

ISHA BULLETTİN

No: 9 • 31 AUGUST 1988



The first strike in mint's history

600.000 dismissals in a year

SEKA is in resistance

Strike in YILDIZ PORCELAIN FACTORY

MONTHLY BULLETIN OF LABOUR MOVEMENT
AND TRADE UNIONS NEWS FROM TURKEY

ISHA BÜLTEN

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(Labour and Trade Unions)

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Arif Mardin

Baskı: Bizim Ofset

editor's note

Dear Readers,

Turkey's working class has been living through a deep socioeconomic crisis for a long time.

All the indications today point to the crisis becoming even more acute in 1989.

The signs of the economic crisis are shown by unemployment which now accounts for 20 % of the working population to which must be added further hundreds of thousands of redundancies. In addition, inflation is running at about 78 % according to official figures, investment has ground to a halt and the wages share of the national income continues to decline. In fact, the share through wages of the workers in the national income was 36.8 % in 1978, but has decreased to 16.3 % in 1988.

The decrease began to accelerate with the complete restrictions in workers' rights, including the legal obstacles to strike actions or any other ways of regaining rights, with the measures by a government and employers who have no respect for basic democratic rights and freedoms.

The third factor accelerating the decrease in the field of democratic freedom and in the struggle for economic rights are leaderships of unions who are conservative, frightened and opposed to progress. These leaderships made up of the first generation of trade unionists who were able to function legally with the permission of the state in 1948-1950s, have believed not in class struggle but in the reconciliation of classes and as long as they live continue to be loyal guardians this belief.

But in the conditions of today any reconciliation between workers and employers is impossible. That is why trade union leaders educated in the old conditions feel themselves out of place in today's social setting marked by deep crisis. Today, deteriorating living and working conditions and unbelievable hardships have caused the workers to become furious and anxious and ready for confrontation. The old leaderships with their old beliefs are not able to defend or reflect the demands of the workers caused by the objective situation.

At the result, the leaders see with unease the workers' lack of confidence in them.

In these conditions, we have observed that the 'rank and file' workers are increasingly tending to take the initiative to defend themselves against the worst effects of the of the socioeconomic crisis.

Original and new forms of action have become the first messenger of that initiative in response to every acceleration in the decline in living standards. It is seen in strikes and in collective bargaining negotiations. Go slows, regional work stoppages, beard growing actions, hunger strikes, walking barefoot, lunch boycotts, mass gatherings for medical checkups, sending the wage statements to the employers, etc.,...

Undoubtedly in 1989 will be added new kinds of actions will be added to the above. The emergence of workers' commissions, collective bargaining and strikes... show that besides the socioeconomic crisis a political crisis is developing.

Hope we meet soon in recent news from unions and trade union actions.

Yours faithfully,

EDITORIAL BOARD

THE CLAIMS OF SSK

Mustafa Basoglu, the general secretary for education of TURK IS: "SSK is used as a "farm" by governments who make no contributions of workers and employers."

Imren Aykut, Minister of Labour and Social Security: "The government should be thanked for paying the pensions."

It has been established a big part of the financial crisis affecting the SSK (Social Security Organisation-which runs such things as hospitals and unemployment benefits for insured workers) has been caused by the debts of employers in Istanbul who are not paying their share of national insurance deductions.

Mustafa Basoğlu, the general secretary for education of TURK-IS (Trade Union Confederation of Turkey), said that the claims of SSK from government enterprises, private sector and others reached to trillions of lira but attempts are made to show it as less.

Speaking to a meeting Executive Committee of HABER IS (post, telecommunications and television workers trade union TU) held in Ankara, Basoğlu claimed the General Directorate of SSK is not taken steps to help workers through fear of political pressures.

Mustafa Basoglu said in brief that the SSK is used as a "farm" by governments who make no contributions to the funds. The SSK relies solely on the contributions of workers and employers. But it is the government which uses the organisation's financial resources for its own benefit.

The government has tied the hands of the organisation and makes every appointment in it from directors to chief doctors and nothing is done except on the government's initiative. It's become clear that the SSK is owed in excess of TL 836 billions by government, private sector employers and the others. The debts are camouflaged in the general accounts of the organisation and are said to be less than they really are and also shown to be only from worker's contributions.

Pointing out financial problems caused by defaulting insurance contributions, Imren Aykut, Minister of Labour and Social Security, who has started operations to collect outstanding debts to



Mr. Şevket Yılmaz, General President of TÜRK-İŞ

SSK said that the governments should be thanked for paying the pensions.

Explaining there are 300 thousand files of unpaid national insurance contributions the Minister said that in view of the number of cases the government would need to use private solicitors to help process the cases that: "we are not able to execute the orders without the help of private solicitors. But the government cannot use private solicitors in prosecutions so that the government will try to use them in the first stage to help achieve our aim"

Imren Aykut continued her statement saying that part of the money of the SSK was invested in government bonds with very low rates of interest and it was resulting in financial losses for the SSK. "I am studying this subject and at present we almost lose TL 3 billion." According to the figures published by SSK, the debts of the employers from Istanbul alone are TL. 74 billion out of TL 236 billion in total.

In addition delays in paying contributions cost the SSK TL 14 billion 624 million.

Kod/T.

interview

INTERVIEWS WITH WORKERS



Hasan Saritaş with his family

INTERVIEW WITH HASAN SARITAŞ

ISHA reporters visited two workers in their houses. Below we publish extracts from these interviews.

- What is the meaning of a trade union?
- It protects the rights of the workers against the employer.
- What is the meaning of minimum wage?
- I don't know.

ISHA: Please identify yourself for us?

HASAN SARITAŞ: Thank you for coming to my home and making your theme our living conditions.

I was born in Amasya, 1948. I have four children. I graduated from elementary school. I began to work in State Roads as a worker in 1977 and became chief delegate of our trade union in 1979.

ISHA: What is the importance of your work and how much is your monthly wage?

H. SARITAŞ: I am the unskilled worker. I work with pickaxe and shovel. My monthly wage is TL. 102.000.- From this, TL 20.000 is cut each month for lunch-. I take home only home only TL 82.000. My wife goes to the some houses as a maid and

contributes this way. We can't live with that money of course. We can only afford a little bread, margerine and olives for breakfast.

This shanty is my own which we built with help from our friends. We have no water and we live in fear of a visit from the municipal police who pull down our houses.

ISHA: You said that you can't live on TL. 82,000.- The reason is you are an unskilled worker?

H. SARITAŞ: No. The skilled worker has TL 150.000. and also it is too low. TL. 150,000. or TL. 250,000 is not enough to live on. Our wages which we got yesterday are reduced to zero by the



Hasan Saritaş, a road worker

inflation.

If the workers and trade unions become a greater power against the employer maybe we will find a solution to our financial problems.

ISHA: What is the meaning of a trade union?

H. SARITAŞ: The trade union is a labour union, protects the rights of the workers against the employer. It is the safeguard and cultural organisation of the workers.

ISHA: Has your trade union actually realized the things you mentioned above?

H. SARITAŞ: It couldn't. Because the laws restrict their activities. The trade unions are just like a living room. We, the workers are unexperienced. Today, most of the leaders of trade unions are clumsy. The trade unions are not functioning on the educational and cultural fronts.

They have lost the rights today which were won yesterday. We need a struggle to be organised to take back those rights and our demands to be realized. The trade unions are not ready for this struggle.

ISHA: What do you think about the near future of Turkey?

H. SARITAŞ: The future will not be very dark if the workers are organised within their trade union, concentrate their struggle and if they have proper leaders. But if they don't do it, the military will come and whistle and the play is over. I lived through two military operations. These operations took many things from the worker. Such things have to be opposed.

ISHA: Thanks.

INTERVIEW WITH SAHIN TANRIVERDI

ISHA: We saw you when you left the marble factory and come to your home for an interview. Would you please identify yourself?

ŞAHİN TANRIVERDİ: I was born in Sivas, 1952. I'm married and have 9 children. We were not in a good situation in my birth place so the whole family come to Istanbul when I was 10. This shanty with only one room is mine.

ISHA: How long have you worked?

Ş. TANRIVERDİ: I have worked for 26 years.

ISHA: What is your job and your monthly wage?

Ş. TANRIVERDİ: I'm working in a marble factory as you have seen and get only TL 80,000 monthly. Two children of mine also work and contribute TL 50,000 each.

ISHA: Can you live with that money?

Ş. TANRIVERDİ: No. I buy 11 loaves of bread every day. Last week they gave some meat from the factory because of Bayram. The last meat we ate was that.

ISHA: Are you the member of any trade union?

Ş. TANRIVERDİ: No, I am not and I have no social insurance.

ISHA: Why don't you have social insurance?

Ş. TANRIVERDİ: I wanted it. The employer said that I couldn't have it because one of my legs is 3cm shorter than the other. Maybe he will dismiss me if I persist.

ISHA: What is the meaning of minimum wage?

Ş. TANRIVERDİ: I don't know.

ISHA: The Prime Minister say we jumping an age and growing. What do you say?

Ş. TANRIVERDİ: I'm hungry. Does a hungry country grow? This child is sick. He is in pain. And the other child's whole body is burnt. I couldn't take them to the doctor. Because I have no insurance.

news

AGREEMENT AT WOOD INDUSTRY

Agreement was reached in collective bargaining between Agac-Is (Wood Industry Workers TU) and Agac Sanayii Isverenleri (Wood Industry Employers Federation) on July 5th. In new

contracts the wages are increased for workers employed by GENTAS VERZALIT by 140 %, for AVAR AS workers (located in Eskişehir) by 120 %, for Zeytinoglu AS workers 120 %, for Bizon Heavy Industry workers (based in Adapazari) 120 % in addition there was an increase of about 100 % in social rights (fringe benefits).

UNFAIR APPOINTMENTS IN DSI

The DSI (State Water Organization) has been disbanded and turned over to ISKI (Istanbul Water and Canalization Org.). As soon as ISKI took over, the new management began to unfairly reallocate the jobs of the 1000 personnel of

Regional Directorate on and informed them that if they don't be cancelled. The workers reacted to negatively to this decision which amounts to abolition Region 14 of the organisation which operates the Dams and reservoirs of Alibeykoy, Buyuk Cekmece, Omerli, Elmali, Darlik and Sungurlu in Istanbul. The workers declared that affair as a trick to do with politics and sent some written complaints to the Prime Ministry and the Presidency of the Republic.

SOLIDARITY WITH DISMISSED WORKERS AT THE HOTEL SURMELI

Workers at The Istanbul Etap, Galata Tower and Gelik Restaurants staged a lunch boycott in July 8th to protest at the sacking of hotel workers at the Hotel Surmeli.

LUNCH BOYCOTT IN TASKIZAK DOCKYARD

2200 workers at the Halic Taskizak Dockyard in Istanbul, staged a lunch boycott on July 17th to protest at the lack of

an additional pay rise and a management decision to deduct the cost of canteen luncheons from their wages. The workers are members of Harb-Is (War Industry Workers TU) and are saying that they can get lunch in the work place for only 22 days in a month.

ADDITIONAL WAGW RISE FOR METRO WORKERS

Construction workers building the new Istanbul metro have recieved and additional wage

rise of 120 % as a result of a new collective bargaining agreement. Bayram Meral, the general president of Yol-Is (Highway and Construction Workers TU), said that the wages were increased to approximately TL. 350.000 from TL 160.000 by this contract.

THE STRIKE AT LEVER AND UNILEVER-IS

On July 12th, strike decision was taken in UNILEVER and LEVER-IS, by OZ GIDA-IS (Food Industry Workers TU). The disagreement involves 1200 workers.

TURK-IS LEADERS ARE TRIED

On July 13, the trial began of 42 presidents and leaders of trade unions affiliated to TURK-IS before an Ankara Court because of the action decisions which were taken by the TURK-IS Board of Presidents. The Ankara Public

Prosecutor of Republic demanded that the leaders of TURK-IS be punished with from a month to three months imprisonment, and fines of between TL. 30.000 to TL. 80.000. The prosecutor alleged that the decision of the Board of Presidents of TURK-IS to call a nation-wide two hour sit-down protest in work-places during working hours as a 'warning action' constituted an illegal strike call.

news

THE WORKERS' HEALTH ASSOCIATION (ISCI SAGLIGI DERNEGI) HAVE ORGANIZED A STUDY GROUP FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING ADVICE AND RESEARCH IN COLLECTIVE BARGAINING NEGOTIATIONS

THE DEMOCRATIC DEMANDS OF THE WORKING CLASS ARE INCREASING

The need for democracy inside trade unions, deep and widespread trade union organization and struggle for advanced democratic demands are the priorities on the action agenda of workers.

- The questions of working conditions, living areas and environmental problems take their place on the agenda of trade union struggle.
- The most sensitive problems of workers are industrial diseases and work accidents.
- Environmental problems are adding increasingly to the deterioration of working and living conditions.



Haydar Cam, General accountant of WHA

The Isci Sagligi Dernegi (Workers' Health Association) has organized a study group in order to provide research on the working and living conditions of working class which can provide back-up to trade unions during collective bargaining negotiations.

Dr. Metin Benol M.D., General Secretary of the Association, informed us that the aim of study group which includes specialists from the fields of medicine, trade unionism, architecture and social sciences is to research and present to the trade union movement scientific information in those fields. Dr. Benol (who is himself a neuropsychiatrist), said that workers' wages

should not be treated in collective bargaining as the first problem. Trade union negotiators and workers research and put forward demands relating to job security, health conditions, technology, and living conditions today.

The W.H.A. has published a brochure called "The Minimum Wage for 1988" which based on detailed research, scientifically describes what must be the correct current wage demands.

Haydar Cam, the general accountant of association, (who is employed in the construction business) explained that the minimum wage must be 407,500 TL -(\$ 240) per month. This is based on the result of research conducted by both workers and economists. The minimum wage determined by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security is shown to be only 22 % of what the researchers prove is the necessary, objective minimum wage. If a criteria is needed to measure the injustice of the Ministry's minimum wage, suffice it to say that that wage would not even pay the monthly rent for a home in the poorest district of Istanbul.

The study group of the Workers Health Association for for research and consultation is the first such body ever to be established in which workers, members of the professions and the scientific intelligentsia work together.

The leaders of the association explain that the study group's services are provided free to trade unions and are an act of class solidarity.

THE FIRST STRIKE



Strike at the mint co

All sorts of valuable papers, money, gold coins, telephone tokens in Turkey are produced by the Mint in Istanbul.

The 230 workers of Mint are on strike.

We visited them on the 42nd day of the strike. The faces of the workers we met there were cheerful and decided. We present two interviews about the strike below. The first is with the President of the Istanbul Branch of Basın-İş (graphical and printworkers union) and the second with a worker from the picket line.

ISHA: Could you introduce yourselves?

Kocintan: Basın-İş Deputy President of the Istanbul Branch Ali Haydar Kocintan. At the same time I'm one of the workers of the Mint. I've been working here for 14 years.

ISHA: How did the dispute come about?

Kocintan: During negotiations with the employer, we only managed to reach agreement on 11 demands out of a total of 58.

On the monetary front, our claim was for a 700 TL across the board increase in wages. The employer didn't accept it so disagreement appeared. Later we solved other procedural problems and decided to strike as you see now.

ISHA: Do the other unions and the workers from different workplaces support your action?

Kocintan: Yes, for example nearly 100 workers and many officials from different unions have visited us recently. As their visits made us happy, our action made them feel enthusiasm.

- The workers don't have
- They pay much more tax among the other social c
- They need financial support to struggle to continue.

ISHA: You know that ISHA Bulletin is published in English and delivered all over the world. Have you got a message or any other request to this international platform?

Kocintan: We will be successful, that is our message. We also wish success to all workers who are on strike now. Acts of solidarity - particularly monetary help - is important to us. This is the account number for such help.

**İS BANKASI CAGALOĞLU BRANÇI,
HESAP NO: 138422 CAHİT
ÜZGÜN VE HASAN ORTATEPE**

ISHA: Thank you.

■ Interview with Basın-İş İstanbul Branch President Hasan Tufan

ISHA: Can you give us a short account of your union's strikes in recent years?

Tufan: We had two important strikes in 1980. One of them was at the Mars Printing Office (Istanbul) and the other was at the Printing Office of the National Education Ministry. The strike at State Material Office started in 31 July 1987 and lasted 112 days.

IN MINT'S HISTORY



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ISHA: Nowadays, you are on strike at several work places. Can you give us some information about these strikes?

Tufan: We started two strikes at the Mint and at the Printing Office of the National Education Ministry in 23 June 1988. 64 days on strike have passed. In these days our biggest problems are always economic ones. In spite of this situation, workers are fighting for their rights without submitting. Economically, we can't support them much as an union, but the workers seem determined.

We are uneasy about the behaviour of the ruling party which is trying to give the lowest price to the labour of workers by using the power of the state. We say that this is the sin of against the constitution and humanity. The wages of our members are much decreased by inflation.

As we have some problems with state, we also have some problems inside our organization. For example Turk-Is did nothing as a reaction against the policy of the ruling party. Presidents of unions are silent. They didn't carry out the actions that

they have declared they would do before.

ISHA: Can you inform us about the strike of the Mint workers?

Tufan: Today workers can hardly pay their rents for accomodation, they don't have a social life and activity but have increasing health problems, pay much more taxes as a rate of their wages among the other social classes. Their democratic rights have been taken away and collective bargaining negotiations are slowed down and blocked by government representatives. In spite of all these disadvantages, courageous workers have used their right to strike and have started to struggle for the sake of labour.

ISHA: The workers at Darphane have opened a bank account and are appealing for financial support. What do you think about it?

Tufan: They need financial support to allow their honourable struggle to continue. Our financial help means nothing. We also accept the idea of the bank account. This solidarity is especially important for the respect of labour, more democracy in Turkey and social justice.

ISHA: Thank you.

Tufan: Thank you too for this visit to our union and strike place.

NOTE: Please send notification of any funds sent to the Darphane workers to ISHA Bulletin in order that we can check that your donations have reached their destination.

UNEMPLOYMENT REACHES FRIGHTENING DIMENSIONS

- 94.6 % of people looking for work are men. Much of the female population is not working.
- Whilst wages are the most important factor for the unemployed.

The unemployed population of Turkey will soon grow to a worrying size. According to the statistics, every single working person has to support two unemployed. Increasingly hope of finding a job turns to desperation and despair. For every job there are usually at least one hundred and thirty applicants.

The Turkish Industrialists and Businessmen's Association (TUSIAD) and the Official Job Centre commissioned a study, 'The Unemployment Problem in Turkey' which was presented to the Minister of Labour and Social Security Imren Aykut and TUSIAD President Omer Dincok in a meeting held at TUSIAD on July 21st. According to this study, which was conducted in February, the majority of businessmen with work-vacancies, employed either relatives, friends or people recommended directly to them.

In the study which the Official Job Centre carried out in more than two hundred work places in Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir and Sakarya, a report was included on the expectations of the unemployed and prospective employers.

Amongst the conclusions were the following:

Neither the unemployed nor employers use the Official Job Centre. In 1987 there were 482,087 applications to the Centre, a decrease of 16.9 % on the total for 1986 which was 580,109.

Only 12 % of the unemployed applied to the centre. The remaining 88 % used other ways to look for work.

Whilst wages are the most important factor for the unemployed, security and a healthy work place are the next most important considerations.

42% of employers ask for previous experience when filling a vacancy. The gross wages offered by employers ranges from 50,000 to 300,000 TL per month.

48.7 % of employers give someone a job after testing him on the job, 41 % by prior recommendation or through patronage, and 10.2

% in some other way.

94.6 % of people looking for work are men. 52.7 % are graduates of Primary School, and 78.4 % are between twenty and thirty years old.

33.8 % of applicants to the Official Job Centre are hopeful of finding work through the centre, whilst 17.6 % of the remainder hold out no hope at all.

In the study the effect of unemployment on University students is also investigated. Students were questioned as to their expectations. According to the files at the Official Job Centre, 17,253 University graduates applied to results show that 78.8 % of the students questioned had little hope of getting a job on graduation whilst 21.2 % expect to find work.

In addition much of the female population is not working. Of women not working, 83.6 % are married whilst the remainder are widowed or unmarried. The reason why unmarried women do not work is either the housework expected of them or the fact that their fathers do not permit them to work. At the Press meeting in which the results of the study were presented, the Minister of Labour and Social Security, Imren Aykut, stated that Turkey's resources were inadequate to the task of solving unemployment. Examining their studies towards resolving the problem, she added: "the most important cause of rising unemployment is the growing population. We have succeeded in lowering unemployment from 19.5 % to some 15 %. However it is impossible to do enough in the face of a population growing 2.1 % annually."

Omer Dincok, President of TUSIAD, described unemployment as a serious problem, and said: "Since it has been a problem for several years there should be strong policies to deal with it". Stressing the low numbers applying to the Official Job centre Dincok said: "The private sector must be supported and allowed to establish employment agencies for the benefit of both employers and the unemployed."

news

600 THOUSAND LOSE THEIR JOBS ANNUALLY

- According to a survey carried out by Petrol-Is Union, only half all workers in the country have social security.

An survey carried-out by Petrol-Is Union, based upon data from various unions, makes it clear that the greatest threat to the labourers of our country is to be fired. The results reveal that, by the end of any year approximately 600,000 lose jobs.

The survey looked at 55,202 workers who have social security insurance, and had been fired from 521 workplaces, for various reasons. However, according to informed opinions, this number is not even one-tenth of workers fired annually for it is -to some extent- impossible to determine the number of workers sacked in small workplaces, where most workers are not eligible for social security. Many being employed as temporary/seasonal workers.

In 1987, the number of social security affiliated workers who lost their job came to approximately 300,000. Of these, 30,000 alone were from Cay-Kur (the main tea company in Turkey). Only half all workers in the country have social security insurance the country, so approximately another 300,000 workers are also experiencing the same thing in parts of the private sector such as construction, small workshops, etc. As a result, nearly 600,000 workers are fired annually.

The most common reasons for redundancy are: closure of the workplace itself, opposition of the employer to unionisation, reduction in the plant's capacity.

The Izmir Branch President of Petrol-Is (Petro-chemical workers' union), Nihat Erdogan stated that the employers have carried out a minimum wage "operation", in addition to de-unionisation. He said: "Every-thing's free and above the law for the capitalists in our country. Only the labourers are subject to restrictions. This is because of the general policy the government. Ozal said that the wages are high in the beginning, just after the

September 12th (1980 military intervention). This has been his point of view since then".

The leadership of Turk-Is (Turkish Trade Union Confederation) 3rd Region pointed-out that the reductions in the number of employees began just after the new minimum wages are negotiated. The number of workers losing their jobs in the past month, exceeded 10,000. Workers who unionise are fired immediately. Among the workplaces whose workers are in unions affiliated to Turk-Is 3rd Region, the metal workers are the heading the list of those fired.

According to the Turk-Metal Union, the aim of the employers is to transfeer to cheap labour by firing the experienced. The unionists said: "Many of the sacked workers apply to the union for a solution every single day. We have no information either about job-losers, or the non-unionised workers in the little workplaces. Things are getting worse.

This avalaunch of the sacked workers never seems to cease". Another leading trade unionist Salih Ozen, the Topkapi Branch President of Teksif (textile union), said: "Since the beginning of the new year, in my region, more than 15,000 have been fired; especially in the small work places. According to the employers it's because the economic crisis. But really it's just to get rid of experienced and senior workers before the new collective bargaining general bargaining negotiations end. Employers are planning to employ new workers just on minimum wages".

However, some employers of this kind are claiming that it's such a hard era for the little workshops and little factories. They state: "We are under such obligations that we are forced to make do with less employees. Otherwise, why would we fire, if it were feasible not to? It's the only solution in order to manage with these very high credit interest rates."

interview

SECOND STRIKE AT THE YILDIZ PORCELAIN FACTORY IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS

"We are familiar with hunger as workers in Turkey. Instead of 5.5 months, we are ready for struggle even if the strike lasts 5.5 years."



Collective bargaining negotiations for 332 workers at the Sumerbank Yıldız Porcelain Factory in Istanbul resulted in disagreement.

The union, Cimse-Is, representing the workers, decided to call a strike on 3.6.1988. In the absence of the the General President of Cimse-Is, Tamer Eralan, who had been called away from the union's headquarters in Ankara, Cimse-Is' General Financial Secretary Murat Topcu and General Education Secretary Ismail Fulser initiated the strike. Now the strike is underway and the morale of the workers is very high.

A short interview with a porcelain factory worker (Ahmet Altinel):

ISHA: How and why have you decided to strike?

Altinel: They (the employers) didn't give us a lot of rights which we had demanded.

We didn't want a normal increase in wages. We told to our union headquarters that we wanted the rights that had been won in the 27 collective bargaining agreements won in workplaces affiliated, to Citosan. On this basis, the union presented our demands to the employer. The employer didn't accept them. We had a mass

meeting among workers and said that we had experienced a five and a half month's strike once before and we were familiar with hunger. As our demands had not been accepted, we decided to strike. We then informed the Union of our decision. This is the fourth strike I have experienced in my working life.

ISHA: Have you many problems now you are on strike?

Altinel: Sure, our wages aren't paid. Some friends, who are not on strike and are normally working at other factories, help us. They must help because employer and government are hand in hand. Therefore on the other side workers must be united. Instead of 5.5 months, we are ready for struggle, even if it will last 5.5 years.

ISHA: How does your Union support the workers?

Altinel: It gives 1000 TL everyday as strike benefit. Financially it means nothing. But we will succeed in spite of all these disadvantages.

We send our best wishes and success to the other workers all over the world.

ISHA: Thanks.

news

THE PROTEST IN GOLCUK DOCKYARD

4000 workers of the Commandancy of Golcuk Dockyard have staged a protest in front of a post-office. The workers sent their wage statements to their employers-Ministry of Defence in protest at their low wages. HARB-IS

(War Industry Workers TU) published a statement on this issue as follows: "They hope that we can make a miracle with wages of TL. 120,000 and TL. 150,000. In fact, the workers of Ministry of Defence are in the position of modern slaves. We are sending the wage statements to the Ministry of Defence so that they can see the economic conditions of miracle makers and the information the authorities give themselves about the wages."

PETROL-IS SIGNS THE MOST BRILLIANT COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT OF THE YEAR

The most brilliant collective bargaining agreement of the year was signed between PETROL-IS (Petrochemical Industry Workers

Trade Union), and MOBIL OIL and BP. In the contract the workers have won monthly wage increases of TL 252,000 for the first year and TL. 242,000 for second year. Plus and additional TL 1 million for the first year and TL 1.200.000's worth of social supports (fringe benefits). Besides all this, the workers will receive the equivalent of 5 salaries in credits and TL 1 million as home-credit. 670 workers will benefit from the contract which was signed in July 12.

1600 WORKERS WERE POISONED

1600 workers were poisoned by lunches eaten in the works canteen on July 14 in the factory of SUMERBANK at Yenimahalle,

Bakirkoy. 200 workers had to have their stomachs pumped plus a series of injections. It was the second case of mass food poisoning at the factory this year. At the request of their trade union the workers left their work.

AGREEMENT IN SASA STRIKE

The 56-day strike at the SASA factory owned by SABANCI HOLDING ended on July 10. In the agreement which ended the strike wages are increased by 70 % plus TL. 67,500 for the first year and TL 170,000 for the second year. The

increases in social aid has reached 600 %. Trade union president, Munir Ceylan, said that after the increases the wages have risen from TL 137,000 to TL. 300,000 per month. In social aid child and family support has risen from TL. 1,500 per week to between TL 4000 and TL 5,000. In addition, there will be no dismissals because of the strike and the contract will be in effect for two years.

TMO STRIKE IS OVER

A strike by 1500 members of TEZ KOOP-IS (Cooperatives and Office Workers TU) ended on July 15. The strike was at the TMO

(Agricultural Products Office) General Directorate and 297 work places. Kenan Gurbuz, the general president of Tez Koop Is, announced at a press conference that the wages have been increased by TL. 35,000 and TL 40,000.

MESS AND OTOMOBIL-IS BEGIN TO NEGOTIATE A GROUP CONTRACT

MESS (Metal Good Industrialist Federation) and OTOMOBIL-IS (Otomotive Product Mounting, Iron, Steel, Machine and Manufacturing from Metal

Commodities Industries Workers TU) began negotiations for 30,000 workers. Ihsan Dalkilic, the general president of OTOMOBIL-IS, said that the workers' wages are below the rate of inflation and they lacked democratic rights. The goal of the group contract will be to protect the purchasing power of the workers today.



THE RESISTANCE IN SEKA



- 19 workers were arrested during a protest action and then released.
- The union will not compromise on its basic demands.

Workers employed by SEKA (the state owned Turkish Paper Industry Corporation), began a 'passive resistance' after the breakdown of collective bargaining negotiations covering 10,200 workers.

19 workers at the Izmit SEKA papermills were arrested during a protest action.

Collective labour contract discussions between Seluloz-Is (Cellulose Paper and Products Workers TU) and KAMUSEN (Government Enterprises Employers' Union) which began on May 31st and included 10,200 workers ended without any positive result and neutral arbitrators were called-in. However, no result was forthcoming at that stage so a formal declaration of disagreement was drawn up on July 28th. Already on July 1st SEKA workers began a protest action in the form of passive resistance which is continuing.

Ismail Onay, the president of Seluloz-Is, announcing the union's decision to take strike action declared that: "SEKA workers have the lowest wages among KIT (Government Economic Enterprises) employees and can't pay their rents. We have listed 90 items in our demands. We certainly won't compromise on those".

In protest at the fact that the employers have refused to negotiate since July 1st, the trade union leadership began to let their beards grow. But

KAMUSEN remained adamant in refusing to continue discussions. In response the action spread with workers of SEKA in Adana, İzmit, Balıkesir, Dalaman and Caycuma mills and depots joining in.

The workers of the İzmit SEKA papermill staged a 'passive action' on July 14th when workers stopped work en masse and reported for medical check ups. In retaliation, the employer wrote an official complaint. As a result 23 workers were placed under the supervision by the police and taken to the court. Of these, 19 workers were arrested.

About 8000 workers working in SEKA factories in İzmit, Balıkesir, Dalaman and Caycuma staged protest meetings over the arrests. And the other workers shut down the machines for the same reason. Thus, production was stopped in SEKA factories on July 15 and 16.

During the protest action, on objection to the arrests was heard at the Kocaeli Court on behalf of the 19 workers. The court upheld the objection and ordered their release. The released workers and others then gathered front of the factory sang the National Hymn. Later they marched from the factory to the highway 1 km away.

4000 workers of İzmit SEKA factory simultaneously demanded a medical inspection and gathered again on July 16th. But the employer refused permission. In response, 4000 workers began sit-in action in the factory. Nevzat Sozer, the general secretary of Selulöz-İs, stated that production had fallen 80 % after action.

Meanwhile, Sadık Kotan, the arbitrator, called both sides for discussions again. In response the SEKA workers postponed their actions for three days and waited.

The new negotiations broke down again when the employers only offered first six months of first year 39 %, for second six months 29 %, for the first six months of second year 18%, for second six months 15 %. The union on the other hand pointed out that SEKA workers were only getting 100,000 TL per month-including all fringe benefits and put forward a demand for 1 000,000 TL extra per month plus another agreements be made for one year only. up a protocol disagreement by go-between. The trade union leadership said that KAMUSEN's attitude was a torture for SEKA workers and the union will not compromise on its basic demands.

Following the break down in talks, in accordance with the law a formal protocol of disagreement was drawn-up by the arbitrator.

After reading the protocol of disagreement, the workers held meetings and same day staged a lunch boycott and protest demonstration with handclapping. SEKA workers explained that their resistance will continue according to each stage of collective bargaining discussions and if necessary they will stop all production completely and stage a mass protest meeting with their families.

CONTRACT AT SHELL

Workers who staged a two month long passive resistance action have reached agreement with their employer-SHELL. Munir Ceylan, the general president of their union-PETROL-İS (Petrochemical industry workers TU) pointed out that besides increases in social supports and wages, a TL 1 million bonus per worker will be given to cover differences mentioned in the contract. In addition, wages have increased by TL. 240,000 per month for the first year, TL. 230,000 for the second year. TL 300,000 will be given to each worker in firewood support for the first year and TL 400,000 for the second year. Clothing support has risen to TL 250,000 for the first year, TL 300,000 for the second year. Further, a new feature of this contract was that workers will be entitled to interestfree loans from their employer.

RESIGNATIONS ARE INCREASING IN IETT

The drivers of IETT (Istanbul Public Transport Directorate) are resigning from the IETT because their wages are lagging behind inflation and they can find better jobs. As a result of the spreading wave of resignations public transport is average TL 150,000 monthly.

MINE WORKERS RESIST

The employer has declared lock-out after a strike decision by Türkiye Maden İşçileri (Mine Workers Trade Union) at the KAVAK KROM İŞLETMESİ (KAVAK KROM ENTERPRISES) which employs 559 workers. Mustafa Cambaz, the president of the Mihalıççık Branch the union, said that the employer haven't accepted demands which include a daily rate of TL 4,000 instead of the present TL 3,200, to give TL 1000 per day towards workers' transport fares and to increase the bonus. In reply the miners have taken a strike decision. After the declaration lock-out, the workers occupied the mine and have announced that will not leave.

PROTEST FROM POWER WORKERS

The workers of Yatagan and Yenikoy Thermal power stations have sent their wage statements to Turgut Ozal, the Prime Minister, İmren Aykut, the Minister of Labour and Social Security and Fahrettin Kurt, the Minister of Energy and Natural Sources, in protest at the fact that extra productivity bonuses awarded to the have been swallowed-up by increased SSK (national insurance) and compulsory savings deductions.

LUPA

Labour and Trade Union Press Agency

ISHA Press Agency will gladly offer the following services on request:

- Organising meetings between international delegations of trade unionists and their kindred in Turkey, providing simultaneous interpreters for such meetings;
- Organising international conferences on questions pertaining to the labour world in Turkey;

• Preparing up-to-date and detailed documents on trade unions, labour events, strikes, interviews of prominent labour leaders, etc...

• Informing the public opinion in general and the labour movement in particular in Turkey on the current events and views concerning the international labour movement.

Hoping to hear from you soon, we wish to take this opportunity to send you our greetings.

STRIKES LIST (Acc. to July, 27 1988)

Trade Unions	Work Places	Start Date	Number of Days	Number of Workers in Strike
OIL, CHEMICAL AND TIRE				
Petrol-İş/ TÜRK-İŞ	Doğu Galvaniz/KOCAELİ	17.09.88	320	106
Laspetkim-İş/ Independent	EGE Nil A.Ş./İSTANBUL	26.04.88	87	40
Laspetkim-İş/ Independent	Noramın A.Ş./İSTANBUL	26.04.88	87	270
Laspetkim-İş/ Independent	Ege Plast A.Ş./İZMİR	28.04.88	85	300
WOOD				
Öz Ağaç-İş/ HAK-İŞ	Sedir Mobilya San. Koll. ANKARA	8.07.88	15	?
PRESS				
Basın-İş/ TÜRK-İŞ	Darphane ve Damga Mat/İST.	23.06.88	30	330
PAPER				
Selüloz-İş/ TÜRK-İŞ	Motif Duvar Kağıt-İZMİR	30.10.87	267	50
Selüloz-İş/ TÜRK-İŞ	Kağıt Torba Fab./ Adana	30.06.88	23	101
CEMENT, SOIL AND GLASS				
Çimse-İş/ TÜRK-İŞ	Sümerbank Yıldız Porselen/İST.	6.06.88	47	350
METAL				
Otomobil-İş/ Independent	SACE Elektrik/İSTANBUL	9.11.87	277	90
Otomobil-İş/ Independent	Hurma Elektronik A.Ş./ İSTANBUL	4.07.88	19	55