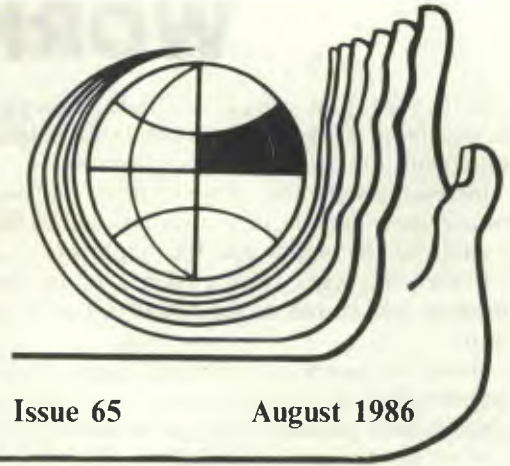


TURKEY NEWSLETTER

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TRADE UNION STRUGGLE ENTERS TURNING POINT

WORKERS PROTEST

In Turkey today the struggle for trade union rights and to halt the decline in workers' living standards is becoming the key battlefield in the struggle for democracy.

Increasingly the leadership of the main functioning trade union centre, Turk-Is, is being compelled by the membership to confront the regime and the employers.

Earlier this year clear evidence of the mood of trade unionists was shown at the 100,000 strong Turk-Is rally in Izmir.

Under the slogans of "Bread, Peace, Freedom" Turk-Is has embarked on a campaign of mass indoor and outdoor rallies. Under pressure from the membership the unions are increasingly threatening to call a general strike to restore trade union freedom — something forbidden by the Turkish Constitution.

The latest sign of this growing movement was the Turk-Is rally in Eskisehir attended by over 10,000 workers.

UNITY

The rally was called by Turk-Is to specifically call for the labour laws to be changed in favour of the workers. Thousands of workers came into Eskisehir. The protest march began in front of the Sumer Bank Printed Cloth factory and stretched for 2½ kilometers.

The rally was addressed by Turk-Is President Sevkett Yilmaz who said "It is the first time in the history of the republic that there has been such systematic exploitation of the workers, this can no longer be allowed" ... "In 1980 a systematic campaign against the rights and freedoms of the working class began ... Then in the 1982 Constitution these attacks on rights and freedoms were institutionalised ... such a situation can never be accepted by us. We are in a struggle for bread, peace and freedom". Yilmaz called for the social order to be changed in Turkey, for trade union rights for public employees. Also, the abolition of the Supreme Arbitration Council and other bodies dominated by the state and the employers and which control collective bargaining. Yilmaz called for an order based on social justice which meant "changing from top to bottom the economic and social policies pursued since 1980".

Both Sevkett Yilmaz and other speakers significantly attacked openly the social system constructed following the 1980 coup and denounced the present regime: — "Ozal works for the small minority of rich people, we can only talk of democracy for these people...we must change this". Perhaps of greatest significance for the future of the trade union movement was the call by the Turk-Is president for unity in the trade union movement: "Our doors are open to all those who seek to defend workers' rights... Everyone who aims to defend the masses rights can join our struggle".

"We are workers we are powerful"

While police helicopters circled overhead broadcasting through loudspeakers calls for the workers to disperse, workers shouted the three main slogans of the rally: "Government resign!", "We are workers we are powerful", "Rights are not given they are taken". During the rally there were several 'incidents'. In one of these TRT (State television) Cameraman, Serif Ozar approached a high ranking police officer with a request only to be punched in the stomach and beaten — up by a police superintendent shouting "How dare you speak to my chief". Later when asked by Serif Omer why he had hit a TRT operative only doing his job, the

superintendent replied: "How the hell should I know you were from TRT; does it say it on your head? I thought you were a trade unionist".

The rally further demonstrated the high level of militancy among organised workers and their increasing readiness to take on the anti-democratic Ozal regime.



LOCK-OUT

A lock-out at the SASA (Artificial Synthetic Textiles) plant has been continuing since a break down in wage negotiations. Petrol-Is, the union involved, has decided to call a strike. The employers anticipated this by locking-out 3,600 workers. The union, however, is determined to call the strike and the workers morale is high.

FIRST STRIKE IN PUBLIC SECTOR

In the face of rising prices and the failure of collective bargaining agreements, the first serious strikes in the public sector are under way.

On 23rd June Petrol-Is called out workers in Izmit employed by the Istanbul Compost Industry. On 24th June Belidir-Is (General Workers' Union) decided to stop work in 24 workplaces in Ankara.

BONUS PROTEST



5,000 seasonal workers, mainly women, employed by Tekel (state enterprises) tobacco factories gathered in front of the Leaf Tobacco processing plant in Izmir on 8th June. They were protesting at a 50% cut in bonus payments.

Until they are paid in full the workers are refusing to accept any of the reduced payments.

The workers also stated that the management had reneged on a collective bargaining agreement whereby management would provide a creche for workers' children and a child benefit of 1500 TL each. No creche had been provided and child benefit had been cut to 250TL. During the protest, security police were called to the scene and factory guards issued with truncheons. Angry workers shouted "Ozal resign!".

ACTIONS



Protest banner in the centre of Istanbul

An underground revolutionary organisation carried out a series of actions across Istanbul in one day in mid June.

18th June, 9am: A dummy made up to look like 'President' Evren was hung up on the gates of the Cagaloglu Anadolu Lycee (High School). By the time police arrived the image had been set ablaze. Nobody was found.

10am: Police arrived at the Modern Education College to find a banner hanging down the front of the building. The banner read "The hunger-strike martyrs are immortal" — Dev Sol" (Revolutionary Left) followed by a hammer and sickle symbol. The slogan refers to the numerous political prisoners who have died on hunger strike in Turkish prisons. The police detained five students.

Midday: In the university district of Istanbul leaflets were scattered on which was written: "The Evren-Ozal government is responsible for the torture and oppression, we will settle accounts with them".

Late afternoon: An anti-government banner was found hanging from a bridge. The police caught no one.

SACKED

In Usak, the principal of a village school, Mr Tahsin Cetin, is deprived of his functions by the governor, for having pronounced the words of "revolutionary martyrs" during a ceremony. He faces also a legal proceeding.

GIRL BEATEN

On 6th June papers reported that a female student at Izmir University was beaten-up by police.

While walking in the campus Deniz Nencan was approached by police who accused her of wearing an "immodest" blouse and ordered to go and get a coat. When she attempted to remonstrate with the officers she was repeatedly slapped about the face by the policemen. As news of the attack spread, students came out onto the campus shouting that they did not want police on the campus and held a big protest meeting. Deniz Nencan's father Nuri Nencan, lawyer and chairman of Izmir Sports Club is to attempt to prosecute the police.

Protests are continuing.



FRAUD

480 workers took part in a protest action in Istanbul in April because they had received no wages. It transpires that their employer, Okumuş Holding, has not paid 4,000 of its workers this month, neither had it paid the employers' half of pension and insurance schemes for the workers.

Okumuş Holding is one of Turkey's largest monopolies.



Students on protest walk to Ankara

UNEMPLOYMENT

Among 160 people applying for a job in Kırşehir as an unskilled drilling machine operator were 5 university and 20 high school graduates.

STUDENT PROTESTS

The 9th September University in Izmir has become a major centre of student protest against the Ozal regime and the oppressive education system, just as Izmir's workers are playing the leading role in the fight for workers' rights.

At the end of May a group of students from Izmir began a march to Ankara to protest at YOK (Higher Education Council) the body responsible for the appalling situation in the universities (see *Turkey Newsletters* Nos. 60, 61, 62, 63, 64).

On 26th June, students at the 9th September University Economics and Science Faculty staged a major demonstration against the massive number of expulsions from the university. They presented a petition of 2,000 signatures to the authorities and gathered outside the office of Dean Prof Attila Sezgin where, according to the press, "a protest which began with applause turned to booing". Professor Sezgin said to the students; "I am warning you, you are committing a crime". Students called for the resignation of Sezgin and the head of YOK Dogramaci, and for the dissolution of YOK.

The local state prosecutors office announced that investigations had begun against two students who had protested at the beating of a girl student, 7 students who had taken part in the walk to Ankara and one student who had prepared a report on student problems.



Prime Minister and Mrs Ozal's special relationship with the people of Turkey.

MARKET PROTESTS – “THE ANGER OF THE WOMEN”

On 5th June a massive protest by stall holders and women took the authorities in the Fatih district of Istanbul by surprise.

The street markets of big cities in Turkey being literally the only places where most poor and working class people can afford to buy food. Street trading, too, is the only possible source of income for many gecekondu (shanty town) dwellers.

The Fatih municipality had decided to close the Wednesday Market as an obstruction to traffic and replace the estimated 25,000 stall holders with 4,500 shops, let at high rents and in some cases to friends of municipal officials.

Thousands of people converged in front of the municipal offices. Women waved loaves of bread and shouted “don’t close our markets, we will keep them by force!”. Protestors said “this is a blow for us. You don’t know how we are trying to subsist. Don’t touch our markets”. While officials stayed in the building special police “emergency forces” were rushed across the city and cordons were thrown around sections of the crowd. To buy time, Istanbul Security Chief Erkan addressed the crowd calling to them to appoint representatives to come in and talk, otherwise the protest would constitute an illegal gathering. Some sections of the crowd resisted the security forces and began to march towards the city centre. Police detained some people but were compelled to release them under pressure from the crowd. The crowds gradually dispersed and the council announced the markets would remain open.

The protest is a further sign of the widespread discontent in Turkey and the increasing determination of ordinary people to resist the arbitrary behaviour of the regime at all levels.



Angry women



Demonstrator arrested.



TORTURE, TRIALS AND PRISONS

Behind the soothing talk of the Ankara regime's officials in Europe and Turkey's new, glossy tourist paradise image the terror and oppression continue.

ARRESTS



The press in Turkey announced that as a result of "Operation Fist" "Hitler Teams" from the security police had found the organisational safe house of the Central Committee of the Young Liberators' Unity organisation and arrested Ilhan Saker and his "revolutionary wedded wife" Cemile Kapar.

At the end of May the Turkish media reported the arrest of "divisionist bandits"-i.e. Kurdish militants in the Adiyaman area. 26 members of the PKK (Workers Party of Kurdistan) were arrested with weapons and documents.



Fierce fighting and massive military sweeps to continue in the Kurdish part of Turkey. The population is subjected to heavy repression. The caption to this photo in Hurriyet claims that it shows captured "traitors".

BEATEN TO DEATH IN PRISON

According to the daily *Cumhuriyet* of April 22, 1986, a detainee in the Prison of Bayrampasa at Istanbul might have been beaten to death by the guards. While prisoners testify that the guards are responsible for the death of Haydar

Yagmur, the Prosecutor of Istanbul claims that he had been the victim of a quarrel among prisoners.

DOCTORS AND TORTURE

Professional organizations of doctors have started a procedure against doctors accused of being present when political prisoners are being tortured. The number of doctors in question is already at 30.

The Istanbul Doctors' Order decided on April 11, 1986, after a complaint from a lawyer, to set up an inquiry commission to verify the implication of 25 doctors in torture. According to the lawyers, these 25 doctors might have produced false medical reports on torture victims to deceive justice.

SENTENCED TO DEATH



The 5-year trial of members of Dev Yol (Revolutionary Way) in Adana has ended on 18th June. Of the 343 defendants, 19 have been sentenced to death, 13 to life imprisonment, 122 to sentences ranging from 2 to 24 years, 34 released and 143 acquitted.

At the end of the trial defendants and relatives in the court room started to shout slogans and the court had to be cleared by the security forces.

Also in Adana, a total of 26 left-wing activists were arrested in April alone.

Will Turkey's record on human rights continue to be a problem?

No. There has been no such problem, especially since we came to power.

But aren't there still political prisoners in Turkish jails?

It's all mixed up, what they call political prisoners. There are no political prisoners, but there are prisoners who are anarchists, terrorists.

— Ozal speaking in an interview with Newsweek 7th July.

TORTURE, TRIALS AND PRISONS

ARGENTINA, CHILE, NOW TURKEY — THE 'DISAPPEARED'

For the first time since the 1980 coup, the media in Turkey are writing about the political detainees who 'disappeared' in the hands of the security forces following the coup.

Although not perhaps on the scale of Argentina or Chile, a significant number of detainees in Turkey remain unaccounted for, or were found dead in 'mysterious' circumstances.

The Ozal regime has failed to carry out any serious investigation of these cases, let alone bring the guilty to account.

Below are some cases which have recently come to light and were publicised in June in *Yeni Gundem*.

He never came back

On the 21st November 1980 Hayrettin Eren left his home to go out and meet a friend — he never came back.

His mother, Elmas Eren went looking for him and eventually, some days later, saw her son's car outside the headquarters of the Karakolu Security Police 1st Branch. Independent accounts by others detained in the building at the time confirm that they had seen Hayrettin there. His mother asked officials in the building about her son. At first the security police denied all knowledge of his existence. When Mrs Eren continued to persist and pointed-out that his car was outside, police officers became angry, knocked her to the ground and one said if she did not go away the same thing as happened to her son would happen to her. Next day Hayrettin's car disappeared from the front of the headquarters.

Another person also "disappeared" at the same time at the 1st Branch. Former detainees say they saw Nurettin Yedigol four days after he had been arrested. He was unrecognizable from torture and was being given electric shocks and beatings by interrogators.

Eventually, as he was not moving, the Interrogation team assigned to interrogate suspected THKO(B) members tried slapping him to see if he was alive. A high ranking officer arrived and began shouting at the interrogators that "if they kill someone they should at least see that he is still recognizable".

An anonymous grave

Teacher Suleyman Cihan was taken off a bus by police in July 1981. Despite carrying a false identity card police recognized him as a political 'suspect'.

A few days later police said an "unidentified man" had committed suicide by throwing himself from his own 6th floor flat when he "had gone with the police to show them it".

The first Autopsy report on Cihan's body was prepared by a Dr Metin Bulut. In it he wrote that there was very little blood on the ground but Cihan had burn marks all over his body and he was already turning purple; he had been dead for some time before his "fall". The authorities prepared a new autopsy report giving cause of death as suicide.

Suleyman Cihan was buried in a cemetery as an "unidentified person". Another political detainee Binali Sahin however, in a petition to the military authorities stated that while at the 1st Branch he saw Suleyman Cihan. He was

tied to a bench, police were trying to revive him and *shouting his name*. Sahin said he appeared to be already dead or dying.

No Justice

The present regime in Turkey which so many European governments are now anxious to claim is "improving its human rights record" is refusing to investigate these and many other cases. Furthermore, the security apparatus and personnel who carried out these and numerous other crimes are still very much in business. The 1st Branch is still there and functioning.

According to the Turkish Justice Minister.

"In the last 5 years 861 persons have died in prison"

STATISTIC OF TERROR

Info Turk reports that

On April 18, 1986, the Turkish general staff announced that since the coup of September 12, 1980, to February 28, 1986, over a period of five and a half years, 1,014 people had been killed and 994 wounded in 8,183 incidents.

According to this same communiqué, since the martial law proclamation on December 26, 1978, up to February 28, 1986, military tribunals have tried 46,196 cases of which 45,383 have already led to judgements.

During this period, 47,988 people have been sentenced to various terms.

25,025 people from 0-1 year,
11,472 people to 1-5 years,
6,843 people to 5-10 years,
2,507 people to 10-20 years,
973 people to more than 20 years,
693 people to life in prison,
480 people to capital punishment.

On the first of March, 1986, there were 813 cases to judge before the military tribunals as well as 10,128 political prisoners sentenced by these same tribunals. Moreover, 2,715 people had been arrested or placed in preventive detention.

Despite the lifting of martial law in many provinces of Turkey, military tribunals still go on to deal with the files of offenses committed during the military regime.

Defendants accused of having committed offenses against the State after the lifting of martial law are brought before the State Security Courts.

Elsewhere, the *Turkish Daily News* of April 1986, announced that at the present time, there might be 194,556 prisoners in Turkey. So, Turkey holds the record with 371.9 prisoners per 100,000 people.

Suleyman Cihan (below). With his class (left). The block of flats from which he "fell" and the condition in which he was found.



TORTURE, TRIALS AND PRISONS

HUNGER STRIKE

For the members of the Turkish and Foreign Press

We, as families of the detainees and prisoners serving their sentences in the prisons of Istanbul, Ankara, Gaziantep, Çanakkale, Amasya, see it as our duty to notify the authorities and the public of the hunger strike that has started at the Amasya State Prison on May 12th 1986 and we also denounce with hatred the oppression and non-human conditions in these prisons.

At Amasya, 6 prisoners, sentenced to death, namely, Mehmet Tekbaş, Ahmet Fazıl Ercüment Özdemir, Ahmet Kınalı, Emrullah Gemici, Mahmut Aktas and Remzi Küçükertan and Baki Altun who has been sent to the Istanbul Metris prison from Amasya have begun, starting on May 12th, a non-limited hunger strike, protesting the absence of the most essential human rights in the prison.

The prison administration has been keeping these prisoners, in single cells and denying them the right to breathe fresh air even once a day. The prisoners' only chance of movement is the one-hour walk granted them in a dark corridor.

The fact that a person has been sentenced to death does not necessitate denial of fresh air. Whatever may be the sentence passed, actions and administrations endangering the health of individuals, is forbidden by law.

The six strikers in Amasya State Prison demand the right to fresh air and to equal treatment with other detainees.

The administration has also banned the entry of books and magazines into the prison. There is no legal basis for such a procedure. The strikers also demand that books and magazines be freely read in the prison.

In all the prisons of this country, the prison administrations violate the most essential human rights of the detainees and prisoners, our children, brothers, sisters, husbands and wives.

We refuse this mentality of holding human life cheap and reiterate our determination to speak up in the name of human rights.

The strikes have put their most valued possessions, their lives in jeopardy to obtain their essential rights.

We invite the public opinion to consider the conditions of life prevalent in these prisons that bring human beings to the point of refusing their right to live.

We notify the authorities of the Turkish Republic that we are afraid for the well-being and lives of the strikers and invite the administration to change the prison conditions urgently, keeping in mind that the probable loss of these seven lives will create further anger and agony.

Families of detainees and prisoners of Istanbul, Ankara, Çanakkale, Gaziantep, Amasya.

This is an urgent case for all democrats letters supporting the prisoners demands and calling for the release of political prisoners should be sent to:

Prime Minister Turgut Ozal

Office of the Prime Minister

Başbakanlık

Ankara

Turkey

PETITION FROM 474 LAWYERS

Four hundred and seventy-four lawyers affiliated with different bars addressed on April 25, 1986, a common petition

to the presidents of political parties, presidents of parliamentary groups of the same parties and the Presidency of the Union of Turkish Bars (TBB).

In this petition, the lawyers call for:

- the forming of an inquiry committee which will be responsible for verifying all torture allegations and publishing all the conclusions from its inquiry.
- equality of both accused and defence before justice.
- limitation of preventive detention to 24 hours.
- abandoning the mentality which considers all political offences as subversion or treason.

TORTURE

The General Assembly of the Military Court of Cassation announced in one of its judgements that "all allegations of torture are aimed at discrediting Turkey in international organizations and to maintain the campaign of denunciation of the Turkish democratic regime as undemocratic before world opinion."

However, five supreme military judges are opposed to this majority opinion of the Court. Among the opponents is the President of the General Assembly of the Court of Cassation, General Hikmet Tavukçuoglu.

This opinion was expressed while the Court ratified the acquittal of two policemen who had been charged with having practiced torture during the interrogation of a left-wing militant. The two policemen had been acquitted by a military tribunal through insufficient evidence.

The five military judges who oppose the ratification of this acquittal declared in their annotation that there was enough evidence and witnesses giving proof of the fact that the young activist Tulay Gunday had been interrogated for 33 days with electric shock, beating, crucifixion, etc.

Military tribunal No.1 of the Diyarbakir province judged, in the case against the PKK on April 12, 1986, that the admission from an accused can be considered as evidence even if it had been obtained by the use of illegal methods.

"Although the use of these methods is for punishment, this does not invalidate the quality of evidence in the statements obtained by this means if the judge is convinced they are correct," said the tribunal judgement.

THE BILGIN AFFAIR

A young teacher, Sıddık Bilgin, had been killed under torture and buried by the military on July 31, 1985, this fact was made public by populist deputies in January 1986.

Under pressure from the opposition, the local authorities were obliged to exhume Bilgin's body for a judicial inquest. According to evidence from Mehmet Bilgin, the victim's uncle who was present at this operation, the body was completely mutilated, the head smashed and an arm amputated. Furthermore, his legs had been tied with a belt.

On recalling the military's claim of how Bilgin had been killed during an escape attempt, his uncle asks, "How can a person flee when his legs are tied like this?"

A witness, Fikret Birge, who was doing his military service when Bilgin was murdered in the district of Genç in Bingöl province, declared on April 24 to the Prosecutor of the Republic at Eskisehir that Bilgin had been shot by the military after having been killed during torture.

TENSION INCREASES

July this year marks the 12th anniversary of the 1974 invasion of Cyprus by the Turkish Army.

12 years later, resolution of the "Cyprus Question" seems as far away as ever. As reported in the last issue of *Turkey Newsletter*, negotiations around UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar's proposals for a solution show no sign of success.

In the latest response from the Greek Cypriot side, President Kyprianou in a 3,000 word letter to de Cuellar stated.

"It would be irresponsible for any government of the Republic of Cyprus to agree to dissolve itself and to hand over to a transitional government when there were Turkish troops on its soil and 60,000 settlers."

He declares: "The combination of Turkish troops, unilateral rights of Turkish intervention and an unworkable federal government are a certain prescription for extinction of the independent State of Cyprus and would also jeopardise international peace."

However, the Greek Cypriot side have modified their earlier position provided progress could be made on

Turkish troop withdrawals.

The Ankara regime on the other hand, who have constantly paraded their support for the de Cuellar plan, showed that their support for "realistic", "even-handed" de Cuellar was based solely on the fact that Greece and Greek Cyprus appeared to have rejected the proposals. No sooner had the Greek side begun to move than Ankara staged a big provocation.

The decision of Turgut Ozal to pay a visit to North Cyprus has been clearly designed to raise the temperature and sink any rapprochement between Greek and Turkish Cypriots.

Just how interested Ozal is in ending partition of Cyprus was shown on the first day of his visit (2nd July), when he told a rally: "... Now there is one more thing to do, to make north Cyprus one of the respected countries of the world", and hoped that the north Cypriot state would "live forever".

Ozal's visit and the policy of the Ankara regime is not however, about consolidating north Cyprus as an "independent state". It is in essence about turning the north into a colony of

the mainland. This was shown very clearly during Ozal's visit. He was accompanied by 25 leading mainland businessmen to explore "investment possibilities" and dictated to north Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash exactly how the Ankara regime wanted the economic structure and policies of the north to be reorganised.

There were further alarming indications as to the attitude of the Ozal regime to the Cyprus question in the weeks leading up to Ozal's visit. Firstly, Lt General Akinci, commander of the appropriately named 'Attila Force' — the Turkish Army of occupation hinted that if Greek Cypriots were not more reasonable the Turkish Army might occupy more of Cyprus. Secondly, Ozal in an interview with the US press claimed "Cyprus is more Turkish than Greek ... the Greeks of Cyprus are colonisers who settled in Cyprus during the Ottoman and British rule". Nothing more clearly illustrates the desire of the anti-democratic regime in Turkey to solve its economic and political problems by expanding at the expense of its neighbours.

THE AEGEAN — A DANGER TO PEACE

The Cyprus question is inextricably linked with Turkey's relations with Greece. Relations between Greece and Turkey are so strained that there is a real danger of armed conflict. The source of the tension is the fierce rivalry between Greece and Turkey in the Middle East market. In addition, the Turkish regime and monopoly capital in Turkey regret the "loss" of the Aegean islands to Greece and the potential resources contained in the waters around them.

Again, there is an increasingly strident and warlike tone in the Turkish regime's and media's comments on the Aegean dispute.

The centre of conflict at the moment is the Greek proposals to station NATO troops on the island of Lemnos near the Turkish coast and arguments over air and sea rights in the Aegean.

The Ankara regime's thinking was made clear in May. In an interview in *Milliyet*, Ozal, referring to the dispute over Lemnos said:

"If Greece attempts to do that"

(escalate the argument over Lemnos), "it will be a mistake, because the following fact has to be accepted.

Turkey is a country with 52 million people and it grows bigger daily. Greece is a country of 8 or 9 million people and also her islands are scattered. We do not wish war between us, but if it happens the Greeks will be at a disadvantage..."

At the same time former junta Prime Minister Ulusu speaking in the Turkish parliament said: 'If Greece does not accept the reality and continues to put pressure on Turkey in the Aegean, sooner or later we shall be forced to break the suffocating blockade that the islands impose on Turkey... Enough of concessions to Greece at the expense of Turkey. The Aegean is Turkey's lung. As a man cannot live without breathing, so Turkey cannot live without the Aegean'.

As has been said many times before, the expansionist aims of the Ozal regime in the Aegean pose a threat to peace.

MANOUVERS

Greece and Turkey are conducting massive military manouvers almost within sight of each other along the Turkish-Aegean coast.

At the same time as Greek forces began manouvers code named "Zeus 86", the Turkish army began "First Target-86" near Izmir. A special exclusion zone has been set up and live ammunition is being used. The army is simulating landing on islands.

No wonder the army has put military medical units "at the service of villagers" in the zone.

In the latest of several incidents between Greek and Turkish forces, a "near battle" began between Greek and Turkish fighters over the Aegean, and Turkish warships harrassed a Cypriot cruise boat.



PICKETS OF TURKISH EMBASSIES



Picket of Turkish Embassy in Dublin

Demonstrations took place on the 20th June in Dublin and London against the trial of Muzaffer Sarac, trade unionist and leading figure in Turkey's Social Democratic Populist Party.

As readers will be aware, the trial has arisen out of remarks M. Sarac is alleged to have made at a public meeting in Dublin in June last year. These the present Turkish regime feel constitute "slandering the Turkish State abroad"; for which M. Sarac may face 5 years in prison if found guilty. Indicted along with him are two Turkish refugees B. Aydemir (CDDRT General Council member) and A. Bucak (Islington North Labour Party Turkish Section Chair).

It is believed to be the first time a person has been brought before a court in another country for a speech made in the Irish Republic. The Turkish government has even so far failed to give a clear explanation for this trial to the Dublin government.

At midday in London a picket was held by the CDDRT in front of the Turkish Embassy. Many Turkish organisations took part.

In Dublin the CDDRT called a picket of the Turkish Embassy at 5.30. A wide cross-section of Irish democratic public opinion was represented. Trade unionists, writers, lawyers, academics, feminists took part in the picket much to the surprise of the Turkish Embassy who are not used to such events. At first, Embassy staff came out to argue with the protesters but retired inside the building when the numbers grew and could no longer understand English!

The CDDRT in Ireland have served a warning that further protests will follow until the preposterous show trial against Muzaffer Sarac is ended and all charges dropped.



Protest in front of Turkish Embassy London

WOMEN AND TURKEY



On the 14th June trade unionists and others heard authoritative speakers from Britain and Turkey on the subject of women in Turkish society, their relationship to the trade union movement and the role of migrant Turkish women workers in Britain.

Organized with the Greater London Association of Trades Councils and held at TUC Congress House, the conference was an historic occasion. It was the first time since at least the 1980 coup in Turkey that such a conference had been organised outside Turkey. The conference encompassed a wide spectrum of views and speakers.

The first speaker was Carole Tongue MEP, who made clear the continuing concern of many MEPs about the situation in Turkey and also the position of migrant workers in Europe.

Zuhail Meric, a founding member of the pre-coup

Progressive Women's Association in Turkey gave a valuable insight into the origins and development of the women's movement and their role in Turkish society.

Jo Richardson MP, the Labour Party's spokesperson on women's issues not only brought warm greetings to the conference but made many constructive suggestions as to how to carry the work of publicising the situation of women both in Turkey and in migration forward.

Islington Borough Councillor Aysel Hasan thanked the CDDRT for its work, the correctness of its approach to the situation in Turkey and ability to organise the right form of solidarity in accordance with the real situation. She issued a strong call for solidarity with the women of Turkey and the need to raise the fight for the rights of Turkish migrant women in Britain.

She was followed by Tijen Uguris of the Union of Turkish Women in Britain who outlined the problems faced by Turkish women in Britain, and the work of the UTWB.

Of great significance, and what helped make the conference such a major event, was the presence of two authoritative speakers from Turkey, who were in Britain at the invitation of GLATC; Sukran Ketenci, leading journalist on trade union and workers' questions and Rahime Akdogan, head of the Turk-Is (trade union centre) Women's Bureau.

Both gave detailed and absorbing accounts of the situation of women in Turkey today and the role of the trade union movement in furthering working women's rights and conditions.

A pamphlet containing the speeches of the main participants in the conference and related material is in the process of being prepared. It is due to be published at the end of July, and will surely be a 'must' for anybody interested in Turkish women and the trade union movement in Turkey today.

Now available: **CDDRT Briefing Paper No.2**
WOMEN IN TURKEY TODAY
 Price 25p inc p+p. per copy

raising his case with the UK government in the hope they will make representations to the Turkish authorities, (Bulutgil was resident in Britain for some years), and directly to the Turkish government to demand his release and right to come abroad for medical treatment.

Copies of the petition are available from the address below as is the pamphlet *The Case of Mehmet Aydan Bulutgil*, price 30p inc. p+p.

c/o CDDRT, 129 Newington Green Road, London N1 4RD

ACTION:

We urge all CDDRT affiliates and friends of democracy to:

1. Take copies of the petition and collect signatures
2. If members of an organisation, persuade it to invite a speaker from the Free Aydan Bulutgil Campaign and/or pass a resolution calling for his release and right to travel abroad for medical treatment.

3. Write to the addresses below calling for his release:

H.E. The Ambassador
 Embassy of Turkey
 43 Belgrave Square
 London SW1

Prime Minister Turgut Ozal
 Office of the Prime Minister
 Basbakanlik
 Ankara
 Turkey

FREE AYDAN BULUTGIL - NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT

The latest news from Turkey in the case of Aydan Bulutgil is that his lawyers are appealing to the Supreme Military Court of Appeal against his prison sentence of which he has 10 years still to serve.

Aydan Bulutgil who was convicted solely of being a member of a banned organisation is an Amnesty International prisoner of conscience. He is languishing in MAMAK military prison in Ankara. His case remains urgent.

The Free Aydan Bulutgil Campaign has produced a petition calling for his release. This will be directed both at

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-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.



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**

Return to the appropriate CDDRT address.

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Return to the CDDRT, 129 Newington Green Road, London N1. Tel: 01-226 2668.

SPORT-POLITICS-SCANDAL

Semra Ozal, the wife of Prime Minister Ozal and Turkey's answer to Imelda Marcos, is suing the Turkish daily *Sabah*. This follows allegations in the paper that she tried to fix the result of a Turkish First Division football match.

Such are the underlying tensions in Turkish society and the drive of the people to find any way of raising their voices against the anti-democratic regime, that even the League championships have become a factor in political life.

It has become traditional in Turkey for politicians to attend sports events to demonstrate their "ties with the masses". As one newspaper put it "even ministers are playing football". Mrs Ozal is no exception. Her nephew is Chairman of Besiktas football club and an ANAP (Motherland Party) MP. Semra Ozal attends most of the games played by Besiktas. As a result there were political repercussions when her team, to everyone's surprise, defeated the popular Galatasaray team. Allegations were soon made that she had paid Galatasaray 1½ billion TL to lose, and supporters of the defeated team shouted anti government slogans and clashes broke out with the riot police. Such is the unpopularity of the regime that Mrs Ozal's nephew had to personally appeal to Besiktas supporters to at least applaud their own side.

Every subsequent match involving Besiktas has been marked by the shouting of anti-government slogans and trouble with the security forces.

All this has caused anxiety in the establishment media with calls "for the need to depoliticise cafe's, social life and now football".



Semra Ozal, another Imelda Marcos?

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