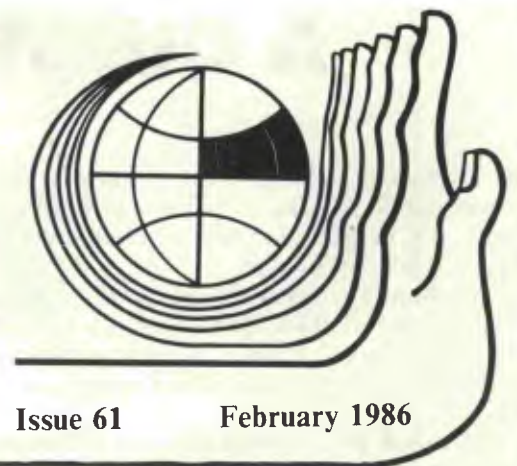


TURKEY NEWSLETTER

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



Issue 61

February 1986

KURDISTAN — OPPRESSION AND RESISTANCE



LUNCH-TIME PICKET OF THE TURKISH EMBASSY, 18th FEBRUARY

The CDDRT is calling a picket of the Turkish Embassy, Belgrave Square, London SW1, 18th February between 1pm and 2pm to protest at the visit of Ozal, the anti-democratic regime's Prime Minister to London. Ozal is in Britain looking for yet more economic, political and military assistance.

Support the fight of the peoples of Turkey for democracy and human rights!

Say no to deals with the Evren-Ozal regime!

Join the picket on 18th February!

A QUESTION OF TORTURE

A Turkish weekly — *Yeni Gundem* carried reports in December on the issue of political prisoners, torture and ill-treatment. In particular it dealt with the case of Ankara State Prosecutor Ülkü Coşkun.

A group of political prisoners and defendants in political trials submitted affidavits to an Ankara Court alleging that the State Prosecutor had beaten them and used other forms of torture while he was compiling his case against them for the trial.

At recent trials defendants have withdrawn confessions which they had been tortured into signing by the Prosecutor or interrogators at police stations.

Another aspect of the case has been that under new laws, after one month preliminary questioning at police stations, and before being transferred to military prisons, each prisoner should be inspected by a government doctor. If he finds no signs of torture on the prisoner he is then supposed to issue a certificate to that effect. However, many lawyers, mothers and fathers of prisoners have presented documents to the courts showing that doctors issue certificates automatically without really checking the prisoners. The cases prompted Social Populist Party MP Halil İbrahim to ask questions in parliament about the role of Prosecutor Coşkun.



To investigate the situation, *Yeni Gundem* reporters went first to a small health centre in the Ankara suburb of Yenimahalle run by government doctor Güngör Kaynak.

In the waiting room they described what they saw "Seven pale unshaven prisoners came in guarded by two hefty civil policemen. The police gave them permission to smoke and lean against the wall.

An assistant came and announced that the doctor was ready to see them. They all went in, we looked at our watches. After exactly 40 seconds they came out.

In 40 seconds the Doctor had understood whether they were healthy or not! We ourselves went in to interview the Doctor.

Dr Kaynak: Why do you want to speak to me?

Yeni Gundem: Your name has been mentioned in many court documents. Prisoners say you did not examine them and yet you signed certificates stating they had not been tortured. What do you say to these allegations?

— It is none of your business. These are confidential things and they cannot be explained to any ordinary person.

— But as the press this is our business, and we want to understand what these things are.

— No, they are confidential. It is between me and the court.

— Then is there any information which has come to you from the court or demand?

— This is not your business. I don't want to speak with you, these are confidential.

— Why are the prisoners brought here rather than sent to a hospital or a big health centre?

— I said these are confidential, now get out.

— A few minutes ago we saw that you saw seven prisoners and you didn't give them a check-up, there is nothing confidential about that behaviour.

— Quickly get out!

Dr Kaynak rang his bell and we left.

Yeni Gundem then interviewed Ülkü Coşkun himself.

Yeni Gundem: There are some questions about you, that you ill-treated defendants and tortured people instead of questioning them. What do you say to these charges?

Ülkü Coşkun: Nothing is like you say. It is impossible because we are lawyers. We know the law and how to behave. Also the persons who came to us are against the state and I represent the state therefore they are bound to say bad things about us.

— But your behaviour has been shown in affidavits and court documents. In court many people say these things about you.

— No, there is nothing — show me one of them.

— For example there is a defendant named Hami Karsli. At his trial in the court documents it says you beat Hami Karsli during questioning.

— I don't know this case. I have no information about that person but, those men wanted to break the state. We are the republic's prosecutors which means we have to be against them. It also means they say unreal things about us.

— That means you don't beat anyone here?.

— No, why should I beat them? I am a prosecutor not a beater.

— Then what are those documents in court?

— Those papers can say anything about us but the government doctors' reports say there is no ill-treatment of prisoners. So do I believe the reports or what some men say?

— But we saw the government doctors and we saw that they do not do real check-ups on the prisoners.

— But do they have to check up every person? They don't have enough time to do that. And I say the doctors are right.

— So after all don't you accept any of things people say about you?

Continued on page 8



In the city of Samsun workers sacked by Tekel (State Tobacco factory) marched on the local headquarters of the ruling "Motherland Party" (ANAP). They demand reinstatement.

MISSILES FOR THE REGIME

British Aerospace has finalised a £140m deal to supply Rapier missiles and associated equipment to Turkey. The deal brings to £280m BAe's Rapier missile sales to Turkey in the last 18 months.

BAe declined to comment but it is understood the deal was put together by a £112m finance syndication involving 26 banks. They were led by Midland Bank Aval, a unit of Midland Bank International, and backed by the Export Credits Guarantee Department.

US AID

Turkey is to get a \$100 million grant this year from the US government under a new bilateral agreement signed in Ankara.

This grant is in addition to US military aid, (which makes Turkey the third largest recipient of US aid) and is to be used to subsidise the free-market and monetarist policies of the Ozal regime.

MARTIAL LAW COURTS

Apart from Eastern Anatolia (Kurdish areas) Martial Law has now been lifted from most of the country. However, by a sleight of hand apparently unnoticed in the West, the regime has slipped through special laws to enable the military Martial Law Courts to continue sitting and to proceed with the mass trials begun after the 1980 coup.

LOONY RIGHT

Right-wing religious fanatics carried out an action in Çubuk near Ankara on New Year's Eve.

Declaring Televisions to be "sin machines" they cut the cables of every TV in the village.

Police detained 12 persons who declared they were "followers of Khomeini's ideology".

TURK-IS CALLS ACTION

Over the last 2-3 months Türk-İş (Turkish Trade Union Centre) has come under increasing pressure from workers to take action against the bosses and the regime. At a Türk-İş meeting in December delegates clamoured for a General Strike.

Collaborationist leaders such as Türk-İş General Secretary Şevket Yılmaz have begged the regime for some concessions to moderate the savage attack on workers' living standards and head-off confrontation, all to no avail.

Türk-İş has responded by withdrawing from the High Arbitration Council, which determines wage levels and where the Trade Unions are out-numbered by the bosses and state representatives.

Yılmaz went further and declared "I want to hold a meeting in Istanbul. There are many workers there, it is a big section of Turkey's working class so it will be appropriate to have a rally against Ozal's policies there".

So far, Türk-İş has actually decided on a rally in Izmir — Turkey's third largest industrial centre to be held in February.



STRIKE AT GOOD-YEAR'S

In January a strike broke out at the Good-Year tyre factory in Izmit. The strike is over workers' rights within the plant. Following the high-handed behaviour of management Petkim-İş is the independent (not affiliated to Türk-İş) Petrochemical workers' Union called its members out on strike.

WAR FUND

In a recent report from Ankara *Financial Times* correspondent David Barchard reports that:

"Turkey's Defence industries, already the targets in the Middle East, have been given a further boost by the establishment of a government fund to finance investment in the sector.

Mr Turgut Ozal, the Prime Minister, says it will have an annual income of TL 350bn (£440m). News of its creation has sparked off a scramble among large private industrial groups to find foreign partners for joint ventures in the arms industry.

The Defence Industry Promotion Fund replaces several separate bodies which handled military investment in Turkey. Its income will come from levies on cigarettes and alcoholic drinks, surcharges on the national lottery and other forms of gambling, a special 5 per cent levy on petrol and other liquid fuels, donations, as well as straight allocations from the budget.

"It will be administered by a 'defence industry supreme co-ordination board,' which will include the Prime Minister, the chief of staff of the armed forces, other ministers and army commanders. It will handle the procurement and manufacture of weaponry for the 600,000-strong Turkish armed forces and is specifically authorised to encourage manufacturing investments, including joint ventures with local and foreign partners."

TEACHERS

In a Turkish monthly magazine "Teachers World" an old teacher declared "Our country is the only one which has no teachers' organisation... even in Chile there is some organisation. But in Turkey it is forbidden for teachers to set up any organisation at all".

CHILDREN

A reflection of the worsening economic situation of the mass of the people in Turkey has been press reports that 1,843 children in Istanbul were awaiting trial in January.

Most children were accused of petty theft. Police stated it was the highest number in Istanbul's history.

KURDISTAN – OPPRESSION



Women and children subjected to army terror.



Area inhabited by the Kurds in Turkey. Zed Press, 1985.

1985 saw a dramatic intensification of armed clashes throughout Kurdistan in Turkey.

The media inside Turkey gave prominence to gory pictures and stories relating to the situation in "East Anatolia". Items appeared about the number of 'separatists' "captured dead" or alive, mass trials, soldiers killed and 'revelations' about Kurdish political organisations.

The bulk of Kurdistan is divided between Turkey, Iraq and Iran. There are some 9 million Kurdish people in the East Anatolian provinces of Turkey making it the largest part of Kurdistan. This has formed an internal colony of Turkey since 1923.

Starting with Atatürk, there has been an unrelenting campaign by successive Turkish regimes to absorb Kurdistan into Turkey. To this end every effort has been made to stamp-out the distinctive Kurdish culture, language and history. The Kurdish language is forbidden. By law it cannot be published. Probably the only banned childrens' ABC book in the world is the Kurdish ALFABE written by Emin Bozarlan, (who was sent to jail for 4 months in the 1970s for writing it).

Any political party whether Turkish or Kurdish which advocates any form of autonomy or self-determination is automatically outlawed.

For years government-approved academics and writers have been encouraged to prostitute science by advocating theories to demonstrate that the Kurdish people are really just "mountain Turks". Those who advocate opposing views face certain imprisonment or exile.

The revolutionary upheavals of the 1970s in Turkey also led to the growth of Kurdish revolutionary and democratic organisations; agitation in favour of real rights of Kurds grew in spite of repression. Following the 1980 coup, as with Turkish democrats and working class organisations, Kurdish movements were subjected to savage persecution. An unknown number of Kurdish political prisoners were tortured or murdered.

"We have not been able to make the Europeans accept the fact that there is not any community called Kurdish in Turkey. There are many Turkish communities in the world. As for the Kurds, they have been crowded between Iran and the Arabs... In their language, there are many Turkish words. They are not a minority, but pure Turks."
 'President' Evren of Turkey, 26.10.1985

As the Iran-Iraq war developed in the 1980s the Ankara regime became increasingly alarmed by the growth of the Kurdish liberation struggle in both countries. With the permission of the criminal regimes of both Iran and Iraq Turkish troops repeatedly raided Kurdish liberated zones in both countries in 1983 and 1984.

Despite these "preventative measures" 'incidents' began to occur in Turkish Kurdistan. With all democratic channels for expression closed, militants from various political organisations in Kurdistan in Turkey such as the Kurdish Workers Party began to engage in armed clashes with the Turkish army and police.



Mass trials of Kurds.

SION AND RESISTANCE



Kurds from People Without 180.

ed with its customary between August 1984 and ish army carried out at liquidating Kurdish Turkey and terrorising o no longer aiding them. ern 'counter-insurgency' employed. Hundreds of and members of Kurdish brought before military

courts and sentenced to imprisonment or death.

Kurdish prisoners are subjected to an even more savage regime of torture than other political prisoners. In 1984 many imprisoned Kurdish leaders were murdered in cold blood.

By October last year the Turkish military authorities claimed that in a 14-month period 102 Kurdish militants, 63 civilians and 73 members of the security forces had been killed. They also claimed to have captured 361 militants plus large quantities of arms and ammunition illegal literature. The military stated that there had been 102 'armed incidents'.

Despite claims by the regime that order had been restored in East Anatolia, there were press reports of a further 4 armed clashes with Kurdish fighters resulting in the death of 10 soldiers, 2 civilians and 1 militant.

To further combat guerrillas the regime has distributed weapons to 'reliable' civilians in Kurdistan. These 'Countryside Protectors' consist of known right-wing villagers, headmen and other local officials. In addition village headmen have been issued with transmitter receivers in order to report the presence of 'subversive elements' as soon as they are spotted in the villages.

The regime has started several construction projects in Kurdistan — not for the benefit of the local population — but to ease the deployment of troops and bring benefits for Turkish finance. Most projects consist of strategic roads through the mountains, communication networks and flood-lit border fences facing Syria and Iraq.

The situation in Kurdistan poses a crucial task for all the progressive and democratic forces in Turkey and the Kurdish national movement, that

is to find a way, in practice to unite the struggle of the working people of Turkey for their democratic rights with the Kurdish people's fight to end national oppression. It is well understood by genuine democratic forces in Turkey that there can be no real democracy in Turkey while the national oppression of the Kurdish people continues.



A dangerous development: 'Countryside Protectors' — armed right-wing civilians.



h militants continue.

bir Türk'ün ölümleri

12 SAYI 170 FRANK

U-7302 H

SATIŞ FİYATLARI

HOLLANDA	1.30 MF
FRANSA	3.00 FF
BELÇİKA	30.00 BF
İSVİÇRE	7.10 SF
İNGİLTERE	30 P
AVUSTRALYA	1.20 AD

12 SAYI 170 FRANK

Satışta 27 Jul 1985

Nr. 1562530

Milliyet

Halk Gazetesi

27 TEMMUZ 1985

● Erzurum ilçesinde 3 terorist, "Teslim ol" çağrılarında ateşle karşılık verdi

Hainin biri kadındı

- Erzurum ilinde köylerinde güvenlik kuvvetleriyle çatışmaya girişen ve 900 kurşunla öldürülen bir kadın, ateşle karşılık verirken öldürüldü.
- Teroristlerin, geceleri gizlenmişleri barınaklarının bölge deki köylere inip halktan zorla yiyecek aldıkları belirtildi.
- Hainin bir kadını mensupluk terorisinin de 6 Temmuz günü köylere gelen çatışmada öldürüldü.

12 SAYI 170 FRANK

Press reports of militants killed by the army. The headline reads: "One of the traitors a woman".

FROM THE PRESS

PLAYWRIGHTS SPEAK OUT

The following letter appeared in the *Guardian* (London) on 10th January 1986.

Sir, We endorse Ann Clywd's outrage (Letters, December 27) over the continued imprisonment of members of the Turkish Peace Association, and have waited in vain to read in your columns a report of this indefensible state of affairs.

In 1983, 18 members of the TPA's executive — which includes a former ambassador, Mahmut Dikerdem, lawyers, professors and writers — were given sentences of eight years hard labour for "crimes" the military authorities called "sedition". These distinguished people had merely exercised the elementary right to proclaim their views — even the Turkish press referred to the trials as "thought-crime" trials.

The latest appeal against these sentences took place on December 19 1985. The military court in Istanbul decided that the case was "insufficiently investigated" and ordered a retrial. This means that those in prison will stay in prison until further notice; their "crimes" unproven.

We are concerned for the safety and welfare of our friends in Turkey and for the state of human rights in that country. Although the political structure of Turkish society is an internal concern, the abuse of human rights is the concern of everyone.

Turkey is a member of NATO, the Council of Europe and a candidate for the EEC. She has also signed the European Convention of Human Rights and the UN Declaration. The continued imprisonment of TPA members is in serious conflict with these obligations and has largely been ignored in the British Press.

Why has the *Guardian* been silent? — Yours faithfully,
Arnold Wesker.
Harold Pinter.
52 Campden Hill Square,
London W8.

SIGN OF THE TIMES

Under the headline *Challenge to Evren by Left and Right*, this item from the *Guardian's* Ankara correspondent illustrated the continual juggling for power among the legal parties in Turkey. Both right, and left-of-centre, parties are trying to present themselves as a "safe" and credible alternative to the unpopular Ozal government.

The New Year call by President Evren of Turkey for internal peace and conciliation has apparently been misinterpreted by the extra-parliamentary left and right which announced agreement on the need for a "constitution of national reconciliation" to replace the one the President is personally pledged to defend.

The announcement followed a meeting between Mrs Raşan Ecevit, leader of the recently-founded Democratic Left Party supported by her husband Bülent, a former Social Democrat Prime Minister banned from politics until 1992, and Mr Hüsametdin Cindoruk, chairman of the True Path Party loyal to the former conservative Prime Minister, Mr Süleyman Demirel, who was similarly banned from active politics after the 1980 army coup.

They discussed proposals advanced earlier in the week by the True Path Party for the drafting of a "democratic constitution" by an elected constituent assembly, to be followed by elections for a "democratic parliament".

Both leaders called on other parties, represented in Parliament, to support the initiative. They have so far been unenthusiastic about the proposal, preferring a revision by Parliament, an unlikely prospect given the majority of the ruling Motherland party, which favours only minor modifications.

Mrs Ecevit hailed the True Path initiative, saying the nation owed its "misfortunes" to the rift between left and right. She favoured the drafting of a new constitution by a multi-party commission which could be submitted to popular vote following general elections.

Mr Cindoruk said national reconciliation could be accomplished only "on a base of democracy". He described Turkey as a "military republic at present".



Oranlar bugün açıklanacak...

ZAM

fırtınası

- Başbakan Turgut Özal, yurt dışındayken petrol ürünleriyle, Tekel maddelerine zam geldi
- Önümüzdeki günlerde zamdan nasibini alması beklenen kalemler de şöyle sıralanıyor.
- Şeker ● Elektrik ● Çimento
- Ulaştırma ● Haberleşme
- 1986'da 1 trilyon 524 milyar lira kar etmesi öngörülen KİTlerin gelecek yıl yapılacakları zam oranı bimdük ortalamalardan %25-30'lık artış bekleniyor.

Zam is the Turkish word for price increase, and as the economic policies of the Ozal regime intensify exploitation of the workers it becomes the most common word in newspaper headlines.

This cartoon appeared in the daily Milliyet next to the announcement of rises in the price of sugar, electricity, cement, transport, post and telephone charges.

It illustrates Ozal's ruthless application of IMF policies in Turkey at the expense of the impoverished consumers.

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 (the CDDRT).

2. The aims of the CDDRT are as follows:
End all vestiges military rule, martial law, torture and executions.

Release of political prisoners.
Freedom for all democratic organisations.
End national oppression of the Kurds and national minorities.

Stop expansionism; end the occupation of Cyprus.

Withdraw Turkey from NATO and close all NATO bases.

No military, political or economic support for the anti-democratic regime.

Totally oppose the regime's harassment of overseas opponents.

Organise solidarity on the basis of the foregoing

utilising every means at our disposal.

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

4. Congress is the highest body of the CDDRT and shall meet every 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-opt.

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

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

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

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

Bedir AYDEMİR
John M BLOOM
Jeremy CORBYN, MP
Bill DEAL
Max HIRONS

Sandra HODGSON
Aif LOMAS, MEP
Aydın MERİÇ
Eric ROBERTS, MP
Marion SARAFI
Faik SINKİL
Peter SPALDING
Tijen UĞURİŞ

and one representative each from:
Turkish Students' Federation in the UK
Union of Turkish Progressive in Britain
Union of Turkish Women in Britain
Union of Turkish Workers

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Joe Ashton MP
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Guy Barnett MP
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Beryl Huffinley,
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Alex Kitson; TGWU
Mick McGahey, NUM
Allan Sapper, ACTT
ACTSS Central London Branch
APEX Holborn Branch
ASLEF
ASTMS Divisional Council 8
ASTMS Manchester HS Branch
AUEW Kingston District
AUEW N. Manchester District
AUEW Sheffield District
AUEW (TASS) Div Council 9
COHSE Caterham Branch
Fire Brigades Union
GMBTU Burnley Branch
GMBTU 22 Bury Branch
GMBTU 115 Manchester Branch
GMBTU Pendle 122 Branch
GMBTU Warrington Branch
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
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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
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GEC Openshaw JSSC
Union of Turkish Workers

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National Organisation of Labour Students
North Islington CLP Turkish Section
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)
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

feesside Polytechnic Students' Union
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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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Continued from page 2

— First of all it doesn't cost anything to say unreal things. Every day every type of person is brought here and I talk to every type of person among them anarchists and bad people. Do you believe the things anarchists say or what I say? You have to take note of the people because there are many types of people.

— An MP has asked some questions about you and your behaviour. Do you know about it?

— Who asks those questions? When? Why? I am right, I don't cover-up anything, everything is open. Anyone can go to court, I can answer every question.

— Thank you very much.

— Don't write anything other than what I have said. If you write things other than what I have said you will be against the State, against the government!

— We will write what you have said, don't worry.

The paper then spoke to the lawyer Olcay Mis who represents two of the prisoners who had been subjected to ill-treatment. Dr Salih Bora Mutlu and Yüksel Durmuş. Both were accused of being members of the Communist Party of Turkey. They had been forced to make statements under interrogation by Prosecutor Coşkun which they had withdrawn in Court. They had also prepared a detailed account of their torture at the hands of Coşkun. At the end of the interview Olcay Mis exclaimed "...if we say that our state is passing to democracy this state of affairs (torture) is to be regretted".

Cases such as these illustrate the correctness of Amnesty International's charges that torture is continuing in Turkey on a systematic basis. The assurances by the reactionary Ozal regime to the five European Countries (see *TN 60*) that it is building legal safeguards against torture are shown to be worthless.

How can a regime claim to be extending human rights when not only gendarmes and secret police interrogators but even state prosecutors personally torture suspects as a matter of course.



PRISON CONDITIONS

Political prisoners being held at Sagmalcilar Military Prison have smuggled articles out which were published in *Yeni Gündem*. They tell of ill-treatment and the conditions for pre-trial prisoners: "In cold weather, when we are taken to court. They take our clothes and we wait many hours outside in the cold". Prisoners report being kept tightly handcuffed for whole days at a time.

FIGHT BACK

The relatives of political prisoners and some lawyers have established a legal association of prisoners' relatives to campaign for an end to torture and ill-treatment in the prisons and the release of political prisoners.



THOSE WHO PAY THE PRICE

While financial columns in the western press pay tribute to the way the Ozal regime has reorganised the Turkish economy along 'free market' lines, Turkish papers carried reports about those who pay the price of the economic 'success'.

In *Milliyet*, 14th January the picture opposite appeared. It is of worker Mehmet Coşkun and his wife and six children. Mr Coşkun earns 35,000TL — just above the average worker's wage. The cost of bread *alone* to feed his family comes to 23,000TL per month, that leaves him with just 12,000TL to pay rent, heat, light, clothes and other food! The paper asks how does a worker survive?

This is a typical example of the condition of workers in Ozal's Turkey. No wonder the legal opposition is expressing alarm at what will happen if the "worker question" is not tackled.