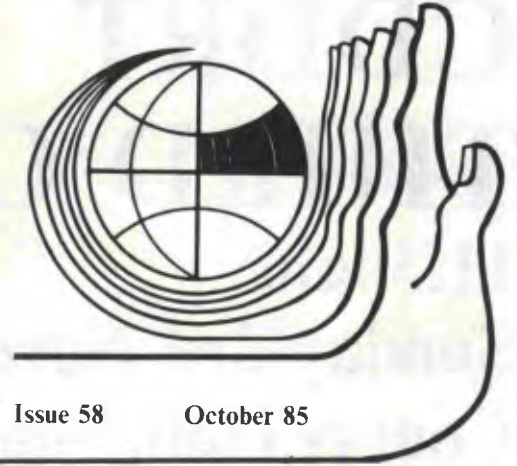


TURKEY NEWSLETTER

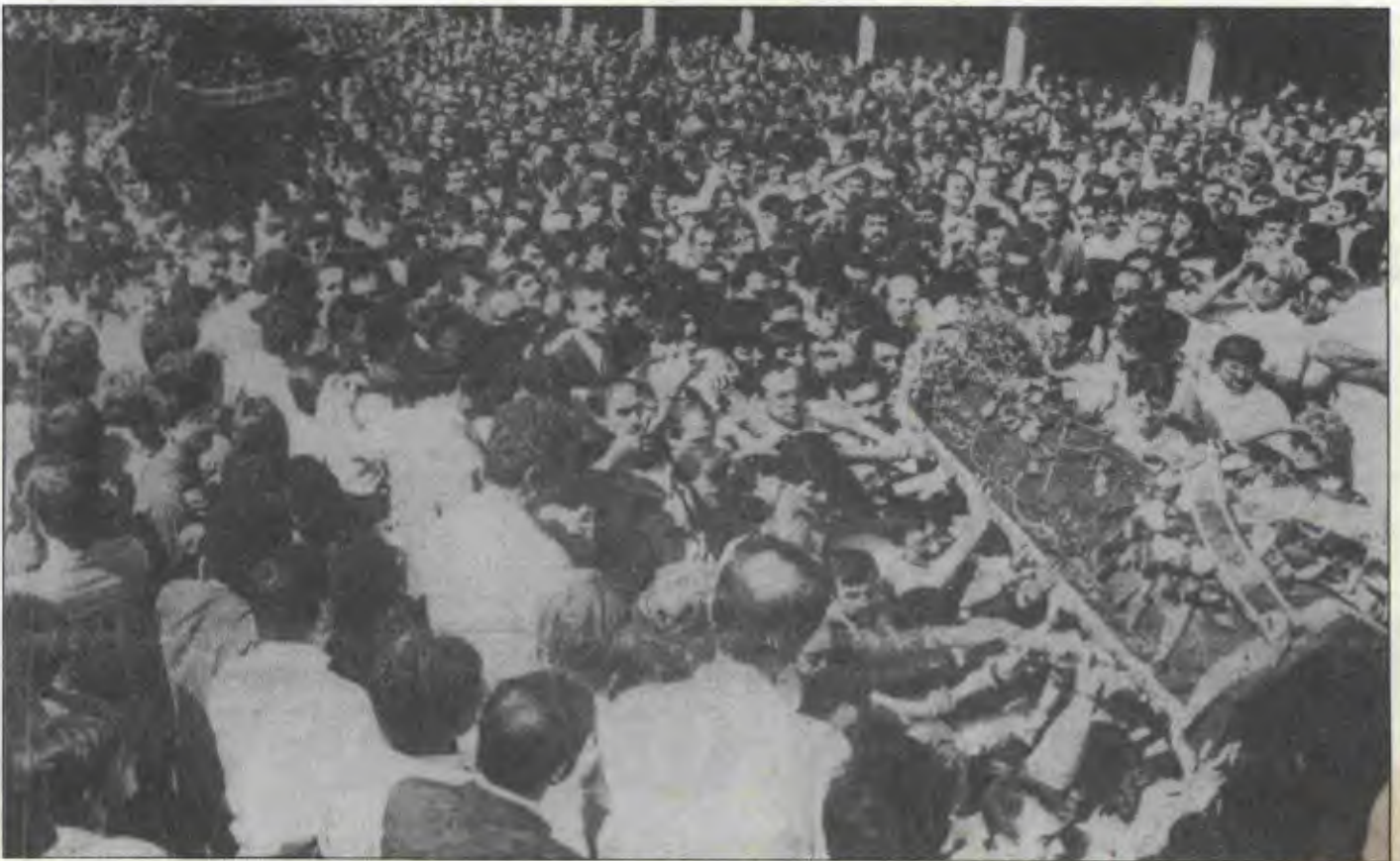


Monthly publication of the Committee for
Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey

Issue 58

October 85

REGIME CONDEMNED



Ruhi Su's funeral

DEATH OF RUHI SU

Ruhi Su, musician and unwavering fighter for real democracy in Turkey died on 21st September. His funeral became a demonstration against the anti-democratic regime.

Tribute on page 8.



CDDRT THIRD CONGRESS,

11.30am

Sunday 3rd November 1985

County Hall, Southbank, London SE1 7BP

The Third Congress of the CDDRT to be held on Sunday 3rd November takes place against a very different background to the 2nd Congress in May 1983. Then, the situation in Turkey was one of apparent unrelieved darkness and terror. The mass trials were in full swing, the Junta headed by Evren was still attempting to build a fascist state in Turkey, all political activity was outlawed. The concept of strikes or political demonstrations against the regime was unthinkable. Since then a major change in the situation has taken place. The disintegration of the regime under massive external and internal pressure became clear. The junta's attempt to build a fascist state in Turkey has failed. Elections have been held, the cardboard political parties set up by the junta to mislead Turkish and world public opinion, under the pressure of the people for political expression have turned into real parties. More varied opposition forces are emerging almost day by day.

However the present civilian regime led by Prime Minister Ozal's ANAP (Motherland Party) does not represent a

return to democracy. On the contrary the Ozal regime pursues a harsh authoritarian line only giving concessions when the rising tide of mass discontent begins to look menacing. The trade unions remain hamstrung by crippling labour laws, working class political organisations remain savagely suppressed, the regime wages a genocidal war in Kurdistan.

As the CDDRT said in Report on Turkey (TN no 48).—

“Turkey is presently going through a *transitional period*, which can evolve in either of two directions. Either, the fascists (who maintain positions of enormous power, via their links with the military) will reassert themselves. If this happens, then we will see a return to the monolithic fascism which existed prior to the constitution. Or, on the other hand, the present regime will continue to disintegrate, and *through struggle*, a greater measure of democracy will eventually come about. Whether that democracy will be limited affair or the full democracy we all hope for, rests very much on the ability of the democratic forces in Turkey to raise the struggle and rally the people to this

cause. Solidarity has a vital role to play in raising this struggle. That is why we say: “THE STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRACY IS INTENSIFYING!”

Now is time to redouble our efforts to support the fight for democracy in Turkey and to utilize all opportunities for new and more effective forms of solidarity with the peoples of Turkey.

Since the 2nd Congress the CDDRT has continued to grow. Many meetings and events have been organised. Through Turkey Newsletter every important development in Turkey has been reported and analysed.

The 1985 Congress will mark both past achievements and lay the foundations for the CDDRT to play a dynamic role in the coming period. To do our job effectively the CDDRT needs your help! Affiliate to CDDRT or get your organisation to do so. Take part in our work and *attend our Congress*. Build CDDRT locally and distribute Turkey Newsletter. It costs only £1 to attend CDDRT Congress.

Make the third Congress a success!
Forward to real democracy in Turkey!
Executive Committee, CDDRT.

APPLICATION FORM FOR CREDENTIALS

Third Congress of CDDRT, Sunday, 3rd November 1985,

NOTE: Every affiliate is entitled to attend the Congress as a delegate. Every affiliated individual and organisation can submit motions and amendments which must arrive at CDDRT office no later than Monday, 21st October.

* I/We wish to take part in the Third Congress of CDDRT as a * delegate/visitor.

* I am/We are not an affiliate

* Enclosed is the appropriate affiliation fee (see form on page 7).

* Delegate(s)/Visitor(s) fee(s) enclosed £ (£1 per delegate).

Name

* Organisation

Address(es) for credentials

.....

* Delete as applicable

THOUGHT POLICE

The Turkish press has reported a questionnaire distributed in the Adana region of Turkey.

The Commander of Gendarmerie issued a form to be filled in by village headmen. According to reports the forms contained questions about the "political and ideological views of our peasant citizens". It became clear that in fact the authorities are particularly 'interested' in the political views held by farm labourers in the region, amongst whom discontent has reached a high level.

When pressed about the questionnaire the Ministry of the Interior claimed it only applied to the environs of the town of Osmaliya and hastily withdrew the form. But Populist Party (HP) chairman said the form had been distributed in all parts of the Adana district.

USTINOV FILM BANNED

The Ankara regime has banned the showing of the film 'Memed My Hawk' made by Peter Ustinov and based loosely on the novel by the leading Turkish writer Yaşar Kemal.

In the film Ustinov plays the ruthless landowner Abdi Aga, whose absolute power over a rural community is challenged by a young peasant called Memed who eventually kills Abdi Aga. The film is set in 1923 in a backward area of the Taurus mountains in Turkey.

Last year the film had a royal gala Premier in London.

In London in August the film's Turkish producer Faud Kavur, said the Film Censorship Committee in Turkey to which it was shown first had given absolutely no reason for forbidding its distribution. An appeal had been turned down "unanimously".

IN NOVEMBER TURKEY NEWSLETTER: VOICES FROM TURKEY -

In exclusive interviews young people inside Turkey speak out about their education and the conditions of youth in Turkey today.

WORKERS SPEAK OUT

Recently a functioning trade union in Turkey — Petrol-İş (Chemical Industry workers) published a pamphlet called "How We Live" in which workers speak out about their conditions.

One worker who has spent seven years working in the chemical industry said "You can't fill your stomach on 30.000 TL. People ask how we can live on this. If we put the problem to a computer it would break down". Another worker said "We are all workers, I can eat only by working. I cannot get any lower wages. The only way for me is to fight for my rights".

On the bans on industrial action and the role of the Türk-İş (Trade Union Centre) leadership one worker had this to say: "There are many things that can be said about this, but there is an old saying — the tree said to the ax "if you did not have a handle made out of me it would be difficult to cut me". If the Türk-İş leaders were not in this position we would not care about any bans ..."

EDUCATION - THE SCANDAL CONTINUES

Education in Turkey continues to decline. This is not surprising when one considers that the contents of school text books are being supervised by the likes of Education Minister Dincerler who openly expresses his contempt for modern science. In universities the number of students per teacher has risen to 70 in Social Sciences. There are even 7 higher education establishments which have *no teaching staff at all!* Yet thousands of teachers remain unemployed and blacklisted for involvement in trade unionism and politics before the 1980 coup. The all-powerful YÖK which supervises every aspect of higher education claims there is no need for more teachers.

There are now 430,000 students in higher education. Yet according to the regime's own statistics there are only buildings and facilities for 19,000. In addition an acute shortage of university living accommodation means 200,000 students are without proper accommodation. This miserable shambles is compounded by only six of the 23 universities outside cities having any bus services to the nearest town.

To add insult to injury the regime put university fees up by 100% this year and is charging interest at the rate of 75% for those students who do not pay 50% of the fees promptly.



Police search in vain for "pirate" broadcasters.

SECOND 'PIRATE' BROADCAST

For the second time this year (see *Turkey Newsletter* no 50), underground opposition forces within Turkey have carried out a pirate broadcast on Turkish Television.

At 9pm on 30th August a regular broadcast marking Army & Victory Day in Turkey was blacked-out over the Istanbul area and replaced with a broadcast by the banned left wing organisation — *Işçinin Sesi* (*Workers' voice*).

The 10 minute broadcast made calls interspersed with revolutionary marches for people to organise for the struggle for bread and democracy, to step-up protests against the regime.

Unlike the previous broadcast in February this one was widely reported by the press inside Turkey. At a reception in Ankara 'President' Evren even handed a copy of the text of the broadcast to the speaker of the Turkish Parliament when he said he had not heard it!

Extensive raids and searches by the security police throughout Istanbul have failed to locate the source of the transmission.

CYPRUS UNIONS

Greek and Turkish Cypriot trade unionist have agreed to set up a joint liaison committee after crossing the "Green Line" dividing the island for two days of talks, Reuters reports from Nicosia.

The meetings between the main unions on each side were chaired by the secretary general of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, Mr John Vanderveken. He said they had set out to find ways in which the two sides could co-operate.

A similar meeting in 1979 produced no practical results and contacts between the communities since then have been rare.

A major demand of the 40,000 strong crowd at an anti-government rally in İstanbul in June was for a general amnesty for political prisoners.

In view of the growing importance of the struggle for an amnesty for political prisoners in Turkey, and the attempts by the regime to divert public attention abroad away from this issue, Turkey Newsletter is reprinting the article below which appeared in the magazine *Turkey Today* September 1985.

Amnesty: pressure and speculation mount

Ever since the referendum on the constitution and the 6th November 1983 elections in Turkey officially ushered in a period of "transition to democracy" and an "elected civilian government," it has been clear that one of the most explosive issues of the transitional period would be that of an amnesty.

Although figures differ widely, it is generally agreed that there are at least 20,000 political prisoners in Turkey, ranging from peace activists and trade unionists, artists and lawyers, to revolutionaries and communists. The crowded military prisons, torture centres and ongoing prosecutions cast a dark shadow over social and political life, exactly as intended by the regime.

Under constant pressure from the families and friends of the prisoners, and no doubt with a view to achieving some kind of guarantee that their own political activities, however mild, will not one day land themselves in police headquarters or military prison, virtually all of Turkey's new political parties and many influential bodies such as the Union of Bar Associations, have spoken out in favour of an amnesty.

Recent statements by the Justice Minister and the Minister of State to the effect that the terms of an amnesty are being worked out in the Justice Ministry and being discussed in the Council of Ministers, have caused widespread speculation that an amnesty may be declared as early as September. One newspaper has predicted that 60% of prisoners will be released. (*Tercüman*, 3 August 1985)

In general, the attitude seems to be that it is now a matter of when, not whether, an amnesty will be declared and what categories of prisoner will benefit from it.

The political parties are divided between those, the Social-Democratic Party (SODEP) and the Populist Party, which are calling for a broad amnesty, and the right-wing parties, the National Democracy Party, the Correct Way Party and the Welfare Party, which see the need for an amnesty but want it to exclude "terrorists" and "anarchists" and be of a nature that "will not shake public order".

Prime Minister Özal has maintained the same "none of my business", "out of my hands" attitude he has shown throughout his period of office when it comes to matters of military prisons and torture. He has declared that amnesty is the business of parliament, not the government (!). On the

related topic of an amnesty for former politicians banned from participating in political life, he has stated that the government does not have the authority to do this. (*Tercüman*, 1 August 1985) Nevertheless, it is generally assumed that Özal's ANAP government will use any amnesty that is passed through parliament after it reconvenes in September as political capital for his party in the mid-term parliamentary elections scheduled for the spring of 1986.

It seems that the regime will bow to the rising pressure on the amnesty issue to pass some form of limited amnesty which will neither cover "terrorists" and "anarchists", the elastic code-name for socialists, communists and radical democrats, nor "shake public order" by eliminating one of the strongest weapons the regime wields against trade unionists, peace activists, lawyers, students and intellectuals, i.e., the continuing mass trials of people from all these walks of life which the regime uses to keep those "at liberty" in line with the threat of harsh sentences being handed down when the trials eventually come to an end. Since these trials are still continuing, the thousands of defendants can hardly be covered by an amnesty.

Aside from "terrorists", "anarchists" and these legal hostages, it is a foregone conclusion that any amnesty will not cover the thousands of Kurdish political prisoners in the eastern part of the country.

It is also possible that only amnesty may carry with it certain conditions and restrictions on those covered by it. An idea of what could be expected can be gained from the "Repentance Law" adopted by parliament last June. This law, designed to placate the demands for an amnesty, reduces sentences and even grants immunity from punishment to those who "repent and collaborate" with the security forces. The law, it was hoped, would at the same time serve to allow the authorities to release a few prisoners if domestic and international pressure made this necessary, and also discredit any prisoners who took advantage of it.

The "Repentance Law" aroused widespread opposition from parliamentarians and advocates. The President of the İstanbul Bar, Önder Sav, declared that the law could induce people to save themselves and their loved ones by incriminating innocent people. The response by prisoners to the law has been virtually nil and, far from placating the demands for an amnesty, it only increased them. Its legality is now being tested by a court in Erzurum.

Whatever shape the predicted amnesty takes it is very clear that in the general atmosphere of repression and anti-democratic laws and restrictions, it can only create another new problem. A broad amnesty would indeed "shake the public order" as the release of political prisoners in any significant numbers would lead to the regime being called to account for the tortures and injustice they have suffered. A more limited amnesty, on the other hand, would only intensify demands for its extension, thus taking the regime back to square one.



FROM THE PRESS

Author tells of torture in Turkish prison

Oslo — The Norwegian writer Alexander Bertelsen claimed that he had suffered severe torture in a Turkish prison, while serving a sentence for having damaged Turkey's reputation abroad (Knut Falchenberg writes).

The official charges were that a book he co-edited in Oslo in 1979 violated Turkish criminal Law. In the document presented to a military court in Ankara in March, long passages from his book about the Kurdish minority in Turkey were quoted.

After sustained pressure from the Norwegian Government and human rights groups, Mr Bertelsen, to his own surprise, was released on Tuesday and arrived home yesterday.

He traveled on a Norwegian passport when he was arrested in February, 1984, in Turkey and held in the Mamak prison in Ankara. In March this year a military court in Ankara sentenced him to five years in prison and 20 months internal exile.

The Times, 25/7/1985

POLLUTION RAMPANT

A 'side effect' of the unrestricted exploitation of the working class in Turkey and the lack of real democracy has been the dramatic deterioration of the environment.

When people protested to Özal about the building of a power station in an area of outstanding natural beauty, Özal suggested that the power station could be painted green to blend in with the surroundings!

Not only is Turkey's natural beauty and antiquities being destroyed but the health of the population is being seriously damaged. Without any democratic controls the regime and its backers can pollute at will.

We print below report by David Barchard which appeared in the *Financial Times* 10/9/85 on the growing threat to the environment in Turkey.

September is the month when Turks living in big cities begin to pull their curtains open each morning and eye the neighbourhood for signs of smog. One Istanbul businessman told me he had already detected the year's first smog during the first week of September, long before the city's central heating systems — most of them fuelled by a low-quality coal — begin to belch yellow clouds into the street.

During winter months, air pollution in Ankara and an increasing number of other Turkish cities rises to levels which in most countries would be totally unacceptable.

Official figures for sulphur dioxide and other gases are published daily, but most Turks in the know regard them with a degree of scepticism. They are aware, for instance, that last winter the instruments measuring pollution in Ankara's atmosphere went "off the track" after giving readings many times above the internationally recognised safety levels.

Atmospheric pollution is only one of several environmental dangers threatening Turkey which are beginning to arouse Public attention. River and sea pollution are also increasingly serious. In the Aegean city of Izmir, a major tourist and industrial centre, an unpleasant smell hangs over the town most days. No one seems to know that to do about it.

Serious environmental problems were virtually inevitable, given Turkey's high rate of population growth (about 2,3 percent a year over the past decade) and the even faster expansion of major cities, many of them growing by 7 or 8 percent a year, cramming families into densities per hectare often well above authorised levels in Western Europe.

As a result, shortages of basic utilities, such as electricity and more often of water, blight the lives even of well-to-do Turks in Istanbul. Cuts in the water supply lasting several days are by no means unusual, and many families count themselves lucky if they can have water for a few hours every night during which baths can be taken and dishes washed.

Like many developing countries, Turkey seems to face a dilemma. If it wants to improve the quality of life for its citizens, it has to press ahead with major industrial projects as quickly as possible. But these can destroy areas of outstanding natural beauty and perhaps generate more pollution, so bringing down the overall quality of life.

The dilemma was seen most actually last winter when the Özal Government announced plans to build a major new coal-fired power-station in one of Turkey's chief beauty spots, the bay of Gokova, on the south west coast.

The Prime Minister and the President of the Republic were both driven by the press and public opinion to conduct on-the-spot investigations. Mr Özal is a businessman's Prime Minister and his Motherland Party may be said not unfairly to be a businessman's party with an eye for the bottom line, rather than for the scenery. The environmentalists — who included all shades of Turkish opinion normally divided over every conceivable issue — got the thumbs down.

So, too, were proposals to relax environmental controls on the Bosphorus shores of Istanbul to allow Arab dignitaries to acquire key hilltop sites for building palaces. The Turkish constitutional court quashed a law to allow purchase of land by foreign — but it seems some sales went ahead during an interim period.

Opposition sources claim this was part of a systematic effort to upgrade Turkey's links with the Islamic Middle East at the cost of its national heritage. They also say that Byzantine (i.e. Christian) or classical ruins in the city are being bulldozed by the municipality wherever possible. Certainly, last year the municipality several times appeared to favour Islamic monuments and to discriminate against classical or Byzantine ones.

Protection of classical ruins across the country is scanty or non-existent, partly because of expense but also because of lack of concern.

Work to improve the environment in Turkey has come chiefly from efforts of private individuals. One pioneer has been Mr Celik Gulersoy of the Turkish Touring and Motoring Club. Against a backdrop of official apathy and even hostility, he has restored old houses in Istanbul and created various showpieces, including a Victorian hotel behind the Blue Mosque and an Ottoman pavilion overlooking the Bosphorus.

In Ankara, an Environmental Problems Foundation has been set up by an energetic lawyer, Mr Engin Ural, and a group of retired senior officials and public figures. It has produced a series of detailed, authoritative studies — but so far not succeeded in budging official attitudes.

Though a Directorate for the Environment exists, it plays no active role. Environmental experts say that it was typical that it took five months to obtain written answers to questions from the Directorate during the preparation of this article.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

If you want to do more to assist the struggle for genuine democracy in Turkey there are several ways you can help. You, or an organisation to which you belong, can affiliate to the CDDRT. You can take extra copies of *Turkey Newsletter* to distribute to friends and colleagues or raise the issue of Turkey in your Trade Union, Party Branch etc... The CDDRT can provide speakers.

Join or help establish local branches in your area.

If you live within reach of London you can participate in the work of the Executive Committee.

CDDRT Addresses:

Britain: 129 Newington Green Road, London N1

France: 7 Rue Leclerc 75014 Paris

Ireland: 9 Cavendish Row, Dublin 1

USA: Box 90. 924 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago, IL 60657

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 the 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.

Organise solidarity on the basis of the foregoing

utilising every means at our disposal.

3. Organisations and individuals accepting the aims of the CDDRT can apply to affiliate. Such applications are subject to the approval of the General Council. Affiliation fees shall be set by the General Council and become payable from 1 January each year.

4. Congress is the highest body of the CDDRT and shall meet every two years. It shall consist of delegates from Branches and affiliated organisations and individual affiliates. Congress shall elect the General Council and consider reports and the motions. The conduct of business shall be on the basis of Standing Orders approved by Congress. Pre-Congress arrangements are the responsibility of the retiring General Council. Each Congress shall decide the size of the General Council.

5. The General Council is the continuing body of

Congress and shall meet quarterly. It shall appoint the Executive Committee which is responsible to it. The General Council shall have the right to co-option.

6. The Executive Committee shall consist of the General Secretary and such other members as the General Council may decide. The Executive Committee shall meet at least fortnightly and be responsible for the day to day work of the CDDRT.

7. Local Branches of the CDDRT are formed with the approval of the General Council.

8. This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority at a Congress.

9. The General Council may call, or upon request by two-thirds of affiliated national organisations shall call, a Special Congress.

CDDRT General Council

Bedir AYDEMİR
Richard BALFE, MEP
John M BLOOM
Philip BRAY
Max HIRON
Sandra HODGSON
Aif LOMAS, MEP
Aydın MERİÇ
Stan NEWNS, MEP
Ernie ROBERTS, MP
Alan SAPPER
Marion SARAFI
Faik SINKIL
Peter SPALDING
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
Joe Ashton MP
Norman Atkinson MP
Tony Banks MP
Guy Barnett MP
Margaret Beckett MP
Tony Benn MP
Andrew Bennett MP
Syd Bidwell MP
Roland Boyes MP
Run Brown MP
Richard Caborn MP
Dennis Canavan MP
Alex Carlisle MP
Lewis Carter-Jones MP
Bob Clay MP
Ann Clwyd MP
Harry Cohen MP
Jeremy Corbyn MP
Harry Cowans MP
Tom Cox MP
Stan Crowther MP
Ron Davies MP
Frank Dobson MP
Alfred Dubs MP
Alexander Eadie MP
Ken Eastham MP
Bob Edwards MP
Derek Fatchett MP
Martin Flannery MP
George Foulkes MP
John Golding MP
Judith Han MP
Stuart Holland MP
Doug Hoyle MP
Bob Hughes MP
Roy Hughes MP
Robert Kilroy-Silk MP
Neil Kinnock MP
James Lamond MP
R. Leighton MP
Bob Litherland MP
William McKay MP
William McKelvey MP
Kevin McNamara MP
Bob McTaggart MP
J Maxton MP
Joan Maynard MP
Michael Meacher MP
Martin O'Neil MP
Stan Orme MP
Bob Parry MP
Terry Patchett MP
Jo Richardson MP
Allan Robert MP
Ernie Roberts MP
Ernie Ross MP
Clare Short MP
Dennis Skinner MP
Chris Smith MP
Jack Straw MP
Stan Thorne MP
Robert Wareing MP
Dafydd Wigley MP
Richard Balfe MEP
Barbara Castle MEP
Kenneth D Collins MEP

Brian Key MEP
Aif Lomas MEP
Stan Newns MEP
Dr Barry Seal MEP
Colin Barnett, Sec. NW TUC
Ken Brett, AGS AUEW
Stan Cole AUEW NC
Harry Conroy, NUJ
J. Davidson, NW FTAT
Jacob Ecclestone, NUJ
Beryl Hufferinley,
Yorks & Humber TUC
E.V. Hughes, NW TUC
Alex Kitson, TGWU
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Allan Sapper, ACTT
Bob Wright, AGS AUEW
ACTSS Central London Branch
APEX Holborn Branch
ASLEF
ASTMS Divisional Council 8
ASTMS Manchester HS Branch
AUEW Kington District
AUEW N. Manchester District
AUEW Sheffield District
AUEW (TASS) Div Council 9
COHSE Caterham Branch
Fire Brigades Union
GMWU Burnley Branch
GMWU 22 Bury Branch
GMWU 115 Manchester Branch
GMWU Pendle 122 Branch
GMWU Warrington Branch
NALGO Met Dist Council

NALGO Hackney Branch
NALGO Southwark
NATFHE Leek
NUM
NUM Derbyshire
NUM Scotland
NUM Yorkshire
NUPE
NUPE Northern Ireland Div
NUPE West Midlands Div
NUR Manchester
Northern Ireland Public Service Alliance
SOGAT '82 LCA & EP Branch
TGWU
TGWU Reg. No. 1
UCATT London Region
UCATT NW Region
Greater London Association of Trades Councils
Croydon Trades Council
Cambridge & Dist Trades Council
Gloucester Trades Council
Greenwich Trades Council
Hackney Trades Council
Kingston & Dist Trades Council
Leeds Trades Council
Cities of London & Westminster Trades Council
Preston Trades Council
Rotherham Trades Council
Stockport Trades Council
Waltham Forest Trades Council
GEC Openshaw JSSC

Union of Turkish Workers
Beckenham CLP
Bermondsey CLP
Chelmsford CLP
Greenwich CLP
Hazelgrove CLP
High Peak CLP
Keighley CLP
Walthamstow CLP
Wigan CLP
Labour Party Young Socialists
National Organisation of Labour Students
Forening For Progressive Fr Tyrkia
Iraqi Students' Society UK (Branch of GUSIR)
KNE (Communist Youth of Greece) org. in Britain
Kurdish Students Society in Europe (UK)
Communist Party of Portugal (org. in Britain)
Union of Turkish Progressives in Britain
Turkish Students' Federation in the UK
City of London Polytechnic Students' Union
Cyprus Students' Society — Manchester University
Leeds University Union
UMIST Students' Union
Manchester Poly Students' Union

Manchester University SU
Teesside Polytechnic Students' Union
Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation
Demokrat Norway
Haldane Society of Socialist Lawyers
London CRS Political Committee
Frank Allaun
Lord Jenner Brockway
Alan Bush
Bob Cryer
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George Morton
William Pomeroy
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Marion Sarafi
Gordon Schaffer
E.P. Thompson
John Tilly
David Watkins
Philip Whitehead
Sheila Wright

Affiliate to the CDDRT

Annual affiliation fees are: national organisation £25, local organisation £10, individual £6.

To the Committee for Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey.

I/we* wish to affiliate to the CDDRT and enclose a cheque/PO for £

Name
Address
Date of Affiliation

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

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RUHI SU

Turkey is rich in music, especially folk and revolutionary music, its greatest interpreter was Ruhi Su.

Ruhi Su was born in 1912 in an eastern province in Anatolia. He was brought up in Çukurova, the centre of the cotton industry in southern Turkey. While at primary school one of his teachers encouraged him to play the violin. In 1936 he graduated from the Ankara Teacher's Training School for Music, and in 1940 from the Opera Department of the Ankara State Conservatory. He then became a leading singer with the State Opera and played lead parts in such operas as 'Madam Butterfly' and 'Fidelio'.

In 1952 Ruhi Su was arrested and imprisoned for his progressive political views.

On his release he devoted his life to popularising the folk music of Turkey. Many of his settings of progressive and revolutionary poems to traditional music became immensely popular, particularly during the revolutionary crisis in Turkey during the 1970s. His songs in this period expressed the hardships and yearnings of the working peoples of Turkey and their hopes for a better future.

Following the 1980 coup the junta

and the Özal regime now in power made every effort to stifle the voice of Ruhi Su. Early this year it became clear that he was seriously ill and his doctors advised him to travel to Switzerland for treatment. However, the Ankara regime refused to allow him to leave despite a wide public outcry especially in West Germany. Many artists and writers including Heinrich Böll (just before his death), signed a letter calling on the regime to release Ruhi Su. The CDDRT also raised the issue in June (see *Turkey Newsletter*, No.53).

The refusal of Özal and his gang to allow Ruhi Su to seek medical help abroad means they must bear the responsibility for his death.

Death however cannot silence the songs of Ruhi Su or remove his memory from the hearts of Turkey's labouring people to whom he dedicated his life and his art.

We end by quoting some additional verses Ruhi Su added to the traditional song 'The Mountain Tops are Misty':

During Ruhi Su's funeral there was a heavy police presence and several people were arrested for 'shouting slogans' according to press reports.

The mountain tops are misty
The silver creek ever flows,
The sun is rising on the horizon,
Friends let us march on!

Let the earth, the sky and the water
hear our voices,
Let the earth tremble under
our strong steps

Where can one find such a sky,
such seas,
Such mountains and rocks,
Such trees and beautiful birds,
Friends let us march on!

Mountains, rocks, beautiful birds,
But what of the people, the people.
The sun will one day truly rise
Friends let us march on!

CDDRT NEWS:

Due to lack of space, full a report of the CDDRT fringe meeting at this year's TUC Congress will appear in the November issue of Turkey Newsletter. A report of the the CDDRT's fringe meeting at the Labour Party Conference will appear in December Turkey Newsletter.

