

TURKEY NEWSLETTER

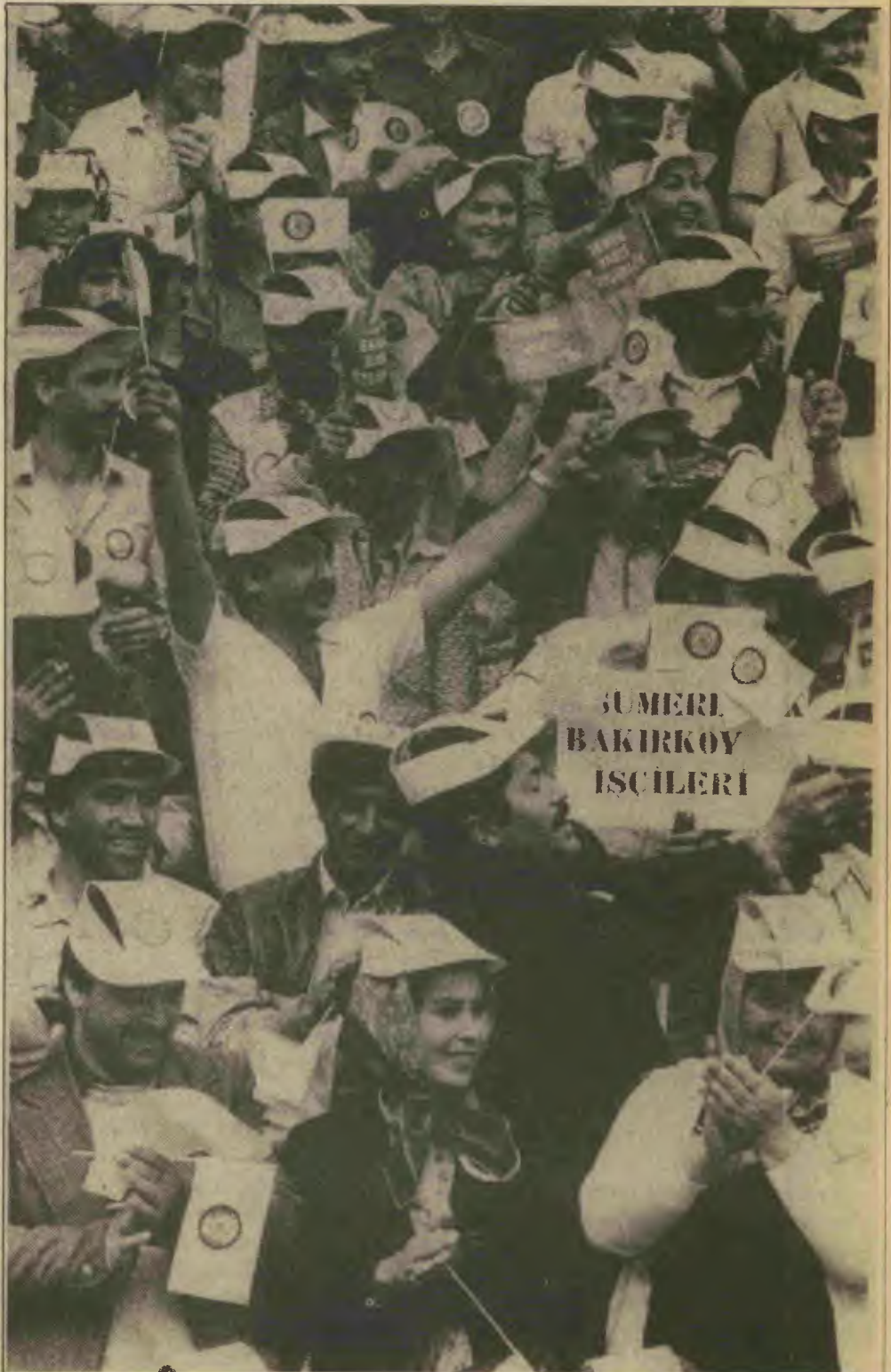


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WORKERS BATTLE FOR DEMOCRACY





FILE ON TORTURE

No. 1 May 1984

amnesty international

Amnesty International's *File on Torture: Turkey* delivered a hard blow to the fascist junta and its European apologists. We reprint some excerpts from this file. Some of those mentioned in the file are now living in England and are active in CDDRT and the Union of Turkish Women in Britain. This proves once more that the fascists have not been able to capture the hearts and minds of the political prisoners despite the torture.

Sema Oğur, Nursal Yılmaz and Meryem Sendil Colakoğlu were tortured during their detention at the police headquarters in Ankara and when they were imprisoned in Mamak Military Prison subsequently.

In May 1983, the women were sentenced in absentia each to 6 years 8 months imprisonment for being supporters of the illegal Communist Party of Turkey-İşçinin Sesi (Workers' Voice). The husbands of Sema Oğur and Nursal Yılmaz arrested with their wives, are still in Mamak prison, serving 10 years 8 months and 25 years, respectively.

After their arrests, the women were first detained at the police headquarters in Ankara from which the First Branch of the Ankara Security Directorate operates. All 3 were interrogated and tortured there at the notorious Değerlendirme ve Araştırma Laboratuvarı (DAL), Evaluation and Research Laboratories.

Torture at the DAL

Sema Oğur, twice arrested in 1981 spent a total of 47 days at the DAL and was tortured daily. As a result, during her first spell there, she was hospitalised in the emergency ward. The doctors there refused to record the torture marks on her body. On the second occasion, she was kept mostly in solitary confinement in a pitch dark cell. Like the other detainees, she was blindfolded on arrest and during most of the torture.

Meryem Şendil Çolakoğlu who spent 23 days at the DAL, was in Mamak prison for over a year until her release in November 1981. She testified that the ill-treatment began immediately on arrest:

"Countless hours of the most unimaginable affronts to human dignity began with the first kicks as I was bundled into the police car. My demands to know what was happening, where I was being taken, were met with kicks and punches. Once in the car, I was blindfolded and the policeman next to me pushed my head between his legs and began beating my back — 'We are going to what you might call a beauty parlour. You go in like this and you come out a different shape.'" And for Sema Oğur, torture began on her arrival at the DAL which included having to stand on one foot and leaning forward against the wall with her forefingers supporting her body weight.

The catalogue of torture described by the women was consistent. Kicks, punches, beatings with truncheons and falaka torture-being beaten on the soles of the feet with a thick stick, were routine. Other methods included electric shocks to sensitive parts of the body, being hung from ceiling pipes by the arms (called *askı*) or by the "Palestine method" with hands and feet bound together behind the back and then hung face down by a rope attached to 4 limbs, being subjected to "car tyre"-falaka torture and being hosed down naked with jets of icy water.

Sema Oğur was left hanging from ceiling pipes by her outstretched arms as if crucified:

"It was as if my arms were coming off...The pain became so bad that my screams drowned their (the torturers') voices."

She was cramped into a U-shape through a car tyre so that bits of her body stuck out on either side of the tyre, falaka, being administered to the soles of her feet at the same time.

Sema Oğur and Nursal Yılmaz

described the torture in pairs of married and engaged couples in exploiting to the full, the relationship between victims. Sema Oğur and her husband were given electric shocks in front of each other. Her blindfold was taken off briefly for her to witness the application of electricity to her husband's genitals. This was followed by threats of rape in her husband's presence; all this was to try and get the couple to reveal their address. However, despite the severe torture which included electricity being applied to Sema Oğur's toes while being hung from the ceiling and her husband made to watch, neither of them broke down under torture, knowing that the lives of their friends were at stake.



Sema Oğur and her husband were tortured by Turkish security officials

Nursal Yılmaz was suspended by the wrists 3 times and tortured as her fiancé (whom she later married), was forced to watch. Similarly, she was made to watch while he was tortured, hung on the wall by his wrists.

"His body...arched... I suppose because of the pain. He was blindfold...his trousers were undone. From this I deduced that they had given him electric shocks to his penis."

Her fiancé later confirmed that this had been done to him and for a long time afterwards, he passed blood with his urine.

Sema Oğur also described how an old man was forced to watch while his children were being tortured, and vice-versa.

Meryem Colakoğlu also experienced this type of tactic in torture. "A male colleague...was under the falaka. They were beating him with all their might, while at the same time saying and doing things to me which should not be done to a woman — in order to pressurise him."

Conditions at the DAL

Victims were piled up in the corridors from overcrowding at the DAL, the incessant noise and the shouts of the torturers and the screams of the tortured made it impossible to sleep, according to Sema Oğur. "The torture never let up...Even when they stopped torturing you physically, the screams of the others began to torment you psychologically. After a while I was able to pick out which torture was being applied — from the screams", she said. Meryem Colakoğlu heard the screams and the sound of doors constantly opening and shutting, prisoners being thrown back in, in a flurry of kicks and abuse. She was unable to distinguish night from day and the screams never let up.

Torture in Mamak Military Prison

The harsh, arbitrary, military-style prison regime is designed to maintain discipline amongst the political prisoners. The punishments enforced include severe beatings, being incarcerated in stone "death cells", being kept in cages and being deprived of privileges like family visits.

Sema Oğur said that morning and evening inspections were the scene of daily beatings. "They hit you for the slightest infringement of the rules: looking sideways, not shouting your name at the top of your voice, not standing straight, not stamping your feet like a soldier, etc. ...Our bodies were constantly black and blue."

On arrival "induction" begins and during this period, prisoners are known to have been caged in for up to 2 days in a cage resembling a lion's cage, and forced to march back and forth in it, singing marches and being beaten



Meryem Şendil Çolakoğlu (left) and Nursal Yılmaz, were tortured in the DAL centre at Ankara Police Headquarters and later during detention in Mamak Military Prison.

constantly by the officer in charge. The prisoners' hands would be swollen from the beatings. The training continues day and night, aimed at breaking the prisoners' spirits from the start.

After "induction," up to 50 inmates were warded together. During their 5-minute daily exercise, the prisoners were not allowed to talk, look about them or even glance up at the sky. The men were exercised at different times. Therefore Sema Oğur and Nursal Yılmaz never saw their husbands in Mamak, let alone communicate with them throughout the 14 months all 4 were imprisoned there.

The "death cells"

Nursal Yılmaz was cramped with 2 or 3 other prisoners, into cells measuring 4 handspans by 4 handspans, about a square metre, for 15 days in stretch and only taken out mornings and evenings for beatings. A drawer in the cell was

their toilet.

Meryem Colakoğlu was twice locked up in the "death cells" in the basement of the prison, for 7 and 8 days, with 2 other women. "It was virtually impossible for the 3 of us to squat down... We ate our food and went to toilet in the same tiny cell...let out only twice a day...".

They were let out to collect food and for inspection and were regularly beaten at inspection.

"When I got out I ached terribly... There had only been one blanket between us, so we were all cold and exhausted and suffering from lack of fresh air."

Any complaints to the authorities including the judges, would be a violation of the rules and the prisoners would be punished severely for it. It meant a spell in the cells or cages or a severe beating.

Testimony of a former prisoner

"I loosened the blindfold and looked around. The scene was horrific. People were piled up in the corridor waiting their turn to be tortured. Ten people were being led blindfold and naked up and down the corridor and were being beaten to force them to sing reactionary marches. Others, who were incapable of standing, were tied to hot radiator pipes. . . .

"An old man of about 50 had been stripped naked and was being made to hand out bread rations. The same man was forced to watch while his children were tortured, and vice-versa.

"Those lying on the ground were kicked and punched by passing torturers. The torture never let up. . . . Even when they stopped torturing you physically, the screams of the others began to torment you psychologically. After a while I was able to pick out which torture was being applied—from the screams."

Özal speaks n torture of political prisoners

Since his election to office Turkish Premier, Mr Turgut Özal, gave his first and most exclusive interview to Financial Times journalist David Tonge. We reprint here extracts from this most illuminating interview. (from Financial Times Survey, May 14 1984)

DAVID TONGE: *Are you planning an amnesty for political offenders?*

ÖZAL: *I am sorry about that. Most of them have been sentenced under certain articles of the penal code, which are the very ones which the constitution makes it impossible to forgive.*

DAVID TONGE: *Can you not change those articles then?*

ÖZAL: *My hands are tied. We have to wait in the next elections. To make any partial or limited amnesty all three parties in parliament should agree and that is not simple. Right now our problem is rehabilitating our sons and daughters in prison.*

DAVID TONGE: *Surely such developments as the mass hunger strikes in Mamak military prison and the deaths in Diyarbakır prison show that the prisons are not being run in a way to help rehabilitate prisoners?*

ÖZAL: *This is an area I have tried to learn more about. We appointed a commission to investigate. I think what was said abroad was not true. But military prisons have their rules, as do military schools. People must obey those rules. The military will not do things which are not in the prison regulation book.*

DAVID TONGE: *Would this not mean that the beating of prisoners and torture are sanctioned from the very top?*

ÖZAL: *Every torture complaint is*

studied. So far there have been 682. Of these, 398 were found to be groundless, 146 are being investigated and 80 have led to trials; 381 people have been arrested for mistreating prisoners.

DAVID TONGE: *But so few people are actually sentenced, while Amnesty International has a list of 80 deaths alone.*

ÖZAL: *There may be such complaints, but which are genuine? I am not saying there is no torture in our prisons. It could not be so because the security people are not dedicated to deal with what is a new type of prisoner for them, the ideological terrorist prisoner. These prisoners are much tougher. They do not normally think of themselves as killers and thieves. They think they have ideals.*

DAVID TONGE: *What about groups not involved in violence such as the Peace Association, headed by men, such as a retired ambassador and the former head of the İstanbul Bar Association? Should they not be released?*

ÖZAL: *I cannot say. I really do not know the case. But don't forget that Communist propaganda is a crime in our country. The law goes back to the 1930's.*

I ask people from the Council of Europe: These laws were used to punish people in the 1950's: Where were you then? Why do you only complain today?

DAVID TONGE: *But to most people the Peace Association, far from doing Communist propaganda was only questioning Western arms policy in the way that, for instance, your friend Mr Robert Macnamara, the ex-US Secretary of Defence does?*

ÖZAL: *Some people say that groups, such as the Peace Association and DİSK (the radical trades union confederation whose leaders face a possible death sentence) were not pulling the trigger, but others such as the prosecutors say they were the brains, the organisers behind the violence.*

DAVID TONGE: *Which is your position?*

ÖZAL: *I have no idea. I am not involved. The military courts will decide. We have nothing to do with the courts. But I get letters from abroad. They are written with identical words. One power seems to be controlling this from behind.*



Big brother is watching: *Özal recently called himself a "prime minister for 1984". Who would dispute it?*

FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF FASCIST COUP



4 years after the coup, the working class is again beginning to flex its muscle

WORKERS' ANGER GROWS

Fay Kelly

The 12th of September this year marks the fourth anniversary of the counter-revolutionary coup d'état, enacted by the Chief of Staff, General (now President and Head of State), Kenan Evren and his supporters, the National Security Council, on behalf of the most reactionary sections of finance capital in Turkey. This fascist coup was the third such military intervention in 20 years, all of which gives political expression to the very depth of the social and economic crisis which brought capitalism in Turkey to the brink of collapse in 1980.

The generals' remedy for collapse was to seize power, dissolve the elected parliament, brutally suppress and ban *all* political parties, trade unions — outlawing all organisations other than its own. During this period, a systematic round-up of all known opposition took place, especially targeted for this were the notable and leading figures from major national institutions and associations including the leaders of the Peace Council. Having torn up Turkey's

constitution the generals set about re-writing their own constitution to enable the transformation of the state into a more efficient instrument for coercing the working class into submission and thus enable the generals (as finance capital in uniform) to maximise the extraction of 'super profits'. Essentially, to make the working class pay with its blood and sweat for the capitalist crisis.

Whilst the nation remained imprisoned under the stringent restriction of martial law (which today still operates in 41 of the 67 provinces), the junta announced its intention to hold a "general election". For this, none of the new constitutional restrictions outlawing political parties were lifted. Instead of allowing 'real parties' with bases in society to contest freely and openly in the elections, the junta created three "parties" from within its own ranks and then proceeded to stand them as political opponents! In this the sheer bankruptcy of the regime's promised and much heralded "return to democracy" knows

no bounds! These sham elections both general and local, and the activities surrounding them, however, served as an important testing ground for the junta's intended institutionalisation of fascism, not merely within a written constitution but within the society as a whole. Without achieving this aim, the generals with such a small and narrowing base, cannot survive the test of time.

It is becoming more and more obvious with each passing day from the continuing resistance within the military prisons of the hunger strikers, although often spontaneous and disorganised, and from the militant actions of the 7000 delegates at the recent Türk-İş expanded meeting and other such actions that the junta will never be able to consolidate its power over the people by winning itself a popular social base upon which to effect a complete institutionalisation of fascism which is now necessary if the regime is to survive.

WORKERS BATTLE

Michael Hill

In the past fifteen years the labour movement in Turkey has lived through a whole range of experiences from the great level of militancy and upheaval of a country in the throes of a revolutionary crisis to the heavy oppression and blanket silence of fascism. Now, the first signs of a new phase are appearing.

In Turkey today the battle for democracy is being slowly lifted to a new level and once more the labour movement is moving into the centre of events.

It should be borne in mind that in a society such as Turkey's, which is living through a period of acute oppression and iron control of every aspect of life, every small manifestation of discontent no matter how trivial in itself takes on a significance out of all proportion to its size. Whether it is what people are saying in bus or foodshop queues or the accidental outbursts of "approved" politicians, they all reflect big movements going on under the surface. It is in this light that we evaluate the stirrings taking place in the working class of Turkey.

The first signs were the 'incidents' at 13th Congress of Türk-İş (The only permitted T.U. centre) at the end of 1983. It met against a background of the suppression of the right to strike and free collective bargaining and at a time when workers' real take-home pay had been cut by 40%. The congress was marred by undignified scrambles amongst the "VIPs" — the representatives of the newly elected sham parliament, as they fought to obtain more prominent seating in the Congress hall, and as they each crawled forward to represent themselves as real 'friends of the workers' and to pontificate on the value of the worker to the country. When former Türk-İş President Halil Tunç voiced mild criticism of the new government programme in the words: "We know this programme and the cadres who are going to apply it, very well, it is the same programme that has been applied for the past 4 years... The freezing of wages and minimum statutory prices (for agricultural produce — TN) when everything else is left free, runs counter to democracy, as does in fact that under the new laws, no serious strike can be undertaken." This and other remarks brought interruptions and attempts to shout him down from the parliamentary 'guests'. On the following day a reference to social democracy in a speech by a Petrol-İş (Chemical Workers Union) delegate led finally to the expulsion of two Petrol-İş delegates from the hall and a walk-out in support by 50 other delegates.

The old Türk-İş leadership under Şevket Yılmaz barely managed to retain power in elections at congress. Since then they have been engaged in a desperate balancing act, on the one hand trying both to appear to be speaking up for the rights of workers and stemming the rising tide of workers' anger and on the other begging the government not to push the workers to the point where 'social peace' would collapse and he and his colleagues would drown in a rising tide of class



Rank-and-file workers demand action from the trade union

struggle. Such is the situation in Türk-İş that steps are being taken to develop an alternative but 'safe' leadership to the Yılmaz group.

Every day that passes reveals more clearly the inability of the ruling class to rule in Turkey. It is clear that not one of the acute economic problems present before 12th September 1980 has been solved. The only result of four years of dictatorship has been a further erosion of the workers' living standards. The average workers wage now stands at 16,250 TL per month before tax at a time when Turkish newspapers calculate that 36,547 TL per month is necessary just to *feed* a four-person family. At a time when inflation is running in the region of 48% the government is offering wage increases of only 25% plus 2000 TL.

The anger of the working class and the re-emergence of the labour movement is reflected in the behaviour of the politicians. Everybody wants to be the workers' spokesman. In parliament there are outbursts and quarrels amongst MPs leading to actual physical fights on the floor of the Chamber. These outbreaks stop as suddenly as they begin when

FOR DEMOCRACY



leadership. The placards read: "Bread, peace, freedom"

politicians realise they are displaying pre September 1980 symptoms and highlighting the regime's bankruptcy. It is this situation that led Evren in a speech at Manisa to brust out with "I will not allow loopholes to appear in the constitution." Himself revealing that the carefully constructed straitjacket built around the working class is already being penetrated by the labour movement.

The situation is such that even Şide, Türk-İş General Secretary and a minister in the post-1980 fascist government had to say "As Türk-İş we would like to point out one danger — the wage earner cannot make ends meet with these wages."

The last two months have witnessed important indications of the workers' mood. In June the İstanbul Ist region of Türk-İş held a rally attended by 7,000 invited workers. The official slogans of "Bread, Peace, Freedom", gave way during the proceedings to the shout of "Strike is our right, we will take it by force". At the beginning of his speech Şevket Yılmaz released a flight of doves — no doubt symbolising the Türk-İş leadership's hope to keep the peace in the coming difficult days. However, it was clear that for most of those present,

they symbolised an unfettered class struggle.

July saw women going on strike at a biscuit factory over the fact that they had not been paid any wages since January! There was also a riot over bread prices in Karaman (Central Turkey). The latest incident to reach us concerns workers of the municipal cleaning Dept, in Manisa. They were told that instead of working an 8 hour day 5½ day week a form of 'flexi-time' would be introduced allowing them to go home as soon as a particular job was finished. The workers believed this and in six hours they were ready to go. Then they were told that this was not possible after all and they must still put in 8 hours. It was clear to them that it had just been a trick to accelerate the work tempo on a particular job.

Next day the workers stayed at home and 18 went to protest to the Mayor. Finding him 'not available' they went to the Martial Law Commander. He told them that the army does not interfere in workers' problems. So speaks a representative of those who banned free trade unions, sent thousands of trade union activists to goal and put the DİSK leaders on trial for their lives! From him they went to the office of the Motherland Party provincial president, he reported their complaint to the Municipality who promptly reported the 18 workers to the police for agitation. According to last reports they are still being interrogated. In this one case we see the real face of Turkey's 'orderly return to democracy'.

Turkey is in a situation where MPs who have just voted themselves a 3rd pay rise bringing their monthly salary to 280,000 TL, are attempting to lecture workers for whom the minimum monthly wage can be 10,000 TL, on what the economy can and cannot afford.

In this atmosphere pressure is mounting in every sphere of trade union work. Every day sees greater discontent amongst the rank-and-file who are demanding a democratisation of the Türk-İş structure and a real fight against the employers and the government. The contradiction between the growing determination to struggle for real democracy and basic rights and attempts to limit and deflect this struggle, is becoming more acute.

In these conditions attempts are being made to re-establish rival trade union centres. Old trade union figures are trying to put together new trade union confederations. Along with most trade unionists in Turkey, we take the view that this would cut off advanced workers from the less advanced and ease the pressure on the Türk-İş leadership. The real struggle is to unit workers in one democratic trade union centre around Türk-İş which could really fight for workers' demands and a democratic Turkey.

At this time when cracks are appearing in the facade of the regime in Turkey, trade unionist everywhere should show support for their brothers and sisters there who are spreading the revolutionary traditions of the 1970s trade unions through the whole movement and are working to lift a united trade union movement into the forefront of the battle for democracy.

10th Anniversary of the Invasion of Cyprus



PICKET OF TURKISH EMBASSY

Warm and fraternal welcome from our Greek and Cypriot friends for the internationalist attitude of the CDDRT and its affiliated organisations

Helen Baş

On the evening of 14 July, the CDDRT and its affiliated organisations joined Greek and Cypriot groups in a protest march held in London to mark the tenth anniversary of the invasion of Cyprus by the Turkish army.

This march had been organised by the Cypriot National Coordinating Committee as a torch light procession from Trafalgar Square to the Turkish Embassy to picket there in protest at the continued occupation of Cyprus by Turkey and at the more recent declaration of UDI in northern Cyprus.

While waiting for all groups to assemble at Trafalgar Square, CDDRT members were busy distributing *Turkey Newsletter*, making our presence felt almost immediately. We spoke to many interested on-lookers from the public, some of whom were at first surprised to find an organisation like the CDDRT whom one would normally associate with the campaigning on issues around Turkey, being so forthright in condemning the Turkish regime for occupying Cyprus. We took the opportunity to explain to them the aims of the CDDRT and in particular, our views on the issue of occupied Cyprus.

Once our contingent was assembled, we started chanting slogans and the pace of things soon picked up. We called for the unity of Greek and Turk against the common enemy, the fascist junta of Turkey, for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Cyprus and we reiterated our vehement condemnation of the declaration of UDI in northern Cyprus. Our chanting of slogans spurred on the other groups and at one point having heard how effective our slogans were, a CDDRT member was invited by the organisers to co-ordinate the slogans from the front.

A street away from the Turkish Embassy, the march was suddenly dispersed. We were told it was a security measure. We realised that having achieved the momentum in the march that we had, it was important to keep our columns intact and to re-assemble as quickly as possible in front of the Embassy for the picket. We were in high spirits as we quickened our pace towards the picket area, simultaneously singing marches and chanting slogans, determined to sustain the atmosphere despite the disruption. And to our pleasant surprise, we were greeted by loud cheering and clapping by those

already gathered opposite the Embassy. Obviously, they were also caught up in the all-round vigorous participation and the spirit generated during the march remained unbroken. This warm and fraternal welcome from our Greek and Cypriot friends showed us how much they appreciated the internationalist attitude of the CDDRT and the rest of the contingent from Turkey.

The CDDRT banner took up position in the centre of the front picket line directly facing the Embassy. We shouted slogans incessantly for almost an hour. A number of Greek youths shouted slogans in solidarity with us demanding that the fascist junta in Turkey get out of Cyprus and out of Turkey, affiliated organisations started a slogan in Greek, it caught everyone's imagination and the shouting of slogans flared up again, this time, in Greek, Turkish and English. Each group took their turn to keep the slogans going. In this way, for a few more hours, the picket's vocal protests echoed round Belgrave late. So instead, we sat down in a circle and sang marches and songs. We included a Greek marching song and immediately, a group of Greeks responded with their repertoire of Greek songs.

CDDRT USA REPORT

The following report was sent to Turkey Newsletter by the newly formed Chicago Branch of the CDDRT, Our first branch in the USA.

The Generals Go The Repression Remains

On July 14th, over 60 people gathered to participate in the first event sponsored by CDDRT-Chicago. The Forum — "The Generals Go, The Repression Remains" — featured presentations by two local members. First, Dr Jon V Kofas, dispelled numerous myths surrounding Turkish-Greek relations. Kofas stressed that the large imperialist powers, in the past Great Britain and currently the US, have always tried to pit the two nations against each other. This is done in hopes of making imperialist control of the region more secure.

In his discussion of repression against the labour movement, Dr William A. Pelz pointed to the strength and militancy demonstrated by Turkish workers. "The aim of the government and the capitalists they serve is to crush the institutions of working class struggle particularly DISK," Pelz noted, "It is out of fear of radical social change that fascist-like measures such as outlawing democratic parties and institutions were undertaken."

During the question and answer period, a number of Greek students

stated that the friction between Greece and Turkey is between governments not between people who, after all, share a common interest. Many Americans present expressed surprise that such brutal repression could take place in a NATO nation and go unreported in the US press. After a lively discussion of over an hour, the meeting was brought to a close when in response to the question of an Afro-American worker "Okay, but what can we do", it was agreed that the first task was to alert progressive Americans to the significance of the Turkish struggle.

Letter from Turkey

Secret Army Purge Reflects Growing Unrest

The following letter from Turkey is about recent events in the army which have been assiduously kept out of the press

A purge has started within the army and is continuing. The first targets have been ex-students, in particular those who studied at the Middle East Technical University, Faculty of Politics. We have learned that approximately 600 army officers have been sacked. They stand accused of being married whilst studying and are detained for any reason and on the slightest pretext. If a "crime" cannot be found, the suspect can still be arrested and detained without being charged for a period of two months. 15-20 days after their return, they are discharged from their duties for having been "arrested and detained".

It has been heard that almost a month

ago an attempt to facilitate the escape of *Türkes* (leader of the fascist NAP-TN) from hospital took place. The army doctors who were responsible for or connected in any way with him have been removed. Some have been arrested. One of them is *Metin Denli* (this person was notorious for his "medical" activities during the 12th March 1971 period, when he did everything to aid the death of detainees). Meanwhile one of the doctors of *Gülhane* Hospital has been found dead. According to our information, this was a doctor who knew what was going on but did not want to participate. Those army doctors considered "progressive" are sent from Ankara to other places.

The fascists are increasing their organisational work within educational institutions, holding meetings, quite openly, in the canteens. They are attempting to gain control of cultural and recreational events such as the folk dancing or choirs, which are at present under the control of the college authorities. They have beaten students who are studying at the Faculty of Science for reading *Milliyet* and *Cumhuriyet* (Considered liberal papers — T.N.). The administration's comment amounted to a statement suggesting that the students should not have been reading them in the first place.

Such incidents are on the increase."

R.T., Ankara

This year CDDRT will be joining hands with its affiliated organisation the Union of Turkish Workers at the TUC Conference. Our joint fringe meeting against deportations will help to bridge the gap between the working class struggles of Turkey and Britain



Representatives of Turkish speaking community with (from right to left) Eliano Pinto, Latin American Advisory Ctee., Ken Livingstone chair of Ethnic Minorities Ctee., Paul Boateng, vice-chair Ethnic Minorities Ctee., Caroline Maldonado, Ethnic Minorities Unit, at GLC Press Conference.

NO MORE DEPORTATIONS

Turkish and Cypriot workers in this country have been struggling for their rights as part of the working class in Britain.

As the numbers of unemployed increase, the migrant workers in Britain, the weakest section of the working class, are the most vulnerable.

Increasing police raids and deportations among the Turkish and Cypriot communities have led the Union of Turkish Workers (UTW) to start an anti-deportation campaign. They have produced a report.

On 17 July 1984, the Leader of the Greater London Council, Ken Livingstone gave a press conference at which the representatives of the Union of Turkish Workers and the Union of Turkish Women in Britain participated as platform speakers. Ken Livingstone referring to the UTW's report pointed to the problems that the Turkish community faces:

"(...)

"Refugees often come from countries whose repressive regimes are supported by the British government through its foreign policies, and campaigns are

often the only way to get support and refugee status for an individual.

"(...)

"Two communities based in London which have been affected over the last few months are the Turks, who with Turkish Cypriots estimated to number 100,000 in London, and Latin Americans numbering about 30,000. A report from a Turkish community organisation described the police raids at workplaces, clothing factories, restaurants and houses, generally in the early hours in North and East London where the community is concentrated. In factories, immigration officers or police are sometimes accompanied by Inland Revenue officers, everybody is asked to prove their identity, to show passports, to give addresses. It is this indiscriminating approach which is a major source of concern in the community. The Ashford Remand Centre deport block has room for about 117 deportees who suffer long periods of detention varying between five weeks and 18 months. In recent months up to an estimated 25 per cent were Turkish/Cypriot continuously. Since last

Christmas 100 Turks were arrested, 30 deported and about 40 have left 'voluntarily' the report stated.

"(...)

"The publicity that the 'fishing' raids on the black community received led to an announcement by the Home Secretary in Parliament in July 1974 that a directive had been sent to all Chief Constables, stressing amongst other things the need to avoid anything which could be construed as harassment or making a practice of asking for passports in connection with minor offences. Recent reports of incidents in communities such as the Turkish and Latin American for example of individuals stopped for traffic offences and asked for passports, have led to further questions in Parliament on this issue."

The CDDRT has long been campaigning for the democratic rights of the working class in Turkey. This year we will be organising traditional fringe meeting at the TUC Conference-Brighton together with the UTW. By this we aim to bridge the gap between the struggle of the working class of Turkey and Britain.

**HUMAN RIGHTS
IN TURKEY**
through the eyes of
European Parliamentarians

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by Ivole Roberts, MP
Reports by
Chris Smith, MP
Jeremy Corbyn, MP

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London N1
Tel: 226 2668

CONSTITUTION OF THE CDDRT

1. The name of the organisation shall be the Committee for Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey (CDDRT).
2. The aims of CDDRT are as follows:
End military rule, martial law, torture and executions.
Release of political prisoners.
Freedom for all democratic organisations.
End national oppression of the Kurds and national minorities.
Stop expansionism; end the occupation of Cyprus.
Withdraw Turkey from NATO and close all NATO bases.
No military, political or economic support for the fascist junta.
Totally oppose junta harassment of overseas opponents.

3. Organisations and individuals accepting the aims of CDDRT can apply to affiliate. Such applications are subject to the approval of the General Council. Affiliation fees shall be set by the General Council and become payable from 1 January each year.
4. Congress is the highest body of CDDRT and shall meet every two years. It shall consist of delegates from Branches and affiliated organisations, and individual affiliates. Congress shall elect the General Council and consider reports and motions. The conduct of business shall be on the basis of Standing Orders approved by Congress. Pre-Congress arrangements are the responsibility of the retiring General Council. Each Congress shall decide the size of the General Council.

5. The General Council is the continuing body of Congress and shall meet quarterly. It shall appoint the Executive Committee which is responsible to it. The General Council shall have the right to co-opt.
6. The Executive Committee shall consist of the General Secretary and such other members as the General Council may decide. The Executive Committee shall meet at least fortnightly and be responsible for the day to day work of CDDRT.
7. Local Branches of CDDRT are formed with the approval of the General Council.
8. This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority at a Congress.
9. The General Council may call, or upon request by two-thirds of affiliated national organisations shall call, a Special Congress.

CDDRT General Council

- Bedir AYDEMİR
Richard BALFE, MEP
John M BLOOM
Philip BRAY
Sandra HODGSON
Alic LOMAS, MEP
Aydn MERİÇ
Stan NEWENS
Ernie ROBERTS MP
Alan SAPPER
Marion SARAFI
Faik SINKIL
Tijen UĞURİŞ
Martin UPHAM
Bob WRIGHT
and 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

Sponsors include

- | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| Peter Archer QC MP | Roy Hughes MP | Stan Newens MEP | NUM | Chelmsford CLP | Teesside Polytechnic Students' Union |
| Joe Ashton MP | Lewis Carter-Jones MP | Dr Barry Seal MEP | NUM Derbyshire | Greenwich CLP | Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation |
| Nirman Atkinson MP | Robert Kilroy-Silk MP | Colin Barnett, Sec. NW TUC | NUM Scotland | Hazelgrove CLP | Demokrat Norway |
| Tony Banks MP | Neil Kinnoch MP | Ken Brett, AGS AUEW | NUM Yorkshire | High Peak CLP | Haldane Society of Socialist Lawyers |
| Guy Barnett MP | James Lamond MP | Stan Cole AUEW NC | NUPE | Keighley CLP | London CRS Political Committee |
| Margaret Beckett MP | R. Leighton MP | Harry Conroy, NUJ | NUPE Northern Ireland Div | Walthamstow CLP | Frank Allau |
| Tony Benn MP | Bob Litherland MP | Lawrence Daly, NUM | NUPE West Midlands Div | Wigan CLP | Lord Fgner Brockway |
| Andrew Bennett MP | Allen McKay MP | J. Davidson, NW FTAT | NUR Manchester | Labour Party Young Socialists | Alan Bush |
| Syd Bidwell MP | William McKelvey MP | Beryl Hufinley, Yorks & Humb TUC | Northern Ireland Public Service Alliance | National Organisation of Labour Students | Bob Cryer |
| Roland Boyes MP | Kevin McNamara MP | E.V. Hughes, NW TUC | SOGAT '82 LCA & EP Branch | Firring For Progressive | Arthur Davidson QC |
| Ron Brown MP | Bob McTaggart MP | Alex Kitson, TGWU | TGWU | Fr Tyrkia | Frank Hookey |
| Richard Caborn MP | J Maxton MP | Mick McGahey, NUM | TGWU Reg. No.1 | Iraqi Students' Society UK (Branch of GUSIR) | Les Huckfield |
| Vlex Carlisle MP | Joan Maynard MP | Allan Sapper, ACTT | UCATT London Region | KNE (Communist Youth of Greece) org. in Britain | Lord Jenkins of Putney |
| Dennis Canavan MP | Michael Meacher MP | Bob Wright, AGS AUEW | UCATT NW Region | Greater London Association of Trades Councils | Mgr. Bruce Kent |
| Bob Clay MP | Martin O'Neill MP | ACTSS Central London Branch | Greater London Association of Trades Councils | Cambridge & Dist Trades Council | Arthur Latham |
| Harry Cohen MP | Stan Orme MP | APEX Holborn Branch | Gloucester Trades Council | Greenwich Trades Council | Ken Livingstone |
| Jeremy Corbyn MP | Bob Parry MP | ASLEF | Hackney Trades Council | Hackney Trades Council | Robert J. Longuet |
| Tom Cox MP | Terry Patchett MP | ASTMS Divisional Council 8 | Kingston & Dist Trades Council | Kingston & Dist Trades Council | Jim Marshall |
| Harry Cowans MP | Jo Richard MP | ASTMS Manchester HS Branch | Leeds Trades Council | Leeds Trades Council | Lord Molloy |
| Stan Crowthier MP | Allan Robert MP | AUEW Kingston District | Cities of London & Westminster Trades Council | Preston Trades Council | John Platts-Mills QC |
| Ron Davies MP | Ernie Roberts MP | AUEW N. Manchester District | Rotherham Trades Council | Rotherham Trades Council | George Morton |
| Frank Dobson MP | Ernie Ross MP | AUEW Sheffield District | Stockport Trades Council | Stockport Trades Council | William Pomeroy |
| Dick Douglas MP | Clare Short MP | AUEW (TASS) Div Council 9 | Waltham Forest Trades Council | Waltham Forest Trades Council | Reg Race |
| Alfred Dubs MP | Dennis Skinner MP | COHSE Caterham Branch | GEC Openshaw JSSC | GEC Openshaw JSSC | Andrew Rothstein |
| Alexander Eadie MP | Clive Soley MP | Fire Brigades Union | Union of Turkish Workers | Union of Turkish Workers | Marion Sarafi |
| Ken Eastham MP | Jack Straw MP | GMWU Burnley Branch | Beckenham CLP | Beckenham CLP | Gordon Schaffer |
| Bob Edwards MP | Stan Thorne MP | GMWU 22 Bury Branch | Bermondsey CLP | Bermondsey CLP | E.P. Thompson |
| Derek Fatchett MP | Robert Wareing MP | GMWU 115 Manchester Branch | | | John Tilley |
| Martin Flannery MP | Dafydd Wigley MP | GMWU Pendle 122 Branch | | | David Watkins |
| George Foulkes MP | Richard Balfe MEP | GMWU Warrington Branch | | | Philip Whitehead |
| John Golding MP | Barbara Castle MEP | NALGO Met Dist Council | | | Sheila Wright |
| Judith Hart MP | Ann Clwyd MEP | NALGO Hackney Branch | | | |
| Siânï Holland MP | Kenneth D Collins MEP | NALGO Southwark | | | |
| Doug Hoyle MP | Brian Key MEP | NATFHE Leek | | | |
| Bob Hughes MP | Alic Lomas MEP | | | | |

Affiliate to 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 CDDRT and enclose a cheque/PO for £

Name
Address
Date of Affiliation

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

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TUC FRINGE MEETING

NO MORE DEPORTATIONS

**COMMITTEE FOR DEFENCE OF
DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS IN TURKEY**

THE UNION OF TURKISH WORKERS

Venue:

Tuesday, 4th September 1984

at 5.15pm

“Blue Room”, Norfolk Continental Hotel, Kings Road, Brighton

Chair:

Peter Spalding, Chairman of Greater London Association of Trades Councils

Speakers will include:

Jeremy Corbyn MP

Bill Deal, president of Fire Brigades Union

**Fevzi Şolt, former president of Chamber of Mechanical Engineers
of Turkey and DİSK-Metal Workers' Union workplace health and
safety expert**