

TURKEY NEWSLETTER



Publication of the Committee for Defence
of Democratic Rights in Turkey

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REGIME ANSWERS STUDENT DEMANDS



**POLITICAL
PRISONERS'
HUNGER
STRIKES**



PRESS FREEDOM

ONSLAUGHT



Officials take a few more thousand confiscated publications to the basement of the Security Court.

The surviving legal left press in Turkey and also mainline newspapers are facing a major attack from the regime. This is illustrated by the summary below of attacks on the press in just three months. So much printed material has been confiscated that on 21st August police units brought 23,035 different confiscated periodicals weighing over four tons to the basement of the Istanbul State Security Court. Most journals confiscated -many literally removed from the newstands after publication by police detachments -are prosecuted for the political content of articles. If the publications are found "guilty" the print runs are sent to the Izmit paper mills to be pulped. Most of the information below comes from issues 141-143 of the Belgian-based *Info-Turk* bulletin.

2nd June: Issue No.10 of the monthly *Yeni Demokrasi* confiscated on the orders of the Istanbul State Security Court

4th June: A new book -*After Che* published by Kiye Publishing House confiscated on the orders of the Istanbul State Security Court. On the same day, the Governor of Gaziantep province bans the distribution and sale of folk singer Ahmet Kaya's cassette entitled *Tired Democrat*.

7th June: Police raid the offices of *Yarin* and detain 8 of the staff.

9th June: The magazines *Yeni Cozum* and *Emegin Bayragi* are confiscated by order of the Istanbul State Security Court for "communist propaganda".

12th June: Writer Muzaffer Erdost is put on trial in Ankara. He is on trial for a sociological study he published 25 years ago about a border town called Semdinli. He is accused of justifying smuggling in the region in this work!

14th June: The June issue of *Yeni Acilim* confiscated on the orders of Istanbul State Security Court.

24th June: Issue No.4 of *Isciler ve Toplum* confiscated in Istanbul for containing an article on the 1980 workers' uprising at Paris.

25th June: *Yeni Demokrasi* confiscated on the grounds that articles in it violate several articles of the Penal Code.

27th June: Film-maker Ali Ozgen Turk is on trial for his film *Water Too May Burn*. He faces up to 6 years in jail for "having insulted the State Security Services". On the same day, journalist Aslan Alp is detained in Ankara in connection with a pamphlet he has written.

1st July: A correspondent for *Cozum*, Caffer Akel is detained in Malatya charged with belonging to "an illegal organisation".

13th July: The Responsible Editor, Sefik Calik of *Alinteri* indicted for publishing torture allegations made at the TBKP trial.

13th July: Faut Musaoglu and Bulent Ongan two journalists from *Vardiya* sentenced to 7 years and 3 months 15 days respectively for "communist propaganda".

14th July: Poet Metin Demirtas is arrested in Antalya and his personal books confiscated.

19th July: An issue of *Toplumsal Dirilis* is confiscated by order of Istanbul State Security Court.

23rd July: Issue No.11 of *Yeni Oncu* confiscated by Istanbul State Security Court on the grounds of "separatism".

7th August: Istanbul public prosecutor indicts two journalists from the daily *Milliyet* for libelling the Prime Minister in articles. Each could face one year in jail.

12th August: The book *Socialism and Parliamentary Democracy* is confiscated on the order of the State Security Court for containing "communist propaganda".

12th August: Journalist Orhan Calislar on release from prison after serving an 8-year jail sentence for his writings is re-arrested on the grounds that he is still

on the "wanted persons" list.

12th August: The print run for the August issue of *Emek Dunyasi* is confiscated on the orders of the State Security Court. Out of 12 issues so far of this review, 7 have been confiscated for articles on the working class or Kurdistan.

13th August: On the orders of Istanbul State Security Court the 12th issue of *Yeni Demokrasi* is confiscated making it the 6th issue out of 12 to be seized.

19th August: Cemal Ozcelik, responsible editor of the monthly *Medya Gunesi*, is sentenced to 3 years and 6 months imprisonment for articles "weakening national sentiments". In protest, the magazine's editorial staff begin a hunger strike on 29th August.

28th August: The publisher of the monthly *Devrimci Derlenis*, Ahmet Kale and the Istanbul correspondent of *Gun*, Taner Randa are taken into custody by Ankara political police.

30th August: Dogu Perincek, Editor in Chief of the weekly newsmagazine *2000e Dogru* is detained for a few hours in connection with an article on the assassination attempt against Prime Minister Ozal.

31st August: The June issue of the monthly *Cagdas Yol* is confiscated by order of the State Security Court.

28th October: The Publisher of *2000'e Dogru* Fatma Yazici is sentenced to 7 years and 6 months jail for an article in the magazine on the "ethnic integration of Kurds".

28th October: Two journalists from *Cumhuriyet* who were sentenced to 7 months imprisonment for articles about the Prime Minister have their sentences commuted to a 500,000TL fine each.

IPI CONDEMNS PERSECUTION

On September 1st, the International Press Institute protested to Ozal at actions by the regime against publishers of 25 periodicals in Istanbul alone.

The IPI message stated: "We do not believe that these publishers expressing critical viewpoints should be harassed and persecuted"...

"We have been informed that they are often subject to closures, police raids and investigations and their journalists are constantly taken into custody by the police". The message called these actions "completely counter" to human rights and called on Ozal personally to ensure greater freedom of expression and the free flow of information in Turkey.

REFERENDUM DEFEAT FOR THE REGIME

On September 25th, voters went to the polls in Turkey to decide whether to bring local government elections scheduled for next March forward to this November (see *TN* No.83).

It was an attempt by the Ozal government to get these elections out of the way before the decline in peoples' standards of living as a result of the regime's economic policies render them unelectable.

In a desperate bid to avert disaster Ozal threatened to resign if the vote went too badly against him. The opposition parties were not slow to turn the referendum into a vote of confidence.

Ozal decisively lost the vote despite the traditional mixture of bribery (a sudden flurry of government projects bringing jobs to marginal areas etc.) and threats. Only 35% voted yes. Ozal immediately declared that he had 'won' the vote of confidence because he had received about the same percentage vote as, through the 'curious' electoral system gave him an overwhelming parliamentary majority last year.

However, it is clear that Ozal lost and his party are not looking forward to fighting next year's municipal elections against a background of inflation - somewhere around 90% - and an austerity programme.

A measure of the permanent crisis of Turkish society is the fact that no election in Turkey has ever been conducted under the same rules as its predecessor.



The banners of women and youth at a "No" rally during the referendum political parties are banned from organising women or youth sections.

Some people are doing alright in Ozal's Turkey. Ismail Ozdaglar, minister with responsibility for customs and excise until dismissed for corruption unveils his new 85 billion TL mansion.



Another clever gent, Banker Kastelli, a Turkish entrepreneur who served a prison term for his fondness for running away with investors money. He is now back in business in Istanbul's booming housing market. A model "new man" of Ozal's Turkey. He has a toilet next to his safe in his office so that he need not interrupt his money making for nature's calls.



ATTACK ON PRESS FREEDOM

In August at the Ankara State Security Court the trial began of journalists connected with the monthly magazine *Toplumsal Kurtulus* (Social Liberation).

The persecution of these journalists began on 9th June, when the magazine's Editor-in-Chief, Orhan Gokdemir, was arrested in Isparta where he was serving as a conscript in the army. He was arrested in connection with an article he had published in November 1987. He was kept in a damp cell and "persuaded" to testify against the magazine's other editors.

Another *Toplumsal Kurtulus* writer and legal adviser, Husnu Ondul was called to the Ankara State Security Court on 13th June and taken from there to the notorious DAL torture centre.

On the same day, the prosecutor of the State Security Court ordered the detention of the publisher of *Toplumsal Kurtulus*, Mrs Bilgesu Erenus and lead writer Prof. Yalcin Kucuk.

All the detainees were interrogated until 20th June. The interrogators trained bright projectors onto their faces so they could not identify their questioners.

The interrogators accused them of voicing the views of the PKK (Workers' Party of Kurdistan) and of people such as Ismail Besikci a writer of a major academic work on Kurdistan.

The authorities rounded off the questioning with ordering the confiscation of the 12th issue of *Toplumsal Kurtulus* (which had been on the stands for 20 days) and indicted the five detainees with making "communist and separatist propaganda".

At their trial before the State Security Court the prosecutor is demanding prison sentences of between 45 and 15 years imprisonment for the defendants.

P.E.N. RE-ESTABLISHED

On 31st August it was reported that a large group of Turkish writers met at the headquarters of the Journalists' Union in Istanbul to re-establish the Turkish branch of the international writers' organisation PEN.

At the meeting, the former leadership of the Turkish PEN Club came in for severe criticism for their decision to voluntarily liquidate the organisation following the 1980 military coup.

The writers elected a committee of 18 charged with the task of re-establishing the club.

NEWS IN BRIEF

EVREN GETS A STORMY RECEPTION IN GERMANY



Evren in West Germany passes a symbol which anyone caught painting in Turkey would go to prison.

Clashes, firebombs and eggs greeted Evren on his visit to West Germany in October.

After his visit to Britain, the German visit is seen as an important step on the road to respectability of Evren, father of the 1980 coup and all the resulting violations of human rights.

In Bonn Evren discussed trade, military matters and the "problem" of the 1.5 million Turkish workers in W Germany. He made statements obviously aimed at crawling into the good graces of the EEC by hinting that the death penalty in Turkey could be abolished and a communist party of a "European type" permitted.

However Evren's visit, despite draconian measures by the West German police saw big demonstrations by the many political exiles in the country against him.

The visit will undoubtedly strengthen ties between the Turkish regime and its biggest foreign trading partner- West Germany.



Demonstrations greet Evren's visit to West Germany.

HOME GOAL



During a recent match by one of Turkey's leading football teams Galatasaray in Switzerland Turkish and Kurdish exiles cut their way through the perimeter fence and unfurled banners protesting at the Turkish regime before being overpowered by the police.

NATO BOSS VISITS

The new Secretary-General of NATO Worner visited Turkey in early October. Worner made reassuring noises about the alliance's support for their non-democratic buddies in Turkey including help in updating the country's conventional capability.

NO ARMS REDUCTIONS

Turkey has made it clear that it does not want its massive armed forces in East and South East Anatolia to be included in East-West conventional arms reductions talks in Vienna. The Turkish government maintains that though its armed forces are part of NATO's strength, because it has neighbours like Iraq and Iran it needs massive conventional forces. No word is said of the regime's other need for military might - to suppress the struggle of the Kurdish people in the South-East for freedom.

LAW

A campaign has begun to draw attention to the situation of teachers, academics and civil servants sacked in the martial law period through Law 1402. This law gave Military Martial Law Commanders, in the period after the 1980 coup, power to dismiss public and educational workers suspected of being 'subversive' at will. It is admitted that 9,400 people were sacked under this law. However another 25,000 academics, civil servants and municipal workers were forced to resign to avoid the sack which would destroy their chances of further employment.



Gendarme's rifle butt prevents 4 year old Hatice running to say farewell to her father who had just been sentenced to death

SCHOOL YEAR

The growing impoverishment of the population of Turkey was shown by medical tests at the start of the new school year. Out of 105,000 children tested 73,000 had TB, bronchitis or chronic tooth decay.

CHILDREN FOR SALE

"Turkey is in the vanguard of rights for children" -Sargin Abraham, UNICEF Representative.



Hanife has brought 8 children into the world however her husband is unable to work owing to an industrial accident. Unable to feed their family they were forced to sell their twin daughters to a rich childless couple. Now the parents have advertised in the papers that two more children are for sale at 500,000TL each (about L200 each).

PROTESTS GREET A NEW YEAR

The opening of the new academic year in Turkey was marked by protests by students against the reactionary education system and their lack of rights.

Speaking at the opening at Istanbul University Prime Minister Ozal admitted that the oppressive YOK (Higher Education Council) was of "debatable origin" (it was established by the military junta) but claimed it could be radically changed. 'President' Evren speaking to students at Erciyas University warned students not to be "influenced by illegal groups".

The authorities, who are trying to suppress free students unions, chose a former "Miss Turkey" as the students' spokesperson. After grovelling praise of the regime she caused outrage among her classmates by failing to mention any of the problems facing students. Unable to get their views heard, students at Istanbul University organised a successful alternative opening on October 6th. The same happened at Yildiz University. Slogans were shouted against YOK and the police. At Yildiz students drowned the Minister of Labour's speech with slow hand clapping and then walked-out to do their own opening.

ATTACK ON YOUTH

The regime's real attitude to youth was made brutally clear on October 25th at the opening of the "Youth Council". This council has been set-up by the Ministry of Youth and Education in an attempt to create a state-controlled forum for youth which would particularly deflect the campaign for a nation-wide student association. The Council is composed of 500 people 400 professors, government appointees etc., and 100 actual young people. Of these, only 6 represent student associations.

As the Minister for Education Guzel began the council meeting the youth in the audience started to shout slogans. Finally he called on the students to send a representative to the podium to speak. A girl then rose and from her seat read out a pre-agreed statement of all the youth present outlining their grievances. While still reading it she was interrupted by one of the state-appointed council members whereupon all students left the hall.

Outside riot police were waiting for the students. Immediately they emerged, the "guardians of law and order" set about them with batons and kicked and



Students protest at the policies of YOK (Higher Education Council).

dragged female students along the ground by their hair. They also laid into journalists, smashing cameras and beating them too.

Meanwhile, inside, the council proceeded on its sedate way electing commissions etc. This ended when a battered journalist broke into the hall shouting "the police have smashed my camera and are beating students while you sit here". The Minister sent the Governor of Ankara out to stop the

police but they took no notice. 19 students were taken blindfolded to the notorious DAL torture centre where they were beaten for three hours. But one student said: "We will not be silent, we shouted slogans despite the beatings. We want ... to participate in university governing bodies. Education must be for the people not for the Holdings and Trusts".

All the detained were later released.

The Minister, while admitting police brutality condemned the students for "a pre-planned protest action".

The events of October 26th have utterly exposed the regime's policy on youth and destroyed its latest attempt to prevent youth fighting for the right to freely organise and for a democratic education system.

CANTEEN PROTESTS

Students at Istanbul Technical University blocked the entrances to campus canteens in protest at food price rises. They say they will continue their boycott until canteen prices come down.

Students shouted slogans which also called for an end to the presence of units of the political police on the campus.



Prime Minister Ozal said "we love the youth". Tezen Karacan a female student at Gazi University's engineering faculty found out what this meant at the Youth Council's meeting. As she left the hall police grabbed her by the hair. When she resisted four police dragged and kicked her along the ground to a police van where the police continued to beat her and other students.



TRADE UNION NEWS



Workers demonstrate in support of Nurey Kaya.

NUREY'S HONOUR IS OUR HONOUR!

In an event which reminds one of the brutal behaviour of 19th century millowners, Nurey Kaya a worker at the Sumerbank factory was sacked for "attacking" the factory's chief accountant who had tried to sexually molest her.

On the 14th October Nurey was called to the company office where the chief accountant tried to sexually harass her. She defended herself and managed to escape. Within hours the company sacked her for "disrespect to management".

The next day Nuray began a protest hunger strike at the factory gates. At midday, the 1700 workers both male and female walked out of the factory in support of her stand. The workers shouted the slogan "Nurey's honour is our honour".

MUNICIPAL WORKERS

During a press conference, Hasan Soysal, Treasurer of the municipal workers union. Belediye-Is stated that 30,000 municipal workers in 38 local authorities "had not been paid for months".

CURRENT STRIKES

Union	Workplace	No. of workers	Beginning date	
Türk-İş	T Maden-İş	Türk Maden	875	1.8.1988
Türk-İş	Patrol-İş	Doğu Galvaniz	100	17.9.1987
Türk-İş	Ağaç-İş	Elsan	60	1.8.1988
Türk-İş	Çimento-İş	Denizli Cam San	736	13.9.1988
Türk-İş	Başın-İş	Darphane	389	23.9.1988
Türk-İş	Setilcon-İş	Seka	10.200	6.9.1988
Türk-İş	Setilcon-İş	Motuf Duvar Kağıt	60	30.10.1987
Türk-İş	Setilcon-İş	Adana Kağıt Tor	106	30.9.1988
Türk-İş	Türk Metal	Civas Civas	66	1.9.1988
Türk-İş	Türk Metal	Ziraat Ait İşlet	24	2.10.1988
Hak-İş	Ödemiş-İş	Türk Oto End	520	15.8.1988
Hak-İş	Öztaş-İş	Sedir Mobilya	60	18.7.1988
Independent	Otomobil-İş	Sace Elektrik	00	9.11.1987
"	"	Hurma Elektronik	25	4.7.1988
"	Laupetkim-İş	Egenil	26	26.4.1988
"	"	Egeplast	263	29.4.1988
Türk-İş	Çimento-İş	Şayrakçı Mermer	270	26.9.1988

Strikes underway on 21st October. (From Dateline)



Workers at the Sabancı Olmuk-Sa factory begin to grow beards in protest at the fact that months' long collective bargaining has not ended.

A VISITORS' VIEW

In front of the palace stands a huge courtyard. Typical Istanbul - Byzantine church and museums on one side, armed gendarme station the other. And in the middle, parking space for all the tourist buses. The crowds stream by in front, with their knapsacks or their robes, but against the back wall there is something else going on.

Grev. Strike. Basin-Is. Printers' Union. A picket line, an unmistakable picket line. The temperature's in the 90's; the tea comes in glasses not from a Thermos, and it's served on a plank table under trees not into a plastic cup between mittened hands. But the camaraderie's the same. So's the indifference of the passing crowds (ever tried leafletting Oxford Street?)

This branch of the printer's union must be the most highly skilled in the country, they engrave the bank-notes and the stamps. Their pay is 1000,000TL a month - about L40. (Rent in a working-class district of Istanbul averages 200,000TL a month, they explain to me).

These people have been on strike since July. There are 23 men and 10 women. "Kadin nerede?" I ask in my pidgin Turkish, "Where are the women?"

"Ev", comes the answer. "At home". Topkapi Palace exactly covers the site of old Byzantium and it's still the size of a fair small town. Once it held a population of thousands. Soldiers and judges. Cooks, goldsmiths and calligraphers. Women, eunuchs and princes imprisoned in (and occasionally breaking out from) the Golden Cage of the harem.

Now the palace population looks like reaching the thousands again - but its a daytime population only: tour guides with walkie-talkies, Aryans with shorts, Gulf visitors with chadors festooned in gold. You see very few Turkish families. At 4,000 Lira the entry price is more than most can afford.

Are the women trained as engravers? No, they work in the office. But they're standing together for an 80% rise all round. The employer - the government. since this workplace is like the Royal Mint - has made an offer of 50%. With inflation cautiously assessed at 65%, that's no deal.

The indifference of these particular passers-by is deceiving. In this quiet corner under the trees I'm seeing the tip of a huge iceberg. There are 23,000 people on strike in Turkey at this moment. Many of them haplessly

employed by municipal councils which have simply stopped paying them for months, and expected work to carry on as usual. They seem to have another think coming.

I signed the visitors' book with messages of good luck, passed on the names of my Turkish journalist contacts and went. However many times I see Topkapi again, it won't ever look the same after this.

Jane Schwartz

FOOTNOTE: At the time of writing the mint workers were still on strike. In an interview with ISHA Bulletin workers appealed for messages of support and financial donations. The account to send donations is:

ACCOUNT NO.138422 9IN THE NAME OF CAHIT UZGUN AND HASAN ORTATEPE)
IS BANKASI
CAGALOGLU BRANCH
CAGALOGLU/ISTANBUL
TURKEY

We would ask all sending donations to inform the CDDRT at 84 Balls Pond Rd, London N1, so that we can check that the workers have received the donations.

SEKA STRIKE CONTINUES



Over 10,000 SEKA papermill workers strike.

On September 6th, 10,200 paper mill workers began the first all-out paper strike in 52 years.

Turkey's domestic paper industry is in the hands of the state-owned SEKA corporation. The control of paper supplies, particularly newsprint, is a vital political weapon in the hands of the government so very little paper is imported.

Seluloz-Is, the Turk-Is affiliated paper workers' union called the strike after the state rejected wage demands of 260% to bring SEKA workers level with other industrial sector workers and instead offered an insulting 50%.

Most Turkish newspapers have little over a month's stock of paper. In a desperate attempt to sabotage the strike, the government has allowed the import of reduced-price foreign paper. Despite this, newspapers are being forced to cut back on the number of pages.

The SEKA strikers are receiving solidarity from other workers despite laws designed to outlaw this.

ARRESTS

200 workers belonging to the independent metal workers' union, Otomobil-Is were arrested for wearing brown hats with the slogan "No to MESS" (the metal industry employers organisation). Brown was also the colour of the "No" ballot in the recent referendum.



Strikers with baby in an official picket's jacket at the Adana paper factory. The workers are members of Seluloz-Is.

AN HISTORIC STEP

On September 4th a meeting took place in Istanbul which received little attention outside of workers' circles in Turkey, but which we feel may well mark the beginning of a new and historic stage in the struggle for democracy in Turkey.

In recent months a new movement began spontaneously in several Istanbul

factories and has begun to spread from factory to factory embracing workers, irrespective of trade union and other affiliations, known by several names but increasingly as "The Workers' Commissions", the movement aims to bring workers into political action against the regime and for their rights.

One reason for the development of the commissions has been widespread discontent with the decision of Turk-Is (Turkish Trade Union Confederation) to postpone their Action Programme for trade union freedom and general pay increases including a possible general strike. As a result workers are searching for alternative ways of continuing the struggle.

Another reason is the growing desire of workers to confront the regime openly, not just on the question of trade union rights, but on the whole issue of democracy.

A central body has emerged in the Commissions known first as the "Trade Union Opposition" and at the moment as "Revolutionary Trade Union Opposition".

At the September 4th meeting a lively debate took place on the way forward for the new movement. From this, two important trends emerged: On the one side those who see the commissions as primarily a way of organising opposition to the present leadership of Turk-Is and many unions, and whose other aim should be to "force" Turk-Is to lead a head-on attack on the regime. On the other side are those who argue that the commissions should not set themselves up as substitute trade unions which would lead to splits in the trade union movement at the very time when unity is essential. This group argue that the primary task of the Workers' Commissions should be as a political force leading workers into the political battle for democracy and that the factory and district based commissions can ultimately act as organs of workers' self-government - tasks which trade unions in Turkey cannot and should not be expected to perform, especially given the legal situation and their structures.

In the view of the CDDRT Executive only time will tell whether the Workers' Commissions will be able to develop into the force which can finally end anti-democratic regimes in Turkey and build a new society. But the development of such a body by "ordinary" working men and women in Turkey in present conditions shows that a truly earth-shaking struggle for democracy is approaching in Turkey.

KURDISTAN

KURDISH REFUGEES - OUT OF THE FRYING PAN INTO THE FIRE



Following the cease fire between the regimes of Iran and Iraq both sides turned their attention to trying to exterminate their internal oppositions. In Iran's case, thousands of political prisoners, in Iraq's case, the Kurdish people. The Iraqi regime launched its genocidal campaign of using massive bombardments and chemical weapons to crush the liberated zones in North Iraq.

Over 100,000 Kurdish people were forced to flee across the border into Turkey to escape genocide. This put the Turkish regime in a quandary. On the one hand the regime engaged in battle with Kurdish guerillas in its part of Kurdistan and is totally opposed to any sort of independence or even autonomy for the Kurdish people, is not too keen on hosting many thousands of Kurds including Pesmergas (guerillas) from Iraq. On the other hand, the regime, in the full glare of international publicity, can improve its tainted image and possibly grab more aid by appearing to adopt a humanitarian attitude to the refugees. This dilemma has been reflected in a dual policy towards the refugees.



Yuksekovia refugee camp surrounded by barbed wire is becoming more sinister.

The refugees have been herded into several large refugee camps. These are located in the remote and (in Winter) bitterly cold areas. There is very little locally grown food. In addition, not wishing to damage relations with Iraq - a useful trade partner - the Turkish regime has gone to great lengths to cover-up evidence that the refugees were subjected to attack by chemical weapons. International teams wishing to verify these claims have been obstructed or denied access to the refugees all together. When even the US government confirmed that many had been the victims of chemical warfare, the Turkish regime continued to deny it. Turkish medical staff were pressured to remain silent, Kurds injured by chemical weapons were scattered in different hospitals or in some cases denied medical aid.

Unrest in the camps has been caused by the racist attitudes of the Turkish regime including the sending of 48 teachers to the camps to teach the refugees Turkish much to their resentment as the state still does not recognise the existence of the Kurdish language. This attitude can lead to funny situations as when the Turkish Daily



The Turkish regime's attitude to criticism of Iraq. Police beat demonstrators outside the Iraqi consulate.

Milliyet sent a journalist to the camps to speak to "some of our people who don't speak Turkish". The journalist remarked that the clothes of the pesmergas from Iraq were the same as the clothes worn by "our people" in "Eastern Turkey". The journalists were told by officials not to use the words "camp" or "refugee camp", but should instead write "Temporary Putting-Up Centre". A journalist sarcastically remarked that as there was a paper strike on and paper was in short supply she would continue to use the word "camp".

Reports are growing that conditions in the camps are deteriorating. Many women and children have already died in epidemics. Food is poor and scanty as is heating. There have been clashes with Turkish troops who have broken-up protests and are carrying out routine harassment. There is also a systematic campaign of pressure aimed at forcing refugees to return to Iraq or

move on to Iran. No one knows the fate of those bundled into the hands of the other hand, the Iranian regime, has tried to close off refugees from Turkey.

Visitors visiting camps create an "atmosphere of fear" surrounding the camps. Curfews and movements imposed by the army at Silopi and Kiziltepe. Refusing to forbid local people. This is a hard blow to the population, by sharing with their Kurdish brothers. They have helped supply materials.

Refugees are reported from the Turkish regime. Their fate will be once the attention of the media is diverted to another area.

ZANA SENTENCED

Former Mayor of Diyarbakir sentenced by a military court for defending the rights of Kurds in addition to a 15 year sentence as a member of an illegal organization.

Zana has been in jail since 1981. He has been severely tortured and his conscience. He has demanded the right to a fair trial.

The CDDRT calls for Zana to be sent to:

Prime Minister Turkey
Basbakanlik
Ankara
Turkey

A QUESTIONABLE



A nephew of SHP MP A. K. Kiziltepe and put on display by guerrilla troops.

KURDISTAN - DISCUSSION

nation is available on
back across the border
Iraqi regime. On the
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orders to Iraqi Kurdish

in Hakkari report an
The authorities are
with barbed wire.
controls have been
camps at Yuksekova,
tions have been passed
contact the refugees.
the local Kurdish
r own scanty supplies
and sisters from Iraq
government's meagre

increasing pressures
nd fear of what their
on of the international
r "9 day wonder".

air has been sentenced
years in prison for
Kurdish people. This is
sentence for being a
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and is a prisoner of
been punished for
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atters of protest to be
Ozal:

DEATH



t Turk, killed by Turkish
as a suspected ARGK

Turkey Newsletter to encourage more contributions from readers has decided to institute a discussion column from time to time where guest writers can express their own views (not necessarily those of the CDDRT) on the situation in Turkey. Letters in response to articles will be welcome.

A FOUR-YEAR STRUGGLE

If we look at the four years since the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) relaunched the armed struggle in N.W. Kurdistan (E. Turkey) we will see that it has achieved great advances, attacking the Turkish army on a wide front and scoring some important victories. More important than its military successes the PKK has succeeded in capturing the imagination of the Kurdish people in Turkish Kurdistan.

Previously the people had supported the KDP and other organisations but had always been disappointed when these groups didn't actively struggle against the Turkish state. The PKK has openly put forward its aims: the liberation of Kurdistan from Turkish, Iraqi, Iranian and Syrian yoke. An independent Kurdistan, no vague calls for "autonomy" or "cultural freedom". It is this very determination proved by its armed resistance, which has endeared the PKK to the Kurdish people, for so long under the boot of the Turkish state, humiliated, degraded and treated as second class citizens.

The Kurdish people have expressed their support for the present struggle by taking solidarity action with prisoners of war in the notorious Diyarbakir military prison. In the Spring of this year prisoners' mothers went on hunger strike in solidarity with their sons and daughters who were demanding better conditions. Workers spontaneously walked out of factories to visit the families and show solidarity. It was the same with students, and the Turkish authorities, alarmed by these developments, gave in to the hunger strikers' demands, including the right to speak Kurdish during visits, the right to receive food parcels and have radios. Since then, the Turkish authorities have tried to withdraw these rights and break the resistance by transferring prisoners to jails far away in Western Turkey. This has only resulted in hunger strikes spreading to jails all over Turkey as the Turkish government tries to re-impose its authority on political prisoners.

In 1984, when the PKK relaunched its guerilla war, the Turkish authorities dismissed it as a gang of "bandits" and claimed they wouldn't last 48 hours. The Turkish State and its tame press have been forced to eat their words on many occasions as the struggle intensifies and have even been forced to accept the reality of the existence of Kurdistan by forming a "Super Governorship" for 11 of the Kurdish provinces. This structure was set up a year ago to coordinate security in the Kurdish areas.

The governor, Hayri Kozakcioglu, has found it

impossible to prevent the collapse of the village guard system. there have been frequent reports of mass resignations by the guards, frightened for their lives, and most of those that have kept their weapons have to shelter in Gendarme posts.

The PKK phenomenon is bringing radical changes to the social make-up of Kurdistan. The old system, where the Turkish State propped up the feudal lords to keep the people depoliticalised has been rent asunder as youth flock to join the PKK, which promises an independent, socialist Kurdistan where people will be able to hold their heads high, not crawl, as they are expected to do by their Turkish masters. Thanks to the activities of the ARGK (Kurdistan National Liberation Army), the Turkish army can no longer terrorise the Kurdish villagers as and when it wishes. It can only go into mountain areas in great strength and some areas have been completely liberated.

Many Turkish officers, realising the futility of fighting a guerrilla war against a well organised guerrilla army operating on its own terrain, have resigned their commissions. A secret trial is reputed to be taking place in Ankara of officers charged with desertion.

The PKK's active resistance to the Turkish regime has brought the Kurdish question to the forefront of political debate in Turkey. It has enabled writers and journalists to write more openly than before on the "Kurdish problem". The PKK's struggle (by proving the possibility of resistance) has also encouraged the Turkish working class and left groups to fight back against the Turkish State. Unfortunately, the Turkish working class lacks an organisation which can provide the leadership which the PKK has provided for the Kurdish people. The PKK has shown the way to the Turkish left. The potential is there, it remains for the Turkish left to put its house in order and take the historic opportunity provided by the Kurdistan Workers' Party.

Without solidarity and support from the Turkish workers' movement the PKK's chances of achieving its aim of an independent Kurdistan are diminished. The fate of the Kurdish National Liberation struggle and the socialist revolution in Turkey are undoubtedly linked.

Harry K



KURDISTAN

THE WAR IN KURDISTAN

BALANCE SHEET

The August edition of the newspaper *Serxwebun* (Independence) published in Europe, a balance sheet of the 4-year war between the Turkish Army and the ARGK (People's Liberation Army of Kurdistan) from 15th August 1984 to 15th August 1988. The ARGK is involved in a war of liberation against the Turkish regime. The article in *Serxwebun* gave detailed figures of battle casualties and materials expropriated by the guerrillas.

During the war so far there have been at least 1,100 battles between liberation forces and Turkish government forces. More than 50 towns have been occupied for short periods.

Over 500 attacks have taken place on military bases, gendarme posts, special police squad centres and collaborators' positions.

At least 300 ambushes have been carried out against special police squads and village guards.

Over 200 clashes of varying sizes have occurred between People's Liberation forces and Turkish army units.

More than 100 sabotage actions have been carried out against military and economic targets and the property of collaborators.

During the occupations of over 50 towns meetings took place with the inhabitants, leaflets were distributed and posters put up. Popular protests also took place.

The Turkish colonialists' economic and assimilationist cultural policy has failed. In Dersim (Tunceli), Eruh and Sirkak all primary schools have been closed.

Countless meetings have taken place in villages, posters and banners have been put up in many places.

During the 4 year war the Turkish regime's policy of pitting Kurd against Kurd by recruiting a militia of village guards has come to naught. 600 village guards have handed their weapons back, hundreds have surrendered to units of the guerrilla army; many, too, have left their districts. In Bingol, Mardin and other places village headmen have resigned en masse and come out against the state's policy of using them against the national liberation struggle.

Nearly 300 soldiers have surrendered to ARGK units, also 33 special squad members have been taken prisoner.

The Turkish forces' losses during this period are as below:

More than 3,900 members of the Turkish army have been killed. Two of these were Colonels, one lieutenant colonel, 6 majors, 220 officers (captains, lieutenants, etc.). 232 special

squad members and many non commissioned officers have also been killed.

In actions against village guards, collaborators and informers 1004 traitors have been punished with death. In towns and cities 58 police and one police commissioner have been killed. 492 soldiers (officers and men), 173 village guards, collaborators, informers and police have been wounded.

Also during the war one head official of a district, one mayor, one bank manager, five watchmen, one anti-guerrilla personnel, one doctor, one nurse and one driver have been killed.

ECONOMIC AND MILITARY TARGETS AND VEHICLES DESTROYED OR DAMAGED

14 helicopters.

80 military vehicles.

Mardin Radar Station. Ceylanpinar State Production Farm. 20 bulldozers, 9 compressors and 4 other construction vehicles.

12 petrol tankers, 10 graders and 1 technical vehicle.

200 tractors, 18 lorries, 2 minibuses.

123 houses, one 5 storey building, 20 tents.

3 jeeps and one ambulance.

23 gendarme posts, 2 courts and 6 primary schools.

2 wood depots and a "village services" depot.

1 bridge and 2 railway lines

1 wireless radar station, 1 military wireless building.

Approximately 20 private cars and 14 post office and other vehicles belonging to state institutions.

1 drilling tower and 1 power station. 2 petrol stations.

1 stone-breaker, 1 generator, 2 welding machines and 1 snow plough.

2 party buildings, 1 government building, 2 dormitories.

1 brothel (den of immorality).

1 stone drilling machine and 1 cylinder. 2 mining vehicles.

1 petrol pumping station. Turkey-Iraq oil pipeline.

1 security depot and tons of explosives.

MATERIALS EXPROPRIATED DURING THE 4-YEAR PERIOD

2 cases of secret instructions and army documents.

1 arms depot.

551 infantry rifles of various sizes and types.

120 rifles. 64 revolvers. 12,320 bullets.

600 magazines for automatic weapons.

5 compasses and 30 cartridge belts. 10 pairs of binoculars.

1 video, 1 calculator and 10 tape recorders and radios.

2 mimographs. 5 typewriters.

21 small walkie-talkies and 1 large.

1 battery and 2 telephone apparatus.

2 daggers and 1 bayonet. 10 water bottles and 2 helmets.

62,242,182 Turkish lira.

340 200 gram sticks of dynamite, 150 metres of fuse and

51 percussion caps.

The contents of 15 dynamite depots. 36 tents.

15 mule loads of military rations and equipment.

FALLEN

During the 4 year war, 245 ARGK commanders and fighters have fallen including PKK (Workers' Party of Kurdistan) Central Committee members and ARGK commanders Mahsum Korkmaz, Mustafa Yontem, Haydar Karasungur, M. Emin Aslan and Ahmet Kesip.



Kurdish guerrillas fight for freedom.

DEATH OF A TORTURER



Retribution caught up with Major Esat Oktay Yildiran, known to his friends as "Gestapo", on an Istanbul minibus on October 22nd.

From 1981 to 1984 Major Yildiran was posted to a high security jail in South East Anatolia (Kurdistan). His speciality was torturing TIKKO and PKK prisoners including events which lead to the deaths of 32 PKK prisoners in 1984.

Ahmet Turk now a SHP (Social Democratic Populist Party) Member of Parliament remembers him well, was tortured by Yildiran while a prisoner in Diyarbakir. Another MP who remembers his charming ways is deputy for the town of Mardin and a member of the ruling ANAP party, who was in jail for peace and trade union activities in the early 1980s: "Of course I knew him, everyone did, he was a 'hero of torturers'". Yildiran used to like to stroll through the prison yard with his jacket draped on his shoulders and a large, fierce alsatian dog at his side. His contribution to the "art of torture" was to force prisoners to eat or drink excrement. He was one of the main causes of a massive hunger strike by prisoners in 1984. As a result, the regime was forced to transfer him.

On Saturday, 22nd October Yildiran was riding in a crowded minibus with his family when two gunmen among the passengers shot him at close quarters and calmly got off at a bus stop before anyone realised what had happened. After commandeering a taxi they disappeared.

Responsibility for the killing has been claimed by the PKK (Workers Party of Kurdistan).

His death has caused some alarm among other retired torturers who fear too that their activities may catch up with them. Fearing a drop in the number of willing torturers, the Interior Minister announced that "anyone who needs them will be given bodyguards and plastic surgery".

"AFTER THE REFERENDUM WE'LL SHOW YOU!"

The Governor of Bursa Special Type Prison, enraged at a recent attempt to escape by tunnelling, assembled the political prisoners and told them; "after the referendum we'll show you... this will be worse than Aydin Prison". He kept his word. One night, when everyone was asleep, prison guards burst into wards and cells and dragged all prisoners out into the yard where they were systematically beaten.

In response prisoners began a hunger strike on 10th October.

When the press and prisoners' relatives cornered the public prosecutor, he replied to their protests saying "We gave them (prisoners) clothes (uniforms) which they didn't wear so we punished them... We gave them food which they won't eat so we will not give them sugar and salt".

At Gaziantep prison, the authorities did not wait for referendum results. Relatives report that there have been several mass beatings of prisoners.

NEW HUNGER STRIKES

In October a new wave of hunger strikes by political prisoners against appalling conditions began.

In Bursa 180 left-wing prisoners began a fast on 10th October (which is still continuing at the time of writing). The regime has been embarrassed by a series of daring escapes this year by political prisoners who don't intend to wait for mythical "amnesties" by the

regime.

UNREPENTANT



Arrest of 2 escapees from Kirsehir Prison and 18 others suspected of helping them. Reflecting the rising morale of the prisoners one defiantly shouts to the press that he will escape again at the first opportunity!

MORE TUNNELS

The spectacular escape by 29 political prisoners from Metris Military Prison in March (of which only 2 have been recaptured), was followed by several other attempted or successful mass escapes. One of the latest of these was from Kirsehir Prison in central Anatolia where 18 left-wing prisoners dug their way to freedom through a 118 metre tunnel. They had even equipped the tunnel with electric light! As the dirt from



Political prisoners in Gaziantep, determined to fight for freedom.

TORTURE, TRIALS & ARRESTS

the tunnel was smuggled out of the prison in plastic bags and several guards come from the same town as the political prisoners, the authorities have decided there was collusion between staff and prisoners. Several guards have been interrogated. Security forces have since recaptured 4 escapees.

The authorities have taken several steps to try and stem "unauthorised departures". These include the arrest of many people suspected of aiding escapes and attempts to improve prison security. 40 new prisons are being built with steel "security nets" under them which are supposed to be wired to an alarm system to give warning of attempts to tunnel out.



A hard line. Relatives of political prisoners in Metris Prison were forced to wait outside for 15 days before the authorities deigned to let them visit.

TRANSFERS

Following a series of acts of resistance by political prisoners there has been a series of major transfers of prisoners- often to jails far from their homes as a reprisal.

In October a 40 metre tunnel was discovered leading from Diyarbakir Top Security Prison to within a few metres of a gecenkondu (shanty town).

Diyarbakir houses well over 400 Workers Party of Kurdistan (PKK) members among its political prisoners.

Following the discovery of the tunnel, the authorities decided to transfer 120 (Kurdish) prisoners to Eskisehir prison. However, prisoners staged a protest resistance and in the ensuing attack by gendarmes 20 were injured. In response, political prisoners throughout the jail began a hunger strike on 25th October.

Meanwhile from Eskisehir E Type Prison, 51 convicted fascist militants were transferred to Bursa where left-wing prisoners have been on hunger strike. In turn, 60 Bursa prisoners have been moved to Canakkale.

CHILDREN DEFEND THEIR TEACHER

In October, the teacher at the village school of Dagdere, Mustafa Altin was seized by the political police and brought before Izmir State Security Court charged with making "communist propaganda" in the school and the village Coffee House. An accusation which can carry a 25 year prison sentence.



In a remarkable show of solidarity children and villagers travelled to Izmir to give evidence on Mustafa Altin's behalf. The children said "Our teacher taught us *Yemen Turkusu* and *Canakkale March*. (Two songs made popular by revolutionary folk singer Ruhi Su, the first an anti-war song about Turkish soldiers who died in the Yemen war during Ottoman times and the second against oppressive government). "Our teacher always taught us to love the land of Turkey".

Villagers said; "He did not make communist propaganda in the Coffee House, he just complained about the high cost of living ... He has four children so the cost of living is very high for him".



Relatives of Bursa prisoners stage protest hunger strike.

TORTURE ALLEGATIONS



During the trial of 17 people before the Istanbul State Security Court detainees stated they had been tortured by the political police.

The defendants were accused of helping political prisoners who escaped from Metris Military Prison in a mass escape (see TN No.81).

One of the defendants, 16-year old folk singer Saadet Akkaya says she was kept undressed for 15 days and tortured by electric shocks to her genital organ and breasts. She was also beaten on the vagina with a bottle. The torturers addressed each other by code names such as Panzer, Echo 66, Atom and Milkman.

DEV YOL TRIAL CONTINUES

The final phase of the epic 7-year trial of members of Devrimci Yol (Revolutionary Path) in Ankara is still in its final phase (see *Turkey Newsletter* No.83).

Defence lawyer O. Muftuoglu has denounced the Military Court Prosecutor's justification for using statements extracted under torture.

The defendants had made detailed and verifiable claims that statements etc., were extracted by torture during long years of detention. The Military Court Prosecutor however, maintains the statements still constitute evidence as the UN Treaty outlawing torture was not yet in force in Turkey. As O. Muftuoglu points out this constitutes an acceptance of torture as a legitimate method by the authorities.

TORTURE, TRIALS & ARRESTS

ARRESTS



9 alleged members of TKKKO (Turkey North Kurdistan Liberation Movement) were arrested by Istanbul Security Police Political Branch and accused of trying to re-establish their organisation. One of those arrested was an Istanbul woman doctor. Their interrogation is continuing. All the defendants say they have been tortured.

TORTURE CONTINUES

During a formal meeting between Nevzat Helvacı, president of the Turkish Human Rights Association and Erdal Inonu, chair of the SHP (social democrats), Inonu pointed out that: "Torture remains a scar for Turkey" and that he supported the IHD view that defence lawyers should be present during interrogations.

Helvacı revealed that the number of people who have been stripped of Turkish citizenship has risen to 14,000.

CHRISTIANS HARASSED

The increasingly hostile attitude of the Turkish regime to Christians - especially those suspected of evangelising was shown in October by the arrest of 7 Turkish citizens, 2 Britons and an American. They were accused of trying to convert Muslims to Christianity.

This was the second time the group had been detained.

The group was finally released as a result of international protests and as a gesture during Ozal's recent visit to the Pope.

COUP MARKED

Over 2,500 human rights activists marked the 12th September 1980 coup by a rally organised by the Human Rights Association in a cinema in Ankara. Inonu, Chairman of the SHP addressing the rally said: "The last coup was meant to counter anarchy and terrorism, but it turned into a fascist one itself".

Writer Halit Celenk quoted official sources defending torture. He particularly

mentioned a prosecutor who had said: "The files of 300 police officers containing evidence that they had applied violence to detainees during investigation were submitted to me, and I dismissed the whole lot without examining them because these people were trying to help the state".

Perihan Akcam, wife of an exiled author recalled the "heroic solidarity" of a group of mothers who were beaten and thrown down the stairs at the DAL torture centre in Ankara when they went to enquire about the fate of their arrested children.



Cigdem, 7-year old daughter of Aydin Akyazi ran to her father and hugs him after Erzincan No. 2 Military Court sentences him to death at the end of the 7-year Fatsa Dev Yol (Revolutionary Path) trial. Aydin was one of those on trial since 1980 for their involvement with the left-wing council of the Black Sea town of Fatsa crushed by the army before the 1980 coup. (See TN No.82).

Cigdem said to her father: "Don't worry about me father...I will do my lessons very well...Look after yourself".



The murder of the Tuzla Four.

MURDER ON THE ROAD

An outcry is growing following the gunning-down by police of four young men in the Istanbul district of Tuzla on October 7th.

Police, apparently without warning pumped nearly 300 bullets into a car they suspected of carrying members of the TKP/ML (Communist Party of Turkey /Marxist-Leninist).

According to the latest police version they had set up a road block to capture a red car they had been informed was carrying 4 members of the TKP/ML. When such a car failed to stop police at the road block and others on an overpass opened fire killing all the occupants.

One of those killed was indeed a former political prisoner sentenced of membership of the TKP/ML, but the others had no "records" or known affiliations. Police describe the operation as "100% successful" and claimed that the car occupants opened fire first. One pistol was later found in the car. However, even the Turkish media which normally accepts such police "operations" as a normal part of Turkish life are questioning whether it was necessary to carry-out "Gibraltar-style" killings of political suspects.

SHP parliamentary deputy Kamer Genc commenting on the killings said:

"If the police are going to shoot on the streets at every vehicle which they are suspicious of, can one speak of public safety in this country?"

At the funerals of the victims a large demonstration of angry relatives and friends of the victims took place which was dispersed by the brutal intervention of the riot police

CDDRT NEWS

REPORT

On Wednesday, 7th September the CDDRT held a meeting during the Trades Union Congress meeting in Bournemouth. The central feature of the event was a report by members of the executive of the local government union NALGO on their recent visit to Istanbul. Where they were able to meet a wide range of trade union leaders and activists.

The meeting, chaired by Cllr. Peter Spalding, President of the Greater London Association of Trades Councils, heard Bill Heeps and Brenda Hudson pass on the appeal of nearly all trade unions they contacted for closer relations with the British trade union movement.

STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRACY IN TURKEY IS RAISED BLACKPOOL



The Committee for Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey held its by now customary fringe meeting at the British Labour Party's Annual Conference in Blackpool on October 5th.

Despite the number of speakers being decimated by the conference overrunning by three quarters of an hour, a large audience of delegates, visitors and journalists, heard Jeremy Corbyn MP, CDDRT General Secretary Max Hirons and Richard Balfe MEP bring an update of the situation in Turkey.

Jeremy Corbyn MP particularly mentioned the plight of the Kurdish people in Turkey and the struggle for self-determination.

Richard Balfe MEP dealt with the latest developments in Turkey's relations with the EEC and the attitude to Turkey demanded by changes in that country.

WE NEED YOU !

There is a meeting and discussion at the CDDRT's Balls Pond Road office every Wednesday at 7pm. A friendly and informal welcome is guaranteed. All members and friends of the CDDRT are welcome to attend.

The CDDRT is a non-funded, voluntary organisation which relies on the support and work of volunteers. If you have a particular skill you think would be useful or just would like to help "lick stamps" etc., for the CDDRT, please contact the office. All help is welcome.

EVENTS FOR THE DIARY

Saturday 10th December

THIRD WORLD FAIR all day at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1. Organised by War on Want. Most international solidarity organisations will be there with a display of goods from all round the world. Visit the CDDRT stall.

ADVERTISEMENT

LABOUR AND TRADE UNION PRESS AGENCY

The Labour and Trade Union Press Agency (ISHA) offers the following services:

- * Organising meetings between international delegations of trade unionists with their colleagues in Turkey, providing interpreters at such meetings.

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The Agency's address is:

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If you are interested in the news and views of the growing trade union and workers' movement in Turkey then you must read *ISHA Bulletin*, the monthly publication of the Istanbul-based Labour and Trade Union Press Agency.

ISHA Bulletin is the only English language periodical produced in Turkey dedicated to reporting the developments in the Turkish labour movement.

Despite financial and language difficulties, a dedicated group of journalists and trade unionists are constantly developing and improving this magazine.

Support this important initiative and become better informed on the life and struggle of the working class of Turkey

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FIGHTING FOR DEMOCRACY

The Committee for Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey was founded in 1978 by Turkish community and political organisations in Britain along with people and organisations in the British labour and progressive movements. The original aim of the CDDRT was to campaign against the growing restrictions on democratic rights in Turkey.

After the 12th September 1980 coup, which brought a junta of generals to power and an even higher level of repression, the CDDRT's work expanded. More individuals and organisations joined. The CDDRT organised demonstrations, marches, petitions, meetings and international conferences to help publicise the situation in Turkey and raise solidarity with the many thousands of political prisoners and refugees.

In late 1983 fresh developments in Turkey opened up new possibilities for solidarity. The fascist junta gave way to the anti-democratic civilian regime of Turgut Ozal. A process of disintegration of the regime began as the struggle for

democracy *inside* Turkey began once again to rise.

The forces of democracy inside Turkey today are becoming increasingly active in the trade union movement - Turk-Is (Turkish Confederation of Trade unions) - , student organisations and many other new bodies.

While continuing to support in any way we can the thousands of political activists still on trial and providing solidarity with the estimated 15,000-20,000 political prisoners, the CDDRT is now working to establish contact between the democratic forces - particularly the trade union movement inside Turkey and their equivalents in Britain and other countries.

WHAT IS THE CDDRT

The CDDRT today has groups and sister organisations in the USA, West Germany, France, Switzerland and Ireland. In addition there are close links with Turkish solidarity organisations in Greece and Scandinavia.

The CDDRT is a democratic body

governed by an annual congress at which every affiliated organisation and individual can fully participate.

The CDDRT produces *Turkey Newsletter*, an internal newsheet for members; *CDDRT News*, briefing papers and other materials.

The CDDRT on its own and in cooperation with others, organises meetings, conferences, rallies, film shows and other practical activities.

SOLIDARITY NEEDED

Turkey is a member of NATO with a 700,000 strong army and a prospective member of the EEC. At the same time it has the most repressive regime in Western Europe.

The resurgent democratic forces inside Turkey need support and solidarity; this is the task of the CDDRT. To do this effectively we need more affiliates/members. If you are not already, we urge you to consider joining our committee as the most effective way of showing your support for the peoples of Turkey.

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 CDDRT are as follows:
And all vestiges of military rule, martial law, torture and executions.
Release all political prisoners
Freedom for all democratic organisations.
End the national oppression of the Kurds and national minorities. Defend the right of the Kurdish people to self-determination.
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 1st 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 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 today 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

W. ANDREWS (B.F. & A. W.U.)
Bedir AYDEMIR
Dennis CANAVAN MP
Harry COHEN MP
Jeremy CORBYN MP
Ali HIKMET
Max HIRON
Alf LOMAS MEP
Pat INGRAM (NALGO)
Marion SARAFI
Fevzi SOLT
Peter SPALDING (GLATC)
R. YURUKOGLU
One representative each from:
Turkish Students' Federation in the UK,
Union of Turkish Progressives in Britain,
Union of Turkish Women in Britain
Union of Turkish Workers

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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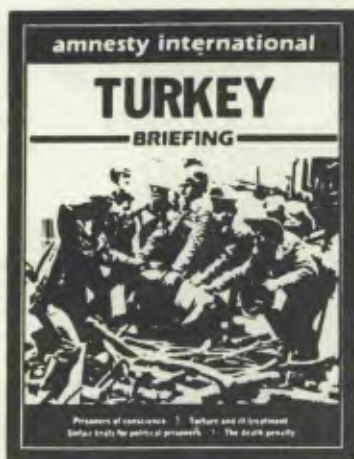
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REVIEWS

NEW REPORT



Amnesty International have published a new *Turkey Briefing* dealing with prisoners of conscience, torture and ill-treatment, unfair trials for political prisoners and the death penalty in Turkey.

Some of the cases in this timely publication may be familiar to readers of *Turkey Newsletter* but what makes this briefing particularly useful is the overall view it provides of the current, totally unacceptable human rights situation in Turkey.

The briefing also contains a useful summary of current Turkish legislation which outlaws or restricts what would be considered normal political activity and expression of thoughts in what would be considered a democratic society.

Amnesty International ends the briefing with a call to the Turkish regime to implement a minimum set of recommendations which would help deter blatant and routine abuse of human rights in Turkey.

Copies of *TURKEY Briefing* are available from Amnesty International Publications, 1 Easton Street London WC1X 8DJ.

VOICES THEY CANNOT SILENCE

Crammed into three quarters of an hour, the Channel 4 programme *Dispatches* on October 26th delivered a damning indictment of human rights practices in Turkey today.

This effective film made by Twenty Twenty Television for Channel 4 was based mainly on up to date interviews in Turkey with both the victims and practitioners of torture. The effect of the film, by being even-handed was all the more damaging to the claims of the Turkish regime and its friends that they were solving the problem of systematic human rights abuse.

The smiling face of Ali Bozer, Turkish Minister of State responsible for EEC relations as he blandly informed viewers that "torture is out of the question ... it is not on our agenda" was contrasted with an interview with self-confessed torturer Sedat Caner calmly detailing methods of torture and the fact that many of his colleagues in torture are now high-ranking officers.

The film contained many powerful images. Who can forget the weeping mother of Mustafa Gulmez (see *TN* No.83) or the government official boxing-up the head of Dervis Savgat - a Kurd who died in "mysterious circumstances". Not to mention 16-year old Saadet Akkaya recently tortured in connection with the escape of political

prisoners from Metris.

The film provided a rare chance for victims and human rights campaigners in Turkey to address a big Western audience.

Today, many circles including the UK government (as seen in the programme) argue that the Turkish regime is quite acceptable and (apart from some economic obstacles), is a fit candidate for EEC membership. This film gave the lie to this approach.

The makers of this film collected a vast amount of material both interviews and documents to illustrate the position. They must be complemented on the masterly way in which they were able to condense all this into a 45 minute slot. We believe that this film deserves re-showing. Twenty Twenty Television must be congratulated on this fine piece of work as must Channel 4 for showing it.

We hope that this will inspire other film makers to take up aspects of both the human rights and democratic struggles in Turkey so that the truth of what is happening in what promises to be the "hot spot" of Europe reaches greater international attention.



CHILDREN IN PRISON

The Swiss-based Defence for Children International published a disturbing report on the position of children in Turkey detained in adult jails.

In Turkey there is little provision for the many thousands of children (anyone under the age of 18) convicted by the courts for any offence ranging from petty theft to murder or "political crimes". Though special child detention centres are very few, the courts routinely sentence children to imprisonment for long periods of time. Except for a "lucky" few all such children are sent to adult prisons -which in themselves are bad enough for adults let alone children.

Children in Prison in Turkey is made up of graphic personal experiences documented by Danny de Souza who spent many years in Turkish prisons, a report by a DCI delegation to Turkey plus translations from Turkish sources.

A disturbing part of the report are documented cases of the torture of children at the hands of police, especially to extract confessions in pre-trial detention.

Children in Prison in Turkey is available from Defence of Children International, P.O. Box 88, CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland. Price: £4/Sw.Fr.10/US\$7.

TURKEY NEWSLETTER

Turkey Newsletter welcomes articles and letters from readers on all aspects and all opinions of the situation in Turkey. Impressions of visits to Turkey or research on some aspect of the situation in Turkey are particularly welcome.