are replaced by younger workers. According to law, there should be an annual x-ray - most of those present at the meeting I attended had never been tested. When the present progressive leadership were elected last year, they found that their predecessors had left "and empty safe" - they even gave their head office away to another union. So the union had been unable to pay any strike pay and their plight is desperate. They are, however, very resolute people.

Letters of support and financial assistance in his own name should be sent to:

Sabri Topcu,
Kucuk Langa Cad. No. 49/5,
Aksaray,
Istanbul,
Turkey.

LEATHER WORKERS STRIKE

The strike by members of Deri-Is began on 24 June 1987 and now 3,500 workers are out. The issues include pay (at present even experienced workers are earning merely 38 per month) and restoration of democratic rights.

This is the longest strike in Turkey since the 1980 coup d'etat. Women make up 700 of the strikers. Some of the employers wish to settle but it is probable that the government is anxious to see the strike broken.

Letters of support should be sent to:

Deri-Is,
Kazlicesme Subesi,
Gokalp Mah./Sok. No 66,
Zeytinburnu/Istanbul,
Turkey.

Financial support to:
Muzur Peggulec and Ali Gundogu,
a/c No: 4817
Ziraat Subesi

PETROL-IS

On 5 October I met Tekin Akin and Huseyin Dogdu, two leaders of Petrol-Is. This is a major union with 75,000 members and has successfully fought a major strike involving 10,000 members. The leaders were confident that progressives would win the elections for leadership of Turk-Is at the next election.

If you contact any of the above, please send us copies. The CDDRT campaigns for democracy in Turkey. CDDRT, 9 Cavendish Row, Dublin 1.



STRIKE WAVE

1987 is seeing the greatest strike wave in Turkish history. Already 1.3 million workdays have been lost with 113 strikes in seven months.



Workers and sympathetic shoppers picket Migros stores.

STRIKES

In September strikes broke out at the State Stationary Office (164 workers) and the Kelici Oulum glass works strike by 605 workers entered its 5th month.

PROTEST

1,300 workers building the Second Bosphorus Bridge struck for 5 days from 27th August in protest at the sacking of 40 fellow workers. The action organised by Yol-Is (Construction Workers Union) was called off when bosses agreed to negotiate proper redundancy payments.

SACKED

On 6th September 40 telecom workers were sacked for being members of the independent union Otomobil-Is. Otomobil-Is says that since January over 200 of their members have been sacked for trade union activities.

TRIAL OF A TOILET!

The trial has opened of Petrol-Is (Petrol-chemical Workers' Union) Executive Committee. They are on trial for building a toilet for pickets during a recent strike!

Under Turkey's repressive labour code it is illegal for strikers to "set up a tent" or have more than two pickets at a factory gate. The state prosecutor is accusing the union of building the toilet with the "real intention of protecting pickets from the cold" and therefore contravening the law. As "proof" the prosecution indictment states that the pickets could have used the toilet in a nearby mosque if that was all they wanted!

Petrol-Is is pleading not guilty to this heinous crime. They maintain the structure was a genuine WC built for the use of female strikers and will call a local imam (priest) to prove the mosque was closed!



RAILWAY SCANDAL

Following the end of the railway workers' strike in August vicious reprisals are being taken against trade union activists.

Many are being compulsorily transferred to "the East" (Kurdistan) where railway lines are under almost constant armed attack and work conditions are poor.

FOR SERVICES RENDERED

One of the participants in the 1980 coup - now retired General Sunalp has been appointed a director of the joint Candian-Turkish Netas telecommunication equipment factory. There is now at least one General on the board of nearly every large holding company in Turkey.

DENIED PASSPORT

Celal Ozdogan, General Secretary of Otomobil-Is (Metal Workers Union) has been prevented from visiting Britain by the Turkish regime. The authorities have denied him a passport on the basis that his "participation in a DISK (the banned Revolutionary Confederation of Trade Unions) Congress (before 1980) is still under investigation..."

HEARING ON TURKEY

The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions took part in the hearing on the labour and trade union rights situation in Turkey organised by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, in Paris on 7 September. Also taking part were the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), the ICFTU-associated Public Services International, the World Confederation of Labour and the Turkish trade unions Turk-Is and DISK.

Continued on page 12

DIDAR SANSOY IS DEAD BUT SHE IS NOT FORGOTTEN



The hunger strikes of the political prisoners, which were staged to protest the inhuman conditions in the prisons of Turkey have enjoyed a wide ranging support from across the country. The families of the prisoners have supported them with hunger strikes in front of the prisons, sit-in actions and demonstrations.

On Tuesday, 1st September 1987, two hundred relatives of the political prisoners came to Ankara from Istanbul, Canakkale, Bursa and Eskisehir to submit a petition to the speaker of the National Assembly in order to protest the conditions of the prisons. At the outskirts of Ankara they met a police cordon. They were ordered not to proceed into the city. The families sat down on the highway. The police immediately attacked with batons and many people were beaten and injured. Many journalists who tried to capture the horrific scene were also beaten. Their cameras were smashed and films were confiscated.

After this incident small groups of prisoners' relatives managed to come to the city centre. There, together with the families from Ankara they tried to march to the Cankaya district, where the National Assembly and presidential palace are located. Here they were attacked by the police again. Many demonstrators were severely beaten. More than 60 people were detained. Didar Sensoy whose brother has been sentenced to death and is serving life, died in the hospital. Afterwards the police claimed that she died due to a heart attack.

When news reached the crowd they shouted at the gendarmes "you murderers you've killed her".

Didar Sansoy was a prominent activist both in the Human Rights Association and TAYAD (Association of Families of Political Prisoners). During various political trials which she attended as a visitor or relative, her refusal to be silent, earned her the hatred of the authorities.

POLITICAL CAMPAIGN'

News of her death caused a renewed wave of protest actions in the prisons. Despite police road blocks, thousands attended her funeral in Istanbul on the 4th September. Crowds marched through the streets wearing white headgear, red carnations and photos of Didar with the words "We will not forget you, the account will be paid". The mourners gave the clenched fist salute and sang revolutionary songs as she was buried.



Police beat relatives of political prisoners in front of parliament. Didar Sensoy dies.



Clenched fists at Didar Sensoy's funeral.

CONCESSION

Since the hunger strikes affecting over 2,000 prisoners began in May, the regime has been forced to grant some concessions.

One of these is to allow journalists to visit some prisons. Journalists, taking up this offer have been able to reveal some of the horrifying conditions in the prisons in spite of efforts by the authorities to conceal everything.

On 21st September journalists visiting Sanliurfa semi-open prison were told by prisoners of widespread torture and suicides in the past. In the women's section, prisoners said prison doctors ignored the Hippocratic oath and behaved like the wardens. The prisoners called for proper medical treatment and heating for the cells.



Defiant women political prisoners.

CRYSTAL CLEAN

When journalists visited Sanliurfa Prison on 23rd September they discovered that the prison was "crystal clean". The floors were still damp!

Even though they were not allowed to visit every prison official present on the visit did not go as planned. The prisoners began to shout slogans for a general strike. The gendarmes and prison guards were hastily bundled out.



LABYRINTH OF

When journalists visited Sanliurfa Prison despite threats from the authorities, they were able to get accounts of unspeakable conditions. When journalists asked to see the cells prison officials tried to dissuade them. Eventually they went through what journalists call a "maze" of passages and tunnels. Beneath Ward 7 they came underground with a small cell. An officer said: "look there". The journalists insisted. The passage "lined with iron bars and locks." After a brief search they managed to look behind a tiny cell measuring 6 pa

PRISONERS' ... TO CONTINUE



Prisoners expose conditions.

Istanbul's Bayrampasa they ironically reported clean ... in fact all the

surrounded by virtually high state officials, the ed. Women political windows and shout sty. They clashed with ls, while the journalists the prison.



TERROR

Mamak Prison in Ankara, f, prisoners shouted out torture and called on cells beneath Ward 7". see these mysterious army officials tried to they reluctantly lead the s called a "hallucinogenic stairways. Eventually to steps leading further Sublevel 4. An army othing down here" but her on they came to a ors fitted with security fle with guards they e of the doors. "It was a y 4 paces, stinking and

damp ... no lights whatever."

When the visitors demanded to know what the cells were for an officer said: "I cannot comment on these questions". Later the Ankara garrison commander who is responsible for Mamak said it was the responsibility of the Justice Ministry.

One of the prisoners told journalists that the guards had said that any prisoners complaining to the reporters would be sent back to the "bad cells".

FACT

Since the 1980 coup, the regime admits that 1,244 political prisoners have died and 74 have "committed suicide".



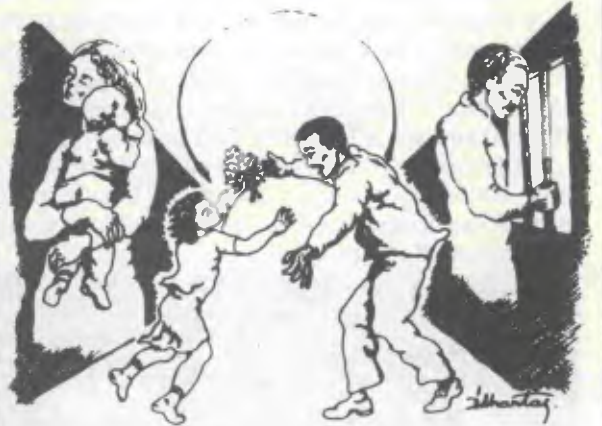
Prisoners wearing transit chains.



A prisoner in Metris shows a bloodstained shirt — the result of torture.

"THE SEVENTH FLOOR OF HELL"

A prison guard at Metris Military Prison, on trial for "indiscipline" told reporters he was being punished for not treating prisoners harshly enough. Asked to define Metris, he replied: "For us officers and guards it is the 2nd floor of hell. For the prisoners it is the 7th floor."



The Committee for Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey organised a postcard campaign to Turkey calling for support for the hunger-strikers' demands. Over 3,000 of the cards, which bear a design by a Turkish political prisoner were sent.

CAMPAIGN GOES ON

In addition to journalist's visit's, in many prisons the prisoners have won concessions on uniforms, living conditions and some local demands.

By the end of September the number on hunger-strike had fallen to some 2 dozen. The emphasis has now shifted to the campaign organised by TAYAD outside.

The heroism and unflinching defiance by thousands of prisoners from revolutionary organisations has shattered the regime's hopes of sweeping the political prisoner issue under the carpet.

The wall of silence has been breached. TAYAD which unites the families of revolutionary political prisoners is facing an onslaught by the regime as it steps up its campaign. Two trials have begun - mainly of women TAYAD activists. Both started at the end of September.

In Istanbul 19 relatives are on trial before the State Security Court for an "illegal" demonstration. At the hearings many are staying in their cells rather than wear prison uniforms and transfer chains. The prosecution is calling for three year's imprisonment.

In Izmir, 17 relatives are also on trial before a State Security Court on similar charges.

Support TAYAD and freedom for Turkey's Political Prisoners:

Send messages to:

TAYAD
Tiryaki Hasan Pasa Cd. No 60
Toprakhan Kat: 4
Aksaray/Istanbul
TURKEY

TORTURE, TRIALS AND PRISONS

PRISONERS' HEALTH

Revelations have been made that both political and ordinary prisoners are routinely kept chained up when in hospital for treatment.

One surgeon reported that even when operating on a political prisoner three gendarmes remained in the operating theatre and refused requests to leave.

There are few secure wards in hospitals so the authorities either chain prisoners to their beds or put them in legirons. Such are conditions, that despite fair treatment from civilian hospital staff a high proportion of prisoners die in hospital.

Besides treating the after effects of "excessive" torture, doctors report that a high number of prisoners are suffering from TB and are left to die in their cells.

In the prison service itself there are few adequate doctors; most who do work in prisons have been expelled from medical associations for malpractice or conniving at the covering-up of torture cases.



Hastaneler mahkûm hastaları eceline terk ediyor

NO PASSPORT FOR TARIK AKAN

Tarik Akan, principal actor of the Cannes prize-winning film "Yol" by Yilmaz Guney, was refused a passport to go to the Moscow Film Festival in July 1987. Police authorities said that he could not go abroad because the decision of the military tribunal on the trial of the Turkish Peace Association was not yet written. Mr Akan was one of the defendants of this trial, but was found not guilty. In spite of this acquittal, his right to travel abroad is not yet recognised by the police.

On the other hand, the public prosecutor has initiated a new inquiry into "Yol" for having in some scenes the word "Kurdistan".

AWARDS TO THE POET IN JAIL

Poet Nevzat Celik, still detained and on political trial, has been declared an "honorary member" by international PEN. Earlier, he had been awarded an honorary prize at the International Poetry Festival held in Rotterdam. In Turkey, two collections of Celik's poems, Safak Turkusu (*Ballad of Dawn*) and Muebbet Turkusu (*Ballad of a Life-prisoner*), written in prison, have been printed eight times and five times respectively since his imprisonment in 1981.

PETITION



The Human Rights Association in Istanbul has begun a petition campaign for freedom for political prisoners and against the death penalty.

On October 10th, British Journalist Gary Henson took the above photo in Istanbul of placards put up as part of the campaign.

FUNERAL TURNS INTO DEMONSTRATION



In October, Behice Boran, leader of the Workers Party of Turkey, an ex-MP who has been in exile for many years, died.

In an unprecedented move, the Turkish regime allowed her body to be returned to Turkey. She received a state funeral in Ankara. The following day her body was brought to Istanbul for actual burial. There, 40,000 people took part in the funeral procession in a display to the regime.

TERROR IN KURDISTAN

Issue No. 78 of *Turkey Newsletter* will carry an update on the situation in Kurdistan.

AN INDICTMENT

Amnesty International published a file on torture in Turkey as part of its September Newsletter. The file illustrates the continuing application of torture.

The file is available from Amnesty International, 1 Easton Street, London WC1

Below we print some extracts from the file.

Torture has become an issue for public discussion in Turkey. Almost four years after a civilian government came to power in November 1983, no effective measures have been taken to prevent torture.

The Turkish authorities have admitted that torture takes place, but have repeatedly claimed that it is used only in isolated incidents. Despite the promise that all complaints of torture are investigated and that those responsible for torture will be prosecuted. AI has not observed any fundamental changes in the systematic and widespread practice of torture.

Torture of political detainees was already a major concern for AI before the military coup of 12 September 1980. The number of allegations of torture at any time appears to be directly related to the number of people detained.

During an earlier period of military intervention, from 1970 to 1973, when several thousand people were detained. AI received hundreds of allegations of torture and believed torture to be widespread and systematic. Fewer allegations were received during the mid-1970s, when there were fewer political prisoners. After the introduction of martial law in December 1979, the number of cases of torture again began to grow. Following a research mission in May 1980 AI concluded that most people detained by the police and martial law authorities were tortured, and in some cases tortured to death.

After a military coup in September 1980 thousands of people were taken into custody by the security forces. At the

beginning of 1987 the number of people who had been taken into custody was estimated by the newly founded Human Rights Association in Turkey to be at least 240,000. The incidence of torture increased dramatically immediately after the coup. In subsequent years the number of torture allegations and reported deaths under torture gradually decreased, but only relatively. Continuing reports of torture during recent months point to the fact that the pattern has shown no significant change to the present day.

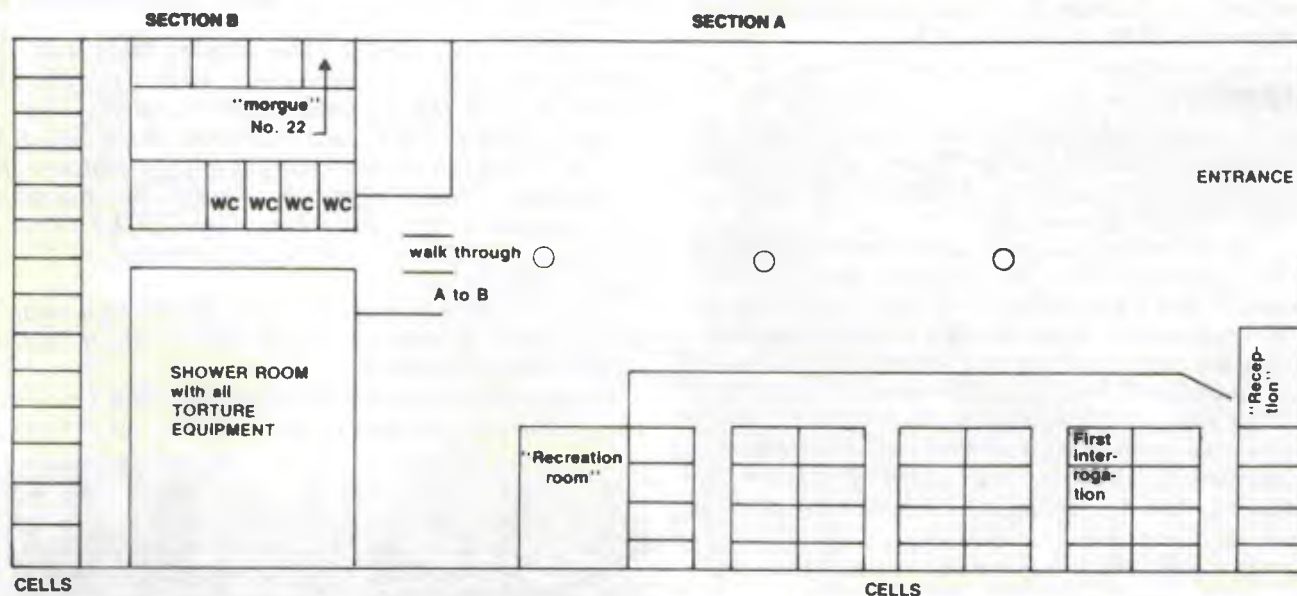
METHODS

The main purpose of torture in police custody appears to be extract information and confessions. Ill-treatment in prisons, often in the form of routine beatings, is intended mainly to maintain discipline. In both prisons and police stations, the intimidation and humiliation of prisoners is an additional motive.

For these purposes a whole variety of methods is used. Suspects are blindfolded and handcuffed immediately after detention. Even common criminal suspects are stripped naked during interrogation and left like that, often after being hosed with ice-cold water, or left on the concrete floors of cells in the harsh conditions of winter. Detainees are frequently kept hungry and thirsty, are prevented from sleeping for days and are forced to stand in tiring positions for long periods.

The method of torture most frequently applied is *bastinado* (*falaka*, beating on the soles of the feet). The only equipment necessary is a chair and some rope. Electric shock torture is applied using a hand generator. It is often combined with various sorts of hanging.

Various forms of sexual abuse, insults and threats, including mock executions, are among the most frequently applied of many other forms of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment in Turkey.



A torture centre in Ankara. This sketch by former detainees shows the State Research Laboratory within Ankara Police Headquarters. The detainees — students held between November 1986 and March 1987 — indicate clearly a room where torture equipment is housed and used. A former prisoner of conscience tortured there in 1981 has confirmed the accuracy of the sketch. The passage between Sections A and B is reported to be very low so people have to bend down to walk through. It can be closed off by an artificial wall camouflaged with fire extinguishers to avoid unwanted entry.

CDDRT NEWS

SOLIDARITY HUNGER STRIKE



As part of the campaign of support for the political prisoners on hunger strike members of the Union of Turkish Progressives in Britain (a CDDRT affiliate) staged a 36-hour solidarity hunger strike.

The fast was held in the Stoke Newington district of London which has a large Turkish community. The 100 people taking part in the action attracted support from many passers by.

TUC RECEPTION

At this year's British Trades Union Congress on 10th September, the Union of Turkish Workers organised a reception for delegates.

The CDDRT participated in this event which attracted interested trade unionists and included a visit from TUC General Secretary Norman Willis who wished the event and the struggle of Turkish trade unionists well.

SOLIDARITY

Ron Todd, General Secretary of Britain's largest trade union - The Transport & General Workers' Union, and Chair of the TUC's International Committee, in his speech to Congress on the TUC's international work said ..."

"Some of the state repression has eased in Turkey. But the restrictions on unions are no less oppressive than they were. Yet we have seen great advances. We had the privilege of being host to Abdullah Basturk of DISK and were inspired by his undaunted courage after years in prison. The General Secretary and myself witnessed at first hand the courage of strikers in a major industrial dispute. The NETAS strike was won. Even more significant were the clear indications of a desire to put aside old trade union rivalries and to make common cause against state oppression. Congress will want to salute that emerging unity and the struggle for trade union freedom in Turkey. We will give it all the support we can."

JOINT ACTION

A week-long fast in front of the Turkish Embassy in London took place between 6th and 12th September.

In an unprecedented show of unity, every progressive Turkish organisation in London took part in the action. The fast was in solidarity with the hunger strikes in Turkey.

The fast ended with a demonstration on 12th September.



From 'Newsline'

LABOUR PARTY



The CDDRT held its most successful fringe meeting for some time at the British Labour Party's annual conference in Brighton.

On 30th September a large audience of Labour Party delegates and visitors heard an update of the situation in Turkey.

The event was chaired by Stan Newens MEP, who has supported the struggle for democracy and human rights for Turkish, Kurdish and Armenian people over many years.

Carole Tongue MEP, gave a detailed and informative account of Turkey's application to join the EEC and the fight to promote human rights in Turkey by European parliamentarians. This was followed by CDDRT General Secretary, Max Hiron, who dealt particularly with the hunger strikes in Turkey.

Jeremy Corbyn, MP, chair of the CDDRT then made a strong speech - particularly dealing with the fate of Turkish migrant workers in Britain.

Many questions followed and the meeting ended on a firm note of solidarity with the struggle for democracy in Turkey.



APPEAL

The Committee for Defence of Democratic Rights has been organising solidarity with the democratic struggle in Turkey for 9 years.

Staging events, sending delegations to Turkey, assisting visits from Turkey, producing publications and other materials. All this work has been kept-up by CDDRT relying purely on affiliation fees, Newsletter sales and donations - largely from the London Turkish community.

All the work of CDDRT is done by a small band of unpaid volunteers.

Today in order to expand our existing work and send an important delegation to visit political prisoners in Turkey we need money.

We therefore appeal to all our friends and affiliates to either give a donation to CDDRT or get an organisation or individual to affiliate to CDDRT.

All donations large or small will be welcomed.

Yours in solidarity

John Bloom

Honorary Treasurer

All donations should be addressed to "1987 APPEAL", CDDRT, 84 Balls Pond Road, London N1 4AJ.

Cheques/POs should be made payable to CDDRT.

I/We wish to donate to the CDDRT's "1987 APPEAL".

Please find enclosed cheque or PO for

Name

Address



NEW ADDRESS

All readers, please note the new CDDRT address and phone number.

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 of 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 year. 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-opt.

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 84 Balls Pond Road, London N1 4AJ
- FRANCE 7 Rue Leclerc, 75014 Paris
- IRELAND 9 Cavendish Row, Dublin 1
- USA Box 90, 924 W Belmont Ave., Chicago, ILL 60657
- WEST GERMANY c/o Internationaler Jugendverein, Germaniastr. 89 6000 Frankfurt am Main 60

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

*Delete as applicable. Includes subscription to **TURKEY NEWSLETTER**

Return to the CDDRT, 84 Balls Pond Road, London N1 4AJ, Tel: 01-254 0387.

CYPRUS

On the 10th July CDDRT members joined the picket of the Turkish Embassy in London to protest at the continued occupation of North Cyprus.

On the following Sunday, the CDDRT and many Turkish democrats demonstrated their support for the people of Cyprus by joining the big march through central London organised by the Cyprus Coordinating Committee.

NEW OFFICES

The Committee for Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey and *Turkey Newsletter* are moving to bigger offices at 84 Balls Pond Road, London N1 4AJ, Tel: 01-254 0387.

All correspondence should be sent to the new address as of 10th September 1987.

The office is open between 9am and 6pm weekdays, visitors are welcome. In addition, there are open meetings which all interested can attend on the 3rd Monday of every month at 7.30pm.

TRADE UNION NEWS

DERI-IS - THE BATTLE GOES ON

The epic strike by Istanbul leather workers is continuing.

In the latest big development, thousands staged a big rally of support for the leather workers. Artists performed for the crowd and other workers and trade unions pledged support for the Deri-Is (Leather Workers' Union) workers.

At the end of the rally on 21st September, over 2,000 workers broke away and staged an "illegal" march through the streets of Istanbul. The marchers shouted slogans calling for freedom for all trade unions, freedom for political prisoners and sang the banned May Day March. At the end, the crowd took a revolutionary oath to fight until total victory.

Right wing commentators in papers such as *Tercuman* expressed alarm at this 'manifestation' especially the fact that these "demonstrators were not anarchists or communists ...

these were ordinary Turk-Is (Turkish Trade Union Confederation) workers."

Meanwhile ever greater disarray is appearing among the leather bosses. In a desperate effort to shore-up the bosses' resistance to the workers' demands, TISK (Turkish Employers Union) gave 75 million TL to leather bosses. Despite this, in mid-September the bosses were forced to declare their lockout at an end and offered concessions to some workers. However, the workers rejected attempts to divide them and are continuing with the strike.

Workers throughout Istanbul are giving a percentage of their wages to the Deri-Is strikers. In Mayday gecekondu (shanty town) workers give one day's wages in every month to the strike. The people of the gecekondu have supported every strike in Istanbul with money and food since the Netas strike at the end of 1986.

Support for Deri-Is is still arriving from abroad. On 9th September the Northern Ireland Public Service Alliance sent £150 and a message of support to the workers.



**TURKEY
NEWSLETTER**



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