

# TURKEY NEWSLETTER



Publication of the Committee for Defence  
of Democratic Rights in Turkey

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## WORKERS' ANGER GROWS IN TURKEY



## MASS TRIALS - MORE DEATH SENTENCES



## PROTESTS GREET EVREN VISIT

## REFERENDUM

Turkey is to hold yet another referendum on 25th September. This one will be to decide whether to hold local government elections scheduled for March 1989 can be brought to October of this year.

Ozal and his ANAP party fear that if they wait until March their popularity will decline further as Turkey approaches a drastic economic calamity. To forestall this, and catch the opposition parties unprepared as in the November 1987 General Election, Ozal is trying to call a local elections. His attempt to get the National Assembly to amend the country's constitution to allow this failed when Demirel, leader of the conservative True Path Party reneged on a deal with Ozal, thus depriving him of the necessary majority.

This left a referendum as the only way to bring the elections forward.

As in the November 1987 elections, ANAP is running an "election economy" in the hope of buying votes. More expensive construction projects (which may be left unfinished when the election is over) have been launched. Even clergymen have been given a pay rise by the state in this vote buying spree.

These local government elections and the preceding referendum are seen as a vote of confidence by the legal opposi-

tion parties and the regime. The passions aroused by all this reflect continuing political crisis and contradictions in the Turkish establishment.

The opposition Social Democratic Populist Party under its new, energetic General Secretary Baykal is expected to mount a strong challenge to ANAP.



*Following the assassination attempt security has been tightened around Ozal. Even journalists cannot approach nearer than 15 metres in public.*

Within ANAP itself a power struggle between various factions including the Islamic fundamentalist/fascist grouping known as the "holy alliance" continues. It was partially as a sop to this wing that Ozal made his recent, much publicised pilgrimage to Mecca - The first Prime Minister of the Turkish Republic to do so while in office.

Whatever happens, as with the November General Election, the present referendum and local elections, taking place within a very limited "democracy" cannot solve the acute crisis threatening Turkey.

## SOCIALIST PRESS CAMPAIGN

Left and socialist periodicals which are just managing to publish legally in Turkey, have begun a campaign for freedom of the press. The campaign took-off on 15th July when editors and journalists of four magazines began a hunger strike in a park in Istanbul against press restrictions.

Political police detained 6 protestors but the actions are continuing.



*Journalists arrested for demanding press freedom.*

## HOLIDAYS IN TURKEY - THE CDDRT'S VIEW

This year an estimated 400,000 tourists from Britain alone will visit Turkey.

There have been several programmes on TV dealing with tourism and Turkey - the most notable being the recent *Not in front of the tourists* on BBC TV.

Many people enquired about the CDDRT's attitude to the visiting question. Many genuine democrats in Britain and other countries, aware of the monstrous violations of human rights in Turkey have called for a boycott of holidays to that country.

The Committee for Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey's position on the question of visits/holidays to Turkey is based on the views of the victims of the regime themselves - democrats working and struggling in Turkey and those forced into exile.

The CDDRT does not call for a boycott of holidays/visits to Turkey.

In the Turkey of the darkest days of the junta period from 1980 to the end of 1984 there was some justification for arguing for a boycott of Turkey - just as there is in the case of South Africa today. In fact in that period a boycott was one of the few ways one could concretely

protest at a brutal and monolithic fascist state.

However today things are different. There is still torture, political show trials, political prisoners and a denial of many rights. But the big difference is the peoples of Turkey are now increasingly openly fighting for real democracy and human rights. The small retreats forced on the regime leave new openings for democratic struggle. Today the peoples of Turkey-particularly mass democratic organisations like the trade unions and human rights bodies need to establish contact with and receive the support of all democratic forces in the world.

In present-day conditions in Turkey, a flood of foreign visitors helps to prevent any move by the regime to turn Turkey back into a "closed society" where oppression can be conducted on a massive scale unhindered by foreign witnesses and where the population is unaware of new thoughts and outlooks not to mention world events. The movement of large numbers of people also hinders the regime's attempts to restrict the movement of its own

nationals.

For a regime such as Turkey which is seeking international respectability and thus material benefits open repression on the streets in front of tourists is not something to make a habit of.

There is one proviso in all this and that is foreign visitors to Turkey must be aware of the truth about the situation there. The CDDRT and all those who are concerned about human rights must energetically publicise the real face of the regime so that, the tourist enjoying the "sun, sea and smiles" at places such as Bodrum are aware that for the millions of Turkish people who are huddled in gecekondus (shanty towns) trying not to starve holiday is a foreign word. That there is torture and thousands of political prisoners.

If tourists go on guided tours or meet people in Turkey they should ask pointed questions about the human rights situation and the restrictions on trade union rights. They should express their views on these things so as to leave no doubts in their hosts minds as to their condemnation of the criminal practices of the regime and its abettors.



These pictures were published on 16th July. The first shows businessman Haluk Ezgi on trial with colleagues for fictitious exports and fraud in 1986. He was sentenced to a jail term. The second picture shows Mr Ezgi in 1988 an honoured guest at the wedding of the daughter of State Minister Yusuf Ozal, brother of the prime minister.



## WHEELING AND DEALING

The British government were not the only people to lay out the red carpet for former Junta boss - alias "President" Evren of Turkey in June-July. The butcher was wined and dined at the White House in a reaffirmation of the special relationship between the Turkish regime and the US administration.

Evren's visit to the USA also was part of an attempt to ease some of the little strains which have crept into US-Turkish relations. These are based around Turkey's unhappiness at getting less than it hoped in terms of military aid and favourable trade relations.

Evren's visit was followed by that of US Secretary of Defense, Frank Carlucci to Ankara while on his way back from a visit to the USSR in August.

Apart from briefing the Ankara regime on his Soviet visit and indulging in some old cold war rhetoric, Carlucci discussed implementation of DECA (the Defence and Economic Cooperation Agreement) between the US and Turkey. He also stressed Turkey's importance to the "Free World" and "its values" and reaffirmed the Administration's support for the anti-democratic regime in Ankara.

More importantly, Carlucci discussed with the Turkish military leadership how



Evren, self-styled president of Turkey enjoying the warm smiles of his benefactor, President Reagan in the White House.

to bridge the gap between the amount of military aid the US administration wanted to give Turkey (to date \$1 billion) and the amount the US Congress have actually authorised (about half a billion dollars).

It seems the administration plans to make up the shortfall by grants of military equipment to help modernise the Turkish armed forces rather than money.

The delicate question of updating US/NATO bases in Turkey was also discussed. This includes a US proposal to install new radar equipment which would violate the ABM treaty between the USA and the USSR. Apparently, after more concessions, the Turkish regime will give the go-ahead for this dangerous move.

## CYPRUS - ANOTHER CLASH

A Greek Cypriot National Guardsman was shot and seriously wounded by Turkish Cypriot guards in the buffer zone between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish positions on July 31st.

At much the same time Denktash, head of the North Cyprus puppet administration announced that he had agreed to meet President of Cyprus Vassilou.

Appropriately, Denktash did not make the announcement himself. It was made by Inal Batu, a spokesman for the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs after they had given Denktash his orders.

## NO TURKS WANTED

The Mayor of the chief tourist trap in Turkey - Bodrum has repeated his call that ordinary Turkish people should stay away from his town. He said: "If you don't have money don't come to Bodrum... We don't want Turkish people in Bodrum because here is the centre of

tourism...here we earn dollars and pounds."

## FICTITIOUS EXPORTS

Doubts are being cast on Turkish export figures, used so much by the regime to prove its economic miracle.

Fictitious exports are a common practice in Turkey. The regime offers massive tax rebates and other benefits to companies who export. This has led many businessmen to file false export returns or "export" the same goods several times over. Another trick is to persuade the firm abroad who is purchasing the goods to give invoices which show them as having purchased the goods for a higher price than they actually did.

Because of lax controls and cases of official connivance, it is estimated that as much as \$1.5 - \$2 millions worth of Turkey's "record" exports for 1987 were bogus.

## ANOTHER FACE OF TURKEY



While shady businessmen milk the system for all its worth and escape with big money, 43-year old Durdu Sikik has been carrying her husband on her back for 16 years. He is paralysed from the waist down and they cannot afford a wheelchair.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### VILLAGERS' ANGER AT TRAGEDY HOSPITAL HOSTAGES



*Grief and anger at Catak.*

Angry villagers stoned rescue teams and local officials in the village of Catak working to recover bodies after the landslide which buried an estimated 150-300 people in June.

The landslide buried most of the village plus buses and cars was the worst in modern Turkish history.

Villagers accused the local authorities of not responding quickly to the tragedy. one villager said: "We are victims of negligence"... "We had written often to the authorities to take measures against the danger of landslides, even as far back as 1983"... "The people are angry..."

### JOURNALISTS PROTEST

On Friday, 1st July more than 100 journalists walked to Ankara's State Security Court to hand in a petition protesting at the court's barring of journalists from many important political trials. They also protested at attempts to "silence the socialist press in Turkey" and of raids by the security forces on the offices of leading daily newspapers like *Cumhuriyet* and *Milliyet*.

The Court's State Prosecutor refused to meet the journalists.

Hostage taking is not confined to terrorist outrages, in Turkey because of the high cost of health care, lack of universal health insurance and the impoverishment of the people, hospital authorities are adopting the practice of refusing to discharge patients until they pay their bills.

Even the relatives of patients who die are not allowed to claim the bodies until the deceased's medical bills are paid (see *Milliyet* 17/6/88).

In a case reported by *Turkish Daily News*, 65-year old Haji Ali Selim was kept in hospital after abdominal surgery for many weeks because he could not pay his bill. Eventually he was allowed out "on bail" to try and collect his ransom but his wife Vahide had to stay in hospital as a "hostage" in his stead until he returned!

In another case a five week old baby in the Social Security Hospital in Istanbul was held in hospital after treatment for a broken arm while the father, factory worker Remzi Oden was told to bring 313,000TL if he wanted his son back. 31-year old Remzi's salary is only 76,000TL per month.

Hospital doctors and administrators claim that if they did not take such extraordinary measures, as "state servants" the government would punish them for allowing patients to default on bills.

At the time of writing at least five children are being held in Turkish hospitals as hostages for unpaid bills.

### TURKEY' ENVIRONMENT

Under pressure from the tourist industry, waste exports from developed countries and the greed of Turkey's home-grown monopolies, massive ero-



*Demonstrations against toxic waste ships.*

sion of the natural environment and historical sites is taking place. All this is made ten times worse by a state structure which crushes or restricts democracy and sees too close an interest in environmental issues as a form of treason or subversion.

Recently a massive public outcry was caused when it was discovered that a West German company had made a deal with a cement company in Isparta to import into Turkey 1,581 tons of toxic waste. Following the publicity, the Turkish regime had to turn the cargo back. Since then two other attempts by West German firms to unload toxic waste in Turkey have been discovered in time despite misleading bills of lading and descriptions of the contents of ships.

However home-grown pollution has already turned the Gulf of Izmit into a dead sea and destroyed some of the most beautiful stretches of Turkey's coastline.

On 12th July, the Chair of Turkey's Atomic Energy Authority, Atilla Ozmen declared that "sooner or later" nuclear plants will be built in Turkey.

Ozmen made the amazing claim that nuclear power is "not a risk when compared to other energy sources" and that hydroelectric dams were more dangerous than nuclear power stations! He further claimed that in the history of civilian nuclear power the total number killed in nuclear accidents was "33 of which 31 were killed at Chernobyl".

### WOMEN SAY ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

*The changing atmosphere in Turkey where people are tired of being treated like slaves was shown again by an incident in the industrial centre of Izmit.*

For years the local councils and army garrisons had dumped refuse in a street called *Sepetlipinar Mahallisi* right in the midst of a large working class settlement.

On 3rd August, women and children tired of living in a health hazard, armed with axes and pickaxe handles blocked a main road for 10 hours and demanded the councils and army stop rubbish dumping. the army and terrified local authorities agreed to all their demands on the spot.



## UNPAID



Visitors to the Yenimahalle district in the centre of Ankara this summer may have noticed the pink pavements being laid by the local council.

What may not be known is the fact that the workers laying those slabs along with other council workers have *not been paid any wages for over 2 months!* In addition the council has not paid pay increases agreed in collective bargaining earlier.

The council workers who are members of Belediye-Is (Municipal Workers Union) are barred by law from striking but have staged an "empty pocket protest" in the middle of Ankara.

Workers claim they are unable to face their hungry families or relatives from whom they have had to borrow money. The workers complained that while the council could find billions of Turkish Lira to spend on pink pavements, they would not pay their workers.

The council has threatened to sack all 2000 workers.

## ARRESTS



19 workers have been arrested at the SEKA paper mills in Izmit accused of "demonstrating without permission", "withdrawing labour illegally". This follows a "passive action" by the workers consisting of leaving work en masse to report for medical check-ups, standing by machines but not operating them.

*Despite reprisals the actions are continuing. On 5th August workers left the factory at midday with their free lunches from the canteen and gave them to their children waiting outside. The workers do not get enough money to buy the same quality food for their families. One worker burst into tears saying his wife and children are hungry.*

*The rage of the workers in many factories across Turkey is again reaching boiling point.*

## LONG STRIKE

A strike by 83 members of the independent metal workers' union Otomobil-Is against victimisation has entered its 8th month.

## MINERS READY FOR ACTION



45,000 coal miners, members of the Genel Madin-Is trade union are preparing for strike action despite the regime's laws which restrict miners' right to strike.

*Yildiz Porcelain factory workers strike. They are currently paid only L20 to L40 per month.*



*Why a workers' health association is needed,- 1600 workers were affected by food poisoning after lunch in the works canteen of the Sumerbank factory in Ankara.*

## WORKERS' HEALTH ASSOCIATION FOUNDED

A group of workers, doctors, engineers, medical professors and lawyers have come together to form the Workers' Health and Occupational Diseases Association. The aims of the Association are to carry out research and issue publications on health and safety. Importantly, the Association intends to devise a detailed education programme to train and enhance the knowledge of workers and trade union activists in all aspects of health and safety at work.

The Association operates in a country with one of the highest industrial accident records in the world. Its work is therefore all the more important. The association will be both a campaigning and a research body. It will fight for the implementation of internationally accepted standards of work safety and for the establishment in Turkey of workplace health and safety committees under the control of the workers themselves.

The Workers' Health Association aims to establish laboratories to research various occupational diseases and threats to health. Also to provide medical and legal support to workers taking action to end health dangers.

In an interview with the Turkish Labour and Trade Union News Agency's publication- *ISHA Bulletin*, Dr N. Yazicoglu, the Association's president said that the decline in the real wages of workers and civil servants brings them closer to poverty and hunger. Environmental problems, toxic poisoning and the increasing problems of child workers are at the top of the agenda. He went on to say: "...I believe that the strength of the class and our positive actions will be able to solve these problems... We need a flow of scientific knowledge, publications, materials and lab instruments, for this we will rely on the solidarity of the proletariat. We want to learn the experiences of the international labour movement".

The Committee for Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey appeals for people to send publications etc to the association at:

Isci Sagligi ve Meslek Hastaliklari Dernegi  
c/o, Kucuklanga Cad. Hacibey Apt.37/1  
Aksaray - ISTANBUL  
Turkey

# TRADE UNION NEWS



Shipyard workers at STFA, forbidden to strike, boycott company buses and attempt to walk. Armed soldiers force them to stop.

## STRIKE WAVE

On August 6th it was reported that in the first 6 months of the year 13,650 workers participated in strikes leading to a total of 469,069 lost workdays.

According to TISK, -the employers' confederation, there were 111 lockouts by bosses in the same period costing 143,969 work days.

TISK stated that "the number of strikes in the January-June period this year exceeded the same period in 1979 which was known as the boom year for strikes in Turkey".

## CONFRONTATION



Harb-Is (Turkish War Industry Workers' Union) has walked out of collective bargaining talks with US military officials over the wages of Turkish workers employed at US military bases in Turkey. The employers had rejected a 120% pay rise demanded by the union and offered only 35% plus a one-off payment instead.

Workers have responded by beginning an overtime ban and "passive strike" actions. They have warned that they will begin an all-out strike on September 1st.

Workers are already angry following claims that Turkish workers at the US Incerlik airbase have been contaminated by radioactive materials.

The president of Harb-Is has demanded to see the US Air Force Commander in Turkey, Larry D. Welch "otherwise there might be a confrontation between our 4,500 members and the US Air Force in Turkey".

## TURK-IS LEADERS ON TRIAL

The trial of the leaders of Turk-Is (Turkish Trade Union Confederation) has begun in Ankara's Criminal Court.

42 leaders of Turk-Is affiliated trade unions are on trial for organising an "Action Plan" of industrial action in protest at restrictions on trade union freedom and the low wages of workers. They are charged with "inciting workers to stage an unlawful strike". the State Prosecutor is demanding prison sentences of three months each for all defendants.

## STRAIN

A big rise in accidents involving IETT (Istanbul transport authority) buses has been blamed on the drivers' appalling working conditions.

The drivers have to work 8 hour shifts *without a break* and are forbidden to eat or smoke on the buses.

Mustafa Aral, Chair of the Istanbul Chamber of Mechanical Engineers stated that there had been a 50% increase in the number of buses but only a 9% increase in staff. Thus relief crews have been cut out to man other buses. Bus drivers are collapsing under the strain of extra journeys.

The newly formed Workers' Health and Occupational Diseases Association stated that bus drivers were suffering physical and psychological illness as a result of over-work.

## "PASSIVE" STRIKE



At the Dava medicine factory 370 members of the petro-chemical workers' union, Petrol-Is staged a "passive action" following the sacking of 5 colleagues.

## POLITICAL VICTIMISATION



Banned from striking, train drivers in Istanbul stage a "passive strike"- a go-slow, and work-to-rule. They are protesting at victimisation of railway workers for their political views by the State Railway Company (DDY). They say new staff are being selected according to their political views, not skill, thus resulting in more accidents. Staff with "subversive" political views are sent to railways in remote areas of Anatolia.

## UNITED FOR ACTION

During the last few months one of the most important items on Turkey's agenda has been workers' unrest. Not a single day passes in which various sorts of protest by workers do not appear in the newspapers.

On the other hand, the attitude of the Turk-Is (Confederation of Turkish Labour Unions) Executive Committee to the action programme adopted by the Committee of Presidents of its affiliated unions seems to have changed, either due to the endeavours of the government to soothe the movement by settling the dispute between it and certain sections of the trade union leadership, or due to the unexpected success of this year's lunch boycott and rallies, or due to both.

### What then are the prospects for the future?

During the last few months, there has been a radical change of attitude among certain sections of the mass of the workers against the ruling Motherland Party government.

Until recently, certain sections of the trade union movement continued to uphold their (stated or more commonly disguised) hopes of a reconciliation in the conflict between themselves and the government. Some workers were members and even delegates of the Motherland Party.

However the price increases after last November's General Election and the new laws enacted since then have changed the attitude of these sections. Those who still back the government are considered outsiders and are in the process of being isolated.

This change has been due to the continuous fall in workers' purchasing power, despite concluded collective bargaining agreements.

Collective agreements, that proved to be an effective means of increasing real wages and promoting improvement in living and working conditions prior to 1980, are now ineffective due to both a strict curtailment of the right to bargain collectively and to strike and due to the adverse attitude of the government.

For example, a construction worker could earn enough money to purchase (only) a colour TV set in about five months in 1986. In spite of nominal wage increases in the intervening period it now takes nine or ten months to earn enough money for such a television.

Workers living through the worst period of impoverishment in their

*Below we reprint extracts from an article written by Yildirim Koc, director of research for Yol-Is (Road and Construction workers' union) which appeared in Turkish Daily News 30-6-88.*

history, are aware of this loss of purchasing power.

Workers are also conscious of the increasing real profits of the big holding companies and banks. For example, the consolidated profits of Koc Holding and Sabanci Holding were TL35.5 billion in 1983, whereas they amounted to TL365 billion in 1987.

In 1980, there were only 99 foreign companies operating in Turkey. By depressing real wages deliberately to serve indigenous and foreign capital, the governments since 1980 were successful in increasing the number of foreign companies to 839 by the end of 1987.

There is a growing contempt on the part of workers from every political, religious, regional, sectorial and occupational background. It is for the first time in Turkish history that every strata of workers have been united in their opposition to the government in power and the classes it represents. The conflicts among the ruling classes themselves have also facilitated the development of a mass movement.

***"It is for the first time in Turkish history that every strata of workers have been united in their opposition to the government in power and the classes it represents..."***

Thus, the objective conditions for the development of a mass protest by the workers definitely exist.

The problem, however, is whether this protest will be within and by the trade union movement or not. This problem should not be confused with the question of whether such a movement will develop.

There is no doubt about the advent of a large wave of resistance at the grassroots level. This wave is to a certain extent influenced by the criticisms voiced by the various opposition political parties, but is mainly a spontaneous mass movement.

### What will the attitude of the trade union officials be?

One can classify trade union officials into two groups.

The first group advocates leading a mass movement and proving to the government and the ruling classes that the workers are determined to struggle staunchly for their right to lead a decent life; that is, to speak the language they understand.

The second group is willing to make an agreement with the government. But the government's mission to oppress both workers' rights and wage growth does not permit any concessions to be made.

In fact the government's deliberate policies to discredit trade union officials and bring them into disrepute is harming this second group in particular.

...

Thus, this second group is now in a very precarious situation, which can easily be observed in the vacillations of their attitude towards the planned action programme and the government. The latest amendments in the Trade Union Act and the Act Concerning Collective Labour Agreements, Strikes and Lock-outs have satisfied neither trade union officials, nor the ILO.

The congresses of the trade unions' branches will be held in the Spring of 1989. Then will come the congresses of the unions themselves and finally that of Turk-Is.

The attitude of the workers is clear. They are united for action...

Their opposition is not only against the government, but also against the lot that falls to them under capitalism.

They are full of contempt for any trade union official who wants to evade a confrontation with the government and capital.

In Turkish we have a saying: When the axe cuts down the tree, the tree says, "What worries me is not the axe, but its wooden handle."

The workers have had enough of axe handles and seem determined to get rid of them in the approaching elections. They say "faults can be forgiven, but treason can not".

As the crisis deepens and as the burden borne by the toiling masses becomes greater, not even these axe handles can hinder development of a determined struggle.

The second half of 1988 and 1989 will be years of increased solidarity, of new forms of struggle to complement the curtailed right to strike, of united action for political demands... and for the removal from office of some of the axe handles.

# TORTURE, TRIALS & ARRESTS

## FATSA TRIAL DEATH SENTENCES

A mass trial of 811 members of Dev Yol (Revolutionary Way) from the town of Fatsa ended on August 24th with 8 defendants sentenced to death, 14 to life, 29 to 20 years, 130 to 15-20 years and 177 to 1-15 years. In the course of the trial which began in 1982 15 defendants have died - mostly in "mysterious circumstances".

The trial was connected with the case of the "commune of Fatsa" - a Black Sea town which democratically elected a left-wing local council before the 1980 coup.

Under the leadership of Mayor Fikri Sonmez, Fatsa carried out social pro-

grammes of benefit to the community and organised the townspeople to clear the town of fascist gunmen.

Fearing that the example of this democratic experiment might spread, the military intervened and imposed martial law prior to the 1980 coup.

Fikri Sonmez died in a military prison.

Most of the defendants have been in gaol since 1980 and have suffered horrific tortures.

As the condemned were led from the 3rd Army Military Court in Erzincan they shouted slogans of defiance.

This trial yet again exposes the lie that the present regime is committed to ending human rights abuses

hung himself in the position described. Not only this, but the authorities have refused to allow family lawyers access to the autopsy report.

The state prosecutor said; "we have been looking for this guy for 4 years, we found him as a soldier."

## STATEMENT

In Turkey today many political trials are continuing before courts-martial where they began 7 years ago.

The impression prevailing is that the Turkish government would like to "finish with" these trials for what are obvious reasons, amongst which is the improvement of its image in Europe, since it wishes to join the EEC; also it wishes to provide proof of progress in its so-called democratisation which is being pursued by the Ozal government. Signing the European Convention Against Torture is part of that process - at the same time as, in the country itself, torture is still a nightmare reality - and it is thus shown by circumstances to be "dust thrown in the eyes of European public opinion".

Here we should remember Ozal's statement to the press: "we'll hang a few (political prisoners) and then we'll see about the others..." and the previous one from Evren: "Should we keep them in prison to feed them!"

Since the Greek people do not regard torture, or sentences based on confessions extorted by torture - or indeed anything which concerns basic human liberties and rights as anyone's "internal issue", we, the Turkish political refugees living in Greece, appeal to the Greek Government - which holds the presidency of the EEC - to bring before the Council of Europe, as a matter of urgency, the failure of Turkey to carry out its obligations which stem from international conventions on human rights.

Athens, August 1988

Union for Solidarity Between the Peoples of Greece and Turkey

## ANKARA TRIAL EXPOSES TORTURE

The trial finally began on August 10th of another 723 alleged members of Dev Yol before an Ankara Military Court.

Amnesty International in a document entitled: *Turkey: Background to Devrimci Yol Trial in Ankara* (AI index: EUR 44/47/88), points out:

"Most of the defendants were detained at the end of 1980 and the beginning of 1981"... "Almost all the defendants in the Ankara Dev Yol Trial were severely



*Fatsa trial, defiant prisoners shout slogans as the death sentences are read out.*

## TRIAL

The 7-year long trial of 1,243 alleged members of Dev-Sol (Revolutionary Left) is drawing to an end.

The defendants were arrested after the 1980 coup and are accused of waging an armed struggle to overthrow the constitutional order and National Assembly and establish a Marxist-Leninist State and of forming an illegal organisation to achieve that aim.

The accusation of overthrowing the constitutional order is ironic as the trial is being conducted by the Istanbul Military Court set up by the army when they overthrew the then Turkish Constitution in 1980!

Most of the defendants have been tortured during their many years of pre-trial detention.

The Military Prosecutor is demanding death sentences for 88 defendants and a further 30 are facing from 24- 12 years in prison.

## HANGED

A junior conscript officer Mustafa Gulmez was taken from the Tuzla Infantry School by police in July. Four days later, police asked relatives to come and collect his body from the police station. They said he had hung himself.

In Turkey it is unprecedented for civilian police to arrest a soldier. Yet they did this, and the military command merely noted that Gulmez was on "leave of absence".

The police detained Gulmez as a suspected member of the Communist Party of Turkey (TKP).

This cheerful 25 year old graduate of two universities is supposed to have become "depressed" and hung himself with a long sheet in the police "Special Visitors' Room". Relatives challenge this statement and suspect death under torture because even according to the police's evidence it would have been almost impossible for Gulmez to have



# TORTURE, TRIALS & ARRESTS

tortured during interrogation by police and in their testimonies indicated the existence of a special torture centre in Ankara known as DAL (Devlet Arastirma Labuatuvvari - State Research Laboratory).

Most defendants "statements" at this trial were extracted under prolonged torture. Many of the defendants are facing prison just for being subscribers or regular readers of Dev Yol's pre-1980 legal journal.

## COUPLE TORTURED



*Husband and wife, Ali Koc and Dilber Koc, showing their injuries at the hands of the Turkish political police in late August. They say they were tortured for 20 days. They were among people arrested for taking part in a meeting*

## DAL - A MESSAGE FROM HELL

The Ankara Dev Yol trial has lead to more facts being revealed about the regime's secret torture centre, DAL.

DAL, directed by Ankara Martial Law Commander Recep Ergun, was established in the mid 1970's and functions to this day. Many of the staff are known supporters of the old fascist Nationalist Action Party (MHP).

The operational chief of DAL, Kemal Yazicioglu, has been proved to have sheltered MHP gunmen (known as "Grey Wolves") who had committed murders and to have helped them to escape the country when wanted by the police. He also stockpiled weapons belonging to the MHP in his home.

The centre practices a "scientific" programme of tortures. Below are just a few of hundreds of accounts of DAL's methods: *Yasar Kambur*, arrested on 5th March 1982. "I came into a building,

(blindfolded) I didn't know where. I heard cries and screams...They beat me, crushed my testicles...then they stripped me and put my feet into something, I later realised it was car tires. They attached electric wires to my right hand and right foot". After a few hours of electric shocks, "...I felt like jelly. They left me on the floor. I thought it was all over. But suddenly they returned and turned a high pressure hose with ice-cold water on me...". This treatment continued for 40 days.

*Riza Odemis*, arrested 1981 was crucified and given electric shocks. However, when they turned a high pressure hose on him his bandage slipped and he saw his torturers. They tried to force him to rape a woman political prisoner when he refused he was beaten for hours.

## MEDICAL EXPERIMENTS ON POLITICAL PRISONERS



Allegations were made in August that 200 political prisoners in Erzurum Military Prison where injected with drugs against their will by an anonymous doctor known simply at "Dr Mengele" by the prisoners.

It began in 1985 when political prisoner Mehmet Yilmaz was was summoned to a prison doctor though he



*Drawings by an Erzurum political prisoner of the "coffin cells".*

was not ill and injected. Soon over 200 prisoners in batches, were put on 10 day courses of injections. Some were given as many as 28 injections in the period. They were told it was to help with vitamin deficiencies. Two types of injection were used, one clear, the other coloured "like Coca Cola".

The prisoners began to feel bad side effects - giving off smelly sweat and passing blood in their urine but by that stage they also felt so lethargic they could not resist. During this period none of the prisoners were allowed near the prison hospital. They thought this was to prevent them telling the regular prison doctors what was happening to them.

When the prisoners tried to ask again why they were being injected "Dr Mengele" told them: "Don't ask me any questions. The soldiers have given me 10 coffins and I can put who I like in them".

The "coffins" referred to are the notorious coffin cells of which there are 25 in Erzurum prison. These cells (usually located under stairs) are so small that a prisoner cannot stand up or lie down properly in them. They are without light or ventilation and are usually half full of dirty water. There not even proper toilet facilities. Prisoners are often held in them for weeks at a time. Many of the prisoners on the injection course were confined in the "coffins" for the 10 days of the "experiment"; many suffered complications caused by the effect of dirty conditions on the 15-20 needle holes on their bodies.

Commentators are drawing links between this monstrous experiment and a secret Symposium held in Istanbul in 1985 called to discuss the "rehabilitation



# POLITICAL PRISONERS

of terrorists". Attending the symposium were Turkish government officials, selected academics and two very interesting participants- Paul Henze, CIA Station Chief in Turkey and a Prof. Itil of HZI -a Turkish-based medical research establishment with a centre in New York as well.

Allegations are being made that the medical experiments were conducted on behalf of HZI which according to Turkish press interviews is researching into ways of "adjusting the attitudes of terrorists".

## PEACE TRIAL ON AGAIN

There have been renewed efforts to increase the sentences already passed on the principal defendants in the Turkish Peace Association (TPA) trial. The Chief Prosecutor of the Military Supreme Court has changed his mind for the third time and requests additional sentences of 5-8 years for 23 defendants, all of whom have already been released. Those who would be affected include Mahmut Dikerdem and Reha Isav, the former TPA President and Vice President, and Nurettin Yilmaz who is now a Deputy for the ruling Motherland Party. It is claimed that the TPA used the word "peace" as a cover for establishing a "Marxist-Leninist regime" in Turkey.



Three women accused of helping political prisoners escape from Metris Military Prison earlier in the year appeared before the State Security Court threatened with 3-15 years' imprisonment. As they were lead from the court they shouted slogans in support of the political prisoners' struggle.

## ATTACK ON PRISONERS' FAMILIES



TAYAD (Association of Families of Political Prisoners) has reported a

criminal provocation against the families of political prisoners in Diyarbakir.

The families of the mainly Kurdish prisoners gathered in front of the notorious Diyarbakir Prison on the occasion of the Kurban Bayram holiday, a traditional time for people to be allowed to visit relatives in prison. However, this year the authorities began a provocation by first changing the visiting hours from a Sunday to Monday 25th July without warning; in addition, instead of being allowed in all together the guards divided the visitors into two groups, one consisting just of women and children.

Once the women's group was in the reception area of the prison they were locked in. Instead of them being allowed to see their sons and husbands who were

in prison, they had to endure 3 hours of insults and obscenities -including attempts to "touch-up" women- from prison guards and officials. The women and children began a resistance action against this unendurable treatment whereupon soldiers opened fire over their heads and guards drew their batons.

Eventually, the women and children broke out and those who had been waiting outside understood what had happened and began to stage a protest action. A general battle began as riot police and soldiers beat women and old men indiscriminately and they defended themselves with stones and anything else to hand.

According to the latest reports, some 100 people were arrested of whom several are still in custody.

## LET Aysel GO!



The Turkish regime is still denying a young woman former political prisoner, Aysel Zehir, permission to travel abroad for medical treatment.

In 1980, Aysel, then a 17-year old student at Cumhuriyet College in Uskudar was arrested by police on suspicion of being involved in political activities. During the interrogations which followed she was badly tortured. J. A medical report for that period stated that Aysel "had wounds on her arms legs and neck."

In 1987 a police officer who was serving in the Political Branch at the time of Aysel Zehir's arrest revealed that when Aysel refused to speak, her interrogators tied her up and put her inside a bag with a wild cat.

In 1981 Aysel was sentenced to 8 years imprisonment following the mass trial of members of the Turkish

Workers' and Peasants' Union (TIKB). Speaking of the period following Aysel's conviction, her mother said: "She spent two years in Metris Military Prison. The political prisoners staged three hunger strikes during that time. when I asked her why, she told me they were being tortured. I saw her on the 66th day of a hunger strike and she looked like a corpse.

In 1984 Aysel was released from prison. She was suffering from severe memory-loss and could not remember close friends or events in her life.

Aysel's family sought medical help. they were told that she was suffering from some brain damage as a result of her treatment in prison and the effects of the heroic hunger strikes. However, medical opinion was also that, if she could go abroad for treatment there was hope of improvement.

In order to get necessary medical treatment abroad Aysel applied for a passport. However, the criminal regime have turned down repeated applications for her to be allowed to leave Turkey. Aysel has joined thousands of other Turkish citizens who have been stripped of the right to travel for political reasons.

The CDDRT urges all friends of democracy to protest at this grotesque violation of a basic human right. We demand the right to travel for Aysel Zehir.

We ask readers to send messages of support to:

Aysel Zehir  
c/o Democrat Arkadas  
Ticarethane Cikmazi  
Ugur Han 15/2  
Cagaloglu-ISTANBUL  
Turkey

# TORTURE, TRIALS & ARRESTS

## TBKP TRIAL

The trial of Haydar Kutlu and Nihat Sargin who voluntarily returned to Turkey to attempt to set up a legal "United Communist Party of Turkey" (TBKP) is continuing. Many foreign delegations have continued to visit the trial.

Lord Gifford of the British all-party Parliamentary Human Rights Group said Turkey was "outlawing and criminalising political activity which would be perfectly legal in every other Council of Europe Country".

## REFUGEES SENT TO THEIR DEATH

There is now overwhelming evidence that the Turkish regime is handing over large numbers of Iranian refugees to the murderous Iranian government to face death or torture.

A disgusting trade in human lives is going on. In Turkish border trade figures for the Van area revealed in a Turkish magazine it transpires that the Ankara regime is paid \$500 by the Iranian regime for every refugee handed back.

There are an estimated 1 million Iranians- both political and economic refugees living in Turkey.

Amnesty International has detailed many cases of Iranian refugees returned (refoulement) by the Turkish regime to Iran in a document - Turkey: An Unsafe Country of Waiting for Iranian Refugees. Not only that, but there are cases of Iranian refugees being imprisoned and tortured in Turkey itself.

The United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees (UNHCR) maintains

offices and transit facilities in Turkey. However many refugees without documents are turned back at the border. Those who make it to UNHCR offices, often are handed over to Turkish police to go back to a border region while their political asylum applications are examined. At this stage many are illegally handed over to the notorious Iranian Revolutionary Guards.

More attention was focused on the problem when 73 desperate Iranian refugees and their families occupied the headquarters of the Social Democratic Populist Party (SHP) in Van to highlight their fears of being sent back. Many had tales to tell of friends being handed over. Gerisan Fehriyan told how Turkish police came to the hotel where she was staying and summoned several refugees including her son to go with them to a UNHCR centre. She was suspicious and tried to follow them in her car. The

police went into the military zone on the Turkey-Iranian border, her son and his friends were handed over to Iranian guards, "I heard gunfire".

Another refugee complained that "every day the police come to us and demand money. For instance they say they need to buy carbon paper so they took a 'collection' from all the refugees there. They got 120,000TL. A box of paper costs 2,000TL. Not only that, according to another refugee the UNHCR sent her \$300 for her family, the police took it and only gave them \$50.

The "caring" attitude of the Turkish authorities was shown when Van Police chief, Yalcin Cizen, arrived at the SHP building. He told the refugees "If you come here again, I'll F... your mothers".

Protests must be raised to expose these anti-human activities against Iranian refugees.



*In desperation Iranian refugees occupy party headquarters.*

# KURDISTAN

## KURDS PROTEST

A twenty-day hunger strike was held by Kurdish people in Britain. The action took place in front of Hackney Town Hall in London and attracted wide-spread interest from passersby. Its aim was to protest at harrassment of members of the National Liberation Front of Kurdistan by the West German government.

There were several other protests in other European cities protesting at the German government's action.

## OFFENSIVE FAILS

A massive operation by the Turkish army in July, aimed at cutting the supply routes of Kurdish guerrillas and trapping them, failed.

Despite the massive deployment of specially trained troops and helicopter gunships, large detachments of Kurdish

guerrillas from the PKK-lead ERNK broke attempts to encircle them in a succession of big battles.

The Turkish regime's offensive petered out around Sirnak. Their reticence about Turkish army casualties gives credence to estimates that several hundred soldiers and officers have been killed.

## QUESTION

The United States has been reported as stepping up aid to help the Ankara regime in its struggle against Kurdish freedom fighters. This was reinforced in July when Onder Kirli, a Social Democratic Populist Party (SHP) deputy demanded to know from the government if it was true that combat helicopters had been rented from the US for operations in Southeast Anatolia (Kurdistan). He asked how many helicopters had been used and whether the pilots had been American.

# KURDISTAN

## PKK REFUTES SMEARS

The General Secretary of the PKK (Kurdistan Workers Party) Abdullah Ocalan, has been interviewed by several Turkish and European journalists in recent months. The first of these interviews was with Milliyet's M. Ali Birand. Abdullah Ocalan was also interviewed by Lars Bostrom of the Swedish newspaper Dagens Nyheter. Below we present a translation of part of that article.

Lars Bostrom reports from the Bekaa valley, Lebanon:

"The PKK had absolutely nothing to do with the assassination of Olaf Palme," said the organisation's leader, Abdullah Ocalan, speaking from his headquarters in Lebanon. Ocalan blamed SAPO (Swedish Secret Service) and the Turkish Intelligence Agency MIT. Ocalan said, "Palme's death was also a very great loss for the Kurdish people. I was very upset when I heard of his death."

The PKK's camp and headquarters is situated in the mountainous Bekaa valley of Lebanon. On the final part of our journey we had to scale a mountain with an armed escort. Here in Lebanese territory, the PKK trains guerrillas before sending them to south eastern Turkey to fight for a "Free Kurdistan". Conditions in the camp are primitive, simple stone houses containing camp beds, a rusty water tank full of fresh drinking water and no telephone. A used field gun adorns the square in front of the main building. In a generally grey atmosphere the only colour is provided by pictures commemorating PKK's fighters who have fallen during the Kurdistan Liberation Struggle painted on walls.

### A SWEDISH VOICE

The young guerrillas, some still in their teens, were sitting in the shade, modern automatic weapons in their hands. Others were about a hundred men and women guerrillas altogether.

"We're all going to fight in Kurdistan," said a girl in perfect German. Suddenly I heard a voice speaking Swedish amongst the guerrilla fighters. A young man, speaking very good Swedish, explained he had lived in Stockholm for several years. Abdullah Ocalan received us in civilian clothes. It was obvious who gave the orders in the camp. The fighters showed him great respect and when talking about him always called him "Chairman".

"I never carry a weapon", said Ocalan, implying with these words that his protection was the duty of those appointed to guard him.

"Olaf Palme made a big mistake in going out without a guard. We shouldn't be so insensitive to danger. Neither Palme nor the Swedish people were prepared for this plot".

Ocalan was pleased to have the opportunity to talk about Olaf Palme's assassination, denying vehemently all accusations directed at the PKK and saying how he had often agreed with Palme's policies and admired the Swedish people.

He then wanted to hear the latest accusations against the PKK. When he heard that the PKK had been accused of murdering Palme on orders from Iran in revenge for Sweden's refusal to sell arms to Iran he showed with a dismissive wave of his hand what he thought of the accusation.

### COMPLETELY GROUNDLESS

"We have not, and never had, any relations with Iran. This accusation is completely groundless", he said.

According to Ocalan the Olaf Palme assassination and PKK trial were the product and result of a giant plot hatched

and acted out by a group inside SAPO in conjunction with MIT. "It had been planned and decided long before that the PKK were to be held responsible", said Ocalan. SAPO and MIT were going to kill two birds with one stone. The birds were Olaf Palme and the PKK.

"But there was one flaw in SAPO and MIT's plans", he said. "They thought the PKK would gladly accept responsibility for the Palme assassination and in so doing discredit themselves". According to Ocalan MIT and SAPO had plenty of reasons to kill Palme.

### SMEAR CAMPAIGN

SAPO wanted to be free of Palme because he was an obstacle to Sweden's joining NATO.

"Also", said Ocalan, "we can add the fact that they didn't appreciate his general radical policies and his fight for freedom and democracy."

As for MIT, it wanted to blacken the name of the PKK in the eyes of the world. At the same time, according to Ocalan, as Olaf Palme's pro-Kurdish policies had opened a sensitive wound in the fabric of Turkish society his removal was in accordance with their interests.

"It was not just coincidental that we were held responsible for the fault of others", said Ocalan, going on to explain in detail how SAPO had carried on a fabrication campaign to discredit the PKK for years.

"As long ago as 1981 SAPO tried to brand us as terrorists. At that time they were able to achieve their objective. Six months before Olaf Palme's assassination an article appeared in the *Aftonbladet* newspaper claiming the PKK would attack the Prime Minister. This article must have been written by SAPO with the intention of discrediting the PKK on the eve of the assassination", said Ocalan.

I was taken to meet a person who was introduced to me as an ex-MIT agent. This man had tried to infiltrate the PKK as an agent provocateur but after being caught had apologised, begged pardon and confessed. This agent detailed how various terror attacks had been carried out in West Germany and Holland for the sole purpose of smearing the PKK.

Ocalan pointed out that this had nothing to do with the Palme assassination but it was a good example and proof of MIT's methods.

Does Ocalan believe Olaf Palme's murderer will be arrested?

"Certainly they will arrest someone who it will be alleged committed the crime, perhaps they will even manage to arrest the one who pulled the trigger. But the real killers will never be caught," he said.



# EVREN GETS A HOT RECEPTION

On the 12th July, "President" Evren of Turkey and former junta boss began his state visit to Britain.

There can be no doubt that the British government accorded Evren - the first Turkish president to visit London for 21 years - the full red carpet treatment.

The main purpose of Evren's visit seems to have been on his part, to press for British support for Turkey's entry into the EEC and to underline Turkey's vital importance for NATO.

The UK government for their part, by pandering to the man who is responsible for 8 years of torture, show trials, killings, bannings and jailings in Turkey, no doubt are hoping for juicy arms and construction contracts in return. It was also an opportunity to demonstrate their support for a regime which is trying to make Turkey "safe" for democracy by not allowing too much of it.

Trade between Turkey and Britain now stands at some \$1.24 billion and the UK is Turkey's fifth biggest trading partner. These facts unfortunately are more important to the British government than torture and political prisoners.

However, Evren's visit was not all sweetness and light. Countless Turkish, Kurdish, Cypriot and British democrats sent a message loud and clear, that murderer Evren is not wanted here.

In an unprecedented display of unity, virtually progressive Turkish and Kurdish organisations and groups in Britain came together to form an Organising Committee to Prevent Evren's Visit to the UK. This Committee, after organising a highly successful rally of over 1,000 people in Shoreditch Town Hall, went on to hold a big march through central London on 2nd July.



Turkish press, a hate campaign against J. Corbyn MP.

On the eve of the visit, The Committee, Jeremy Corbyn MP and Diane Abbott MP held a press conference at the House of Commons to condemn the visit.

The Turkish regime reacted hysterically to the protests with newspapers in Turkey vilifying the "traitors" and in the case of the leading daily *Hurriyet*, violently attacking Jeremy Corbyn MP who is also the Chair of CDDRT under the heading "Ugly English"!



Solidarity with the Cypriot people on the march to protest at the anniversary of the invasion of Cyprus.



Police arrest protestor.

The visit, was condemned by many people and democratic organisations. MPs signed a motion condemning the visit, Ken Cameron, General Secretary of the Fire Brigades Union wrote to Mrs Thatcher pointing out that the invitation: "...will be taken by the peoples of Turkey, and indeed the rest of the world, to mean that the British Government approve of the criminal activities of that person. The invitation will be seen as an insult to the democracy of our own country."

John Daly, General Secretary of of the local government union NALGO, on behalf of his 750,000 members also wrote condemning the visit and calling for Turkey's application to join the EEC to be refused "...until such time as the Turkish Government fully respects human and other fundamental rights..."

The Turkish Embassy in London made a big effort to mobilise reactionaries in the London Turkish/Turkish



P.E.N. protest.

# CDDRT NEWS

Cypriot community to give the "great man" a good reception. A poster war raged in North London. The reactionaries tried to pay shopkeepers and others to put up "Welcome Evren" posters. They also tried to destroy, without success, the thousands of posters denouncing Evren's visit put up by the Stop Evren Committee, the Union of Turkish Progressives in Britain and the Committee for Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey.



*Outside 10 Downing Street.*



*Cambridge Trades Council lead a vigorous campaign against Evren's visit to the city.*



*Trinity College, Cambridge, no quiet dinner for Evren!*



Evren made his State entry to London at Victoria Station, where he was met by the Queen and assorted family members. As he left the station, he was greeted not only by a guard of honour and some toadies from the London Turkish/Turkish Cypriot business community but by hundreds of anti Evren protestors. Despite police attempts to herd opponents of the visit into one tiny area, groups all along the route kept up a barrage of "Evren out", "Evren he is fascist he must go" etc. Hidden posters and banners were unfurled as police rushed about trying to confiscate them. Later in the day demonstrators caught Evren by surprise outside Westminster Abbey and he had to be hustled inside until police reinforcements arrived.

On the first day of his visit some 15 protestors were detained.

Evren's visit coincided with the week commemorating the anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus, so throughout the week Cypriot organisations picketed the Turkish Embassy and joined many protest actions.

The English Centre of P.E.N., the world association of writers, protested outside the Turkish Embassy on 13th July and attempted to hand in a letter pointing out that Turkey now has the highest number of writers in prison in the world, -imprisoned solely for their writings and opinions. Many prominent writers including Harold Pinter, Lady Antonia Fraser, Salman Rushdie, Jane Gardam, Paul Bailey, Francis King, Bernice Rubens and Simon Gray took part in the protest.

Evren's one visit outside London was to Cambridge University. No doubt with student holidays and no large Turkish community, Evren's hosts thought the visit would be a nice change from London. Instead, Evren stepped off the Royal Train to be greeted by a large and loud demonstration. The demonstrators pursued Evren from place to place through the town, culminating in a massive protest outside Trinity College where he was dining with the University Vice Chancellor. The demonstration, which contained a large contingent from London was joined by local people including Cambridge Trades Council -which had helped organise the protests, Cambridge Amnesty International, the Association of University Teachers and many passers-by. The protests received considerable attention in the local media.

Evren returned to Turkey on the 15th July. Whatever nice deals he reached with the UK government, he and his hosts can be in no doubt that their squalid relationship is condemned by a wide range of people and organisations. There will be no let-up in the campaign to establish a real democracy in Turkey and bring the torturers and murderers -and their masters - to account.



*An ice cream stand in Cambridge with a message for Evren!*

## FIGHTING FOR DEMOCRACY

The Committee for Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey was founded in 1978 by Turkish community and political organisations in Britain along with people and organisations in the British labour and progressive movements. The original aim of the CDDRT was to campaign against the growing restrictions on democratic rights in Turkey.

After the 12th September 1980 coup, which brought a junta of generals to power and an even higher level of repression, the CDDRT's work expanded. More individuals and organisations joined. The CDDRT organised demonstrations, marches, petitions, meetings and international conferences to help publicise the situation in Turkey and raise solidarity with the many thousands of political prisoners and refugees.

In late 1983 fresh developments in Turkey opened up new possibilities for solidarity. The fascist junta gave way to the anti-democratic civilian regime of Turgut Ozal. A process of disintegration of the regime began as the struggle for

democracy *inside* Turkey began once again to rise.

The forces of democracy inside Turkey today are becoming increasingly active in the trade union movement - Turk-Is (Turkish Confederation of Trade unions)-, student organisations and many other new bodies.

While continuing to support in any way we can the thousands of political activists still on trial and providing solidarity with the estimated 15,000-20,000 political prisoners, the CDDRT is now working to establish contact between the democratic forces - particularly the trade union movement inside Turkey and their equivalents in Britain and other countries.

### WHAT IS THE CDDRT

The CDDRT today has groups and sister organisations in the USA, West Germany, France, Switzerland and Ireland. In addition there are close links with Turkish solidarity organisations in Greece and Scandinavia.

The CDDRT is a democratic body

governed by an annual congress at which every affiliated organisation and individual can fully participate.

The CDDRT produces *Turkey Newsletter*, an internal newsheet for members; *CDDRT News*, briefing papers and other materials.

The CDDRT on its own and in cooperation with others, organises meetings, conferences, rallies, film shows and other practical activities.

### SOLIDARITY NEEDED

Turkey is a member of NATO with a 700,000 strong army and a prospective member of the EEC. At the same time it has the most repressive regime in Western Europe.

The resurgent democratic forces inside Turkey need support and solidarity; this is the task of the CDDRT. To do this effectively we need more affiliates/members. If you are not already, we urge you to consider joining our committee as the most effective way of showing your support for the peoples of Turkey.

### 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 CDDRT are as follows:  
And all vestiges of military rule, martial law, torture and executions.  
Release all political prisoners  
Freedom for all democratic organisations.  
End the national oppression of the Kurds and national minorities. Defend the right of the Kurdish people to self-determination.  
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 forgoing utilising every means at our disposal.

Union of Turkish Workers

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 1st January each year.

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

5. The General Council is the continuing body of Congress and shall meet quarterly. It shall appoint the Executive Committee which is responsible to it. The General Council shall have the right to co-opt.

6. The Executive Committee shall consist of the General Secretary and such other members as the General Council may decide. The Executive Committee shall meet at least fortnightly and be responsible for the day to day work of 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 Congress may call, or upon request by two-thirds of affiliated national organisations shall call, a Special Congress.

### CDDRT GENERAL COUNCIL

W. ANDREWS (B.F. & A.W.U.)  
Bedir AYDEMIR  
John M. BLOOM (NUPE)  
Dennis CANAVAN MP  
Harry COHEN MP  
Jeremy CORBYN MP  
Ali HIKMET  
Max HIRON  
Aif LOMAS MEP  
Pat INGRAM (NALGO)  
Marion SARAFI  
Fevzi SOLT  
Peter SPALDING (GLATC)  
R. YURUKOGLU  
One representative each from:  
Turkish Students' Federation in the UK,  
Union of Turkish Progressives in Britain,  
Union of Turkish Women in Britain

## 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 CDDRT, 84 Balls Pond Road, London N1 4AJ, Tel: 01-254 0387.

## Subscribe to **TURKEY NEWSLETTER**

Subscription rates are:	Bulk rates per issue:
Britain & Ireland £3.00pa	50 — £5.00, 100 — £8.50
Europe & Mideast £4.00pa	200 — £15.50, 400 — £28.
Rest of World £7.00pa	All inclusive of postage.

I wish to subscribe to *Turkey Newsletter* for one year and enclose a cheque/PO for £

Name .....

Address .....

Subscription to commence on .....

Return to the CDDRT, 84 Balls Pond Road, London N1 4AJ.

# CDDRT NEWS

## WOMEN WALK HOME

On the 15th July, a very striking video was shown at Theatro Technis in London. The video was about the Women Walk Home movement in Cyprus. This remarkable movement is led by refugee Cypriot women who are attempting to walk back across the sectarian divide to their homes in occupied Northern Cyprus.

Apart from bringing home the tragedy of the division of Cyprus and the remarkable courage of these women, the video also movingly portrayed the desire of the women to reach out to their Turkish Cypriot sisters and end the bitter divisions in the island which have been fostered by foreign governments.

The Women Walk Home movement have so far made two attempts to cross the "border" into the Turkish Army occupied zone. Each attempt has been able to penetrate further despite the ever present threat of military force.

The Women Walk Home movement is an independent non-party movement of Greek Cypriot women from all walks of life. They are dedicated to non-violent dynamic action to demonstrate their rejection of the division of Cyprus. If you are interested in supporting their continuing campaign they can be contacted in Britain on (01) 387 1380 or in the USA on 001.919.353-2115.



*The Union of Turkish Workers and the Committee for Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey cordially invite all TUC delegates and visitors to a reception and video showing*

**WEDNESDAY, 7th SEPTEMBER**  
The Lucullus Room, The Pavilion  
Westover Road, Bournemouth  
12.45 to 1.45pm.

## WE NEED YOU!

There is a meeting and discussion at the CDDRT's Balls Pond Rd office every Wednesday at 7pm. A friendly and informal welcome is guaranteed. All members and friends are welcome to attend.

The CDDRT is a non-funded, voluntary organisation which relies on the support and work of volunteers. If you have a particular skill you think would be useful or would just like to help "lick stamps" for the CDDRT, please contact the office. All help is welcome.

## CDDRT RESOURCES

\*WOMEN IN TURKEY, proceedings of the 1986 conference on women in Turkey, price 0.95p including p+p.

## LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE FRINGE

# TURKEY: NEW STAGE IN THE FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY

WEDNESDAY, 5th OCTOBER,

Renaissance Restaurant, Winter Gardens,

Blackpool

5.30pm to 7pm

*Chair of meeting:* Cllr. Peter Spalding, (President of Greater London association of Trades Councils)

*Speakers:* Jeremy Corbyn MP (Chair of CDDRT)

Richard Balfe MEP

Stan Newens MEP

Max Hirons (General Secretary of CDDRT)

Video of latest workers' actions in Turkey

\*Information Files; KURDISTAN, STUDENTS IN TURKEY, POLITICAL PRISONERS. (Mainly material gathered from Turkey Newsletters plus other documents). £1. each including p+p.

\*TORTURE REPORT 1 & 2 (combined) -confessions of a torturer. £ 1. including p+p.

\*TORTURE REPORT No.3. (Torture cases in 1987). 0.50p inc. p+p.

\*TORTURE REPORT No.4. (Torture in Diyarbakir Prison). 0.50p inc. p+p.

\*Minority Rights Group reports; KURDS, ARMENIANS, CYPRUS. L2 each inc. p+p.

\*CDDRT 1988 CONGRESS REPORT. £1.

\*INFORMATION PACK (contains a selection of CDDRT literature plus papers dealing with different aspects of the situation in Turkey - a valuable introduction to the subject). £2 inc. p+p.

\*Music cassettes; REVOLUTIONARY SONGS, (Turkish and international, performed by the Iscinin Sesi Choir and others.) PIR SULTAN (a musical drama -performed in Turkish- about the 16th century poet and leader of the Alevi masses). SIVAN PREWER 9 (Kurdish folk music and songs of resistance). RAHMI SALTUK (Turkish folk music performed by a leading folksinger and saz-player). £3.50 inc p+p.

## TURKEY NEWSLETTER

Turkey Newsletter welcomes articles and letters from readers on all aspects and all opinions of the situation in Turkey. Impressions of visits to Turkey or research on some aspect of the situation in Turkey are particularly welcome.