

# ISHIA BULLETTIN

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**Türk-İş's Sakarya Meeting**

**A series of Stikes Are Approaching**

**A Strong Reaction From Türk-İş To the Sketch of Labour Law**

**Türk-İş Was Judged for Democracy**

**The Resistance and Protest of Municipal Workers**

FORTNIGHTLY BULLETIN OF LABOUR MOVEMENT  
AND TRADE UNIONS NEWS FROM TURKEY

# ISHA BÜLTEN

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Arif Mardin

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## editor's note

Dear readers,

Adapazarı rally scheduled under the TÜRK-İŞ Action Plan was held under an exuberant atmosphere.

Effects of the general lunch boycott implemented as a part of TÜRK-İŞ Presidential Council (Action Committee)

Decisions, still continue to be prevalent. Protests continue under innovative action. Local hunger strikes, refusing to board service vehicles, slow-down work, tea boycotts during tea breaks and successive strikes...

It is perceived that the action set about, as a reaction to government's declaration on "additional wage increase", shall be carried further with rallies and eventually a general strike. TÜRK-İŞ Executive Board decided not to join the collective agreement negotiations unless wage increase figures are proposed above the hyperinflation rates prevalent in Turkey. Such level of increase would mean to keep the figure over 70% per annum.

Recent developments demonstrate that TÜRK-İŞ, by implementing the latest decisions on action, consolidates the material basis of trade union unity at organizational levels. For the first time since long have many union leaders upholding liberal and conservative inclinations initiated a dialogue between their organizations and the rank and file. President Şevket Yılmaz and many other union leaders' stance for unity is distinctly in favour of multilateral opinion which is greatly sympathized. The notorious argument beholding TÜRK-İŞ leadership as unchangeable and which apparently have an adversative stand regarding the unity and the progress of the trade union movement seems to be gradually collapsing. Those intellectual circles and some voices within the trade union movement while ardently defending the democratic rights of DISK habitually despising TÜRK-İŞ, seem to somehow go for a demarche.

And as for the workers, the distinctive mode is to wage substantial struggle for achieving concrete purposes. Every action taken by the workers manifests the high spirits and will power to overcome the existing oppression.

**Editorial Board**

## news

# A SERIES OF STRIKES ARE APPROACHING

Decision of action taken by Türk-İş and collective bargaining negotiations concerning 656.000 workers which have not come to a conclusion are the best indicators of a series of strikes coming soon.

It is quite obvious that the collective bargaining negotiations going on in the trade unions affiliated to Türk-İş and the workshops mostly belong to the public sector, will not easily end up with agreement.

Taking the explanations made by the Unions into consideration, it is impossible to come to an agreement under the framework of group collective bargainings in different branches of industry.

There are collective bargaining talks in Teksif (Textile) Union (Türk-İş/ITGLWF) concerning 147.000 workers and in 223 workshops of Türk-Metal Union (Türk-İş LMF) with MESS. Türk-Metal Union is trying hard to bring group collective bargaining talks to a conclusion with MESS covering 73.000 workers.

In addition to these, it seems that collective bargainings of Belediye-İş (Municipal Workers' Union) which from the 3rd largest group with 90.000 workers in 400 workshops will take place in the form of group collective bargainings.

It is also worth paying attention to Türk Harb-İş (Military Industry Workers' Union) Union's collective bargaining negotiations in workshops including the workers of NATO foundations.

Apart from all, there will be collective bargaining negotiations later in 1988 in the workshops affilia-





ted to Hak-İş excluding Türk-İş and in some independent unions. Since these unions have stated to support Türk-İş's action decisions, this can be taken as another proof of the approaching strike

waves.

If collective bargaining negotiations end up with strikes in summer, a general strike can easily proceed.

**Table:**

**TRADE UNIONS CARRYING ON COLLECTIVE BARGAINING NEGOTIATIONS AND THE NUMBER OF WORKERS AFFECTED**

Trade Union	International Federation	Nof of workers concerned
1. TEKSİF	International Federation of Textile, Garments and Leather Workers (ITGLWF)	147.000
2. TÜRK-METAL	Int. Federation of Metal Workers (IMF)	130.000
3. BELEDİYE-İŞ	----	90.000
4. GENEL MADEN-İŞ	Int. Federation of Mine Workers (MIF)	55.000
5. T.MADEN-İŞ	----	36.000
6. BASİSEN	----	27.000
7. ÇİMSE-İŞ	Applied to Int. Federation of Building and wood workers (IFBWW)	20.000
8. KOOP-İŞ	----	19.000
9. SELÜLOZ-İŞ	----	18.000
10. PETROL-İŞ	----	17.190
11. TEK-GIDA İŞ	Int Federation of Food Workers (IUF)	17.000
12. TARIM-İŞ	Int. Federation of Plantation and Agricultural Workers (IFPAAW)	12.000
13. SAĞLIK-İŞ	Int. Public Services Federation (PSI)	13.500
14. TEZ-KOP İŞ	Int. Federation of Commercial, Clerical, Professional and Technical Employees (FIET)	11.000
15. HAVA-İŞ	Int. Federation of Transportation Workers (ITF)	7.000
16. AĞAÇ-İŞ	Int. Federation of Building and Wood Workers (IFBWW)	6.750
17. TES-İŞ	----	5.900
18. T. HARB-İŞ	Member of Int. Public Services Federation (PSI)	5.000
19. DERİ-İŞ	Int. Federation of Textile, Garments and Leather Workers (ITGLWF)	3.000
20. TGS	Int. Federation of Journalists (FIJ)	3.500
21. TOLEY-İŞ	----	3.000
22. BASIN-İŞ	----	2.350
23. YOL-İŞ	Int. Public Services Federation (PSI) Int. Federation of Building and wood	1.500
24. TÜMTİS	----	1.000
25. DENİZCİLER SEN.	Int. Federation of Transportation Workers (ITF)	660
26. KRİSTAL-İŞ	----	350
27. BASŞ	----	350
28. DOK-GEMİ İŞ	Member of Int. Federation of Metal Workers is suspended	220

## A STRONG REACTION FROM TÜRK-İŞ TO THE SKETCH OF LABOUR LAW

**Mr. Şevket Yılmaz: We want democracy to operate with its all institutions and foundations**



*Mr. Şevket Yılmaz, the General President of Türk-İş*

Various changes against the workers and trade unions were brought about by the laws and the articles in the Constitution concerning the labour conditions after the military coup on 12 Sept. 1980. Later an effective opposition was established. After the government's false promises, the Ministry of Labour and Social Security was forced to do something because of the pressure coming from the International Labour Organization (ILO). The Ministry asked for the ideas of Türk-İş. The sketch prepared was announced through the press, but almost no restrictions were changed other than some tiny differences.

Some of the unchanged restrictions are as the following:

- When one is sentenced, he can not be a founder of a trade union according to the law of collective bargaining, strikes and lock-outs.
- Except the membership fee, no other money can be taken from the members.
- The duty of being a representative is no more valid by the end of the collective bargaining period.
- Trade unions and the confederations can't arrange meetings excluding their own subjects and purposes.
- Not only the membership fee, but also the contribution for solidarity and the fund of strike can not be determined freely in the general assemblies of trade unions.
- Legal intervention is fixed.
- The idea of having an impartial Supreme Arbitra-

tion Board is not taken into consideration.

- The right of the Council of Ministers for postponing strikes is maintained. Mentioned reasons to save this right, such as the reasons giving damages to "general health" and "national security" aren't explained in details.

- A decision taken for a strike should be in process in 60 days.

- Restriction for 'forming a group around' during a strike isn't changed at all.

Some of the changes made are as follows:

- No more restrictions to trade union administrators to be elected successively at most for 4 terms.

- Retired administrators of the unions can still be elected for another 2 terms.

- Trade unions can owe money to their members as long as it doesn't exceed 1% of the income.

The president of Türk-İş, Mr. Şevket Yılmaz, showed a tough reaction to this sketch and criticized it. Mr. Yılmaz said: "at first we want a democracy functioning with its all institutions and foundations.

In order to build up a system of free trade unionism and collective bargaining, we want the government to carry out 2 stipulations promised the West and ILO. To us, this sketch is not sufficient as it is."

Mr. Necati Çelik, the president of Hak-İş Confederation, said that social balance was against the working class according to the present laws and it should be altered since the recent changes did not fulfill the aim. He also added, no opinion was taken from Hak-İş, however they wanted as many changes as possible to serve their purposes.

## news

**President of Türk-İş: It is our duty to explain a democracy without restrictions**

### **TÜRK-İŞ WAS JUDGED FOR DEMOCRACY**



### **JUDICIAL PRESSURES ARE INCREASING**

**2.5** years of imprisonment was demanded for the executive members of Türk-İş since they wanted no more political restrictions in the referendum. With the military coup 12 Sept. 1980, prohibition of electoral rights was certified in the Constitution for the political party leaders at that time. Then the referendum took place mainly due to the opposition against it and finally the opposition was the battle.

Before the referendum, Türk-İş called its members to be against the restrictions. However, the ruling Motherland Party (ANAP) and the government started a big campaign for the political restrictions. Members of the government accused Türk-İş of being political and infringing the restrictions. After that the State Prosecutor in Ankara, brought a suit of Türk-İş because of its disobedience.

The Central Executive Board of Türk-İş; Şevket Yılmaz, the president; Emin Kul, the general secretary; Mustafa Başoğlu, the general secretary of education; Orhan Balaban, the general secretary of organization and Çetin Özer, the general secretary of Finance were tried on 13 March 1988

The Prosecutor demanded the Executive Com-

mittee Members for imprisonment from 9 months to 2,5 years since they were involved in "politics". In the trial, the expert reported that everything was convenient to the Laws of Associations and Trade Unions and said that if there had been a crime, then all actions related to the country's problems would have been banned.

During his interrogation, Şevket Yılmaz, the president of Türk-İş stated that:

"It is our duty to reveal a free democracy without restrictions to 6 millions of our members including their families. Türk-İş has a faith in democracy without restrictions."

The case was postponed to another day.

### **ANOTHER PROSECUTION**

**T**he State Prosecutor in Ankara, asked for the statements of Türk-İş members who attended to the meetings of the Council of Presidents where the action program was outlined. Therefore the trade unionists were invited to the prosecutor's office. The one in İstanbul be interrogated in İstanbul.



## THE RESISTANCE AND PROTEST OF MUNICIPAL WORKERS

- **Almost 1000 municipal workers in Istanbul from different branches stopped work on Sunday as a protest. The reason was the prolongation of collective bargaining negotiations concerning municipal workers overall Turkey.**
- **The Edirnekapı Municipality fired 150 workers because of the resistance faced.**
- **The Eyüp Municipality is forcing the workers to sign an engagement to work in the weekends during a year.**

**M**unicipal workers rejection to work on Sunday, marched to the Municipality of Istanbul.

Almost 1000 workers from municipal workshop stopped work on 19-20 March in order to protest the prolongation of collective bargaining negotiations.

Istanbul was full of garbages since the cleaning workers used their legal rights by not working in the weekend. Although the municipalities had to announce the weekend works according to the collective bargaining agreement made by Belediye-İş Union previously, they didn't do so and in addition to this, the Eyüp Municipality investigated the workers because of the protest and forced them to sign an engagement to work in the weekends during a year. Fuat Alan, the general secretary of Belediye-İş Union, said:

"To sign such an engagement is contrary to the labour law and forcing the workers for that is absolutely wrong."

According to the labour law and the previously signed collective agreement, working in the weekends for some compulsory reasons can only be possible under these conditions: "Workers who work in the weekends as long as it has been

announced in the week days, could be off in the in the following week. If they aren't off, then double wages should be paid." However, nothing has worked in this way until now.

Apart from that the Edirnekapı Municipality dismissed 150 workers claiming that they didn't work in the weekend and protested against the employer during the collective bargaining negotiations. 150 dismissed worker marched on from the Edirnekapı Municipality to the Metropolitan Municipality on 22nd March in order to remonstrate on the decision, but their wish to talk to the people in charge was rejected.

Having stated that the new term of the collective bargaining has started on 1 March 1988, Hasan Soysal, the general secretary of finance of Belediye-İş Union, said:

"Monthly gross wages are 80-90.000 TL, not 135.000 TL as the Union of Public Employers claim. The cleaning workers who work in unbearable conditions, used their own rights by halting work in the weekend. Workers in Istanbul, look forward to ending the collective bargaining negotiations as soon as possible."

Meanwhile, it is learnt that the negotiations for the cleaning workers in Istanbul is proceeding, but no steps have been taken to increase the wages.

# WORKERS REBU



## PRODUCTION MAY BE STOPPEI

**S**ignificance of the dominant exuberance in Sakarya rally stems not only from the fact that it was an action taken by TÜRK-İŞ, but rather it was demonstrating the rapid transformation of the reaction against the increasing cost of living into open action. The cheering crowds gathered around the demonstrator workers were praising in applause and children were shouting the slogans after the demonstrators. Most of the slogans were particularly against the government, Özal had the TRT (Turkish Radio and Television). The rally was participated by TÜRK-İŞ Executive Board members, union leaders and some 30,000 workers. Police force was also present at the rally, but it was perceived that the unions had not set up their own security teams.

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The banners of the following unions were raised in the rally:

Şeker-İş, Yol-İş, Sağlık-İş, Belediye-İş, Tes-İş, Basın-İş, Basisen, Deri-İş, Petrol-İş, Türk Har-İş, Tez Kop İş, Ağaç-İş, Selüloz-İş.

Laspetkim-İş and others. Flags and sign posts bearing slogans against the costly living standards and the restriction of democratic rights and union freedom were ample. Some of the catchwords distinguished on the banners were:

- Enough is enough!
- We are starving
- Our kitchens sank
- Can't we consume, we can't produce!
- We labour, you eat
- We want contemporary democracy
- No freedom, then no peace!



# KE IN SAKARYA:



Sakarya rally manifested the political change masses went through since 12th September. Fervent responses of the workers were casted in slogans reprimanding the Özal Government.

Workers questioned and replied:

! What next with the existing policies?

■ General Strike!

- Workers unite and govern
- Right to strike for rights
- Long live the organized struggle of workers
- Free unions insure democracy
- Bread, peace, freedom
- Latest attack for oppression: Privatization
- We shall not yield unequity

"Hand in hand for general strike" was the most frequently shouted slogan of the demonstration.

Other slogans shouted by the workers were:

"Özal, resign!"

"Government, resign!"

"General strike is our right and we shall get that right"

"Down with fascism"

"Workers live in misery, Özal grows his pot belly!"

"Tolls to the market, workers to the grave"

The first speaker of the rally, Gülçin Topçu, daughter of a worker addressed the crowd as follow: "Aunties and uncles, welcome to Sakarya. You are the hope of our families and our nation. You are to get back the rights which were taken from my father. God is always with the right. Victory shall be ours. I wish success to all of you"

Gülçin was followed by Cemil, son of a worker, who said: "The worries of my father, of whom we are proud for being a worker, for not being able to bring home bread is depressing me, my mother and my brothers and sisters. Our only hope is you! We rely upon you for our future. We give our love to you on behalf of all children"

Most of the workers were touched by the spec-

## news



hes of the children. TÜRK-İŞ President Şevket Yılmaz was the next speaker:

"I want to express my gratitude to all of you for being here."

"Not only for that, but also for being determinat workers who, despite all the pressure and threats, carried out with great discipline the lunch boycott; I thank you again."

"There is not a single abstacle the workers manifesting equal discipline and etermination cannot surmount."

"There are some people in Turkey trying to divert the course of history."

"In vain..."

"In vain..."

"They do not know the workers.

"They will have to!

"There is no other way.

"They say the path they walk on is full of mines..."

"They say it is full of traps.

"Maybe the mines they laid out themselves.

"So are the traps.

"We have neither mines nor traps.

"If they exlude, it will be the mines they laid out by themselves.

"Mine is not to recognize the rights of the workers, civil servants and the destitutes.

"Not to recognize their fundamental rights and liberties and to condemn people with their families to starvation is mine.

"First embed it.

"Then dig it with your foot

"And then complain about it.

"Who would ever believe it?

"Do you?

"Do the workers, officers, peasents, farmers, pensioners?

"No one believes it, and no one would."

Mr. Yılmaz said in his speech that the government was not recognizing and yielding the rights of the workers and officers and that they were



condemned to starvation; but the workers were to overcome all the obstacles and mines to open the road to freedom.

He said: "Whether it explodes or not we shall, we the workers shall clear the way to freedom, clear it all the way."

Referring their demands from the government, President Yılmaz said:

"We want the unjust implementations and restrictions on the rights and liberties of the workers to be immediately lifted.

"We want a functioning mechanism of free bargaining and strike, as in western democracies. There is not a single soul who has not heard our demands.

"We want bread.

"We want freedom.

"We declare our preparedness for peace only under conditions where bread and freedom exist.

"But they wish all but to distribute bread by 'ratio cards'!

"They seem to never have heard about freedom.

"And they believe they can protect peace by oppression, threats and intimidation.

"As I said...

"They do not know the workers

"But they will have to...

"Without a shadow of a doubt, they will..."

Mr. Yılmaz, emphasizing the unbearable living standards to have got even worse said:

"Our workers are condemned to living conditions under which they are not able to buy even the most basic goods.

"Daily earning of a worker is not sufficient to buy a kilogram of meat.

"Workers have to work double the time to buy goods.

"If not meat, they eat bone, if not that, eat lentil.

"What sort of a mentality is this!

"A slice of bread is 15 Turkish Liras.

"This is the kind of 'era elapsing Turkey'!

"And when we talk about these facts it is called 'politics'!"

"It is restricted you know! What a shame! an embarrassment for democracy.

"Well to bad, because this is our duty.

"We shall not stop talking, because we want to protect and promote the economic and social rights of the workers!"

Mr. Yılmaz who also touched upon the conditions of pre-12 September said that it was foolish for the government to strive to intimidate the workers with the 12 September ogre and continued his speech saying:

"Yesterday the workers refused to eat.

"If the existing conditions persist, tomorrow he shall refuse to produce.

"They say we shall be persecuted..."

"So we will be... We already are.

"I refuse this accusation, this accusation claiming that we are striving to bring back the conditions of pre-13 September.

"We refuse this.

"Pre-12 September 12 conditions would not be called back by the workers but by their imprudence.

"In those days the charges were sent to us.

"No worry, they will find someone else to send it now.

"Brothers, it became an absolute bore.

"An absolute bore to hear about 'pre-12 September'!

"Politician speaks about 'pre-September 12'!"

"The press writes 'pre-12 September'!"

President Yılmaz's speech was frequently interrupted by workers shouting "What is the solution chief?" "General strike." Mr. Yılmaz said they would not yield the conditions and continued his words:

"Dear brothers

"I keep asking the same question.

"I am asking you once more;

"Are we going to surrender?"

"Can we talk about peace where no bread and freedom exist?"

"Are we to let them humiliate us any further?"

"Of course, we would not surrender. No, we shall not.

"Of course we cannot talk about peace before freedom and bread are allowed.

"No, we shall not.

"Of course we would not let them humiliate us.

"No, we shall not.

This part of the speech was effusively applauded and the workers kept shouting "Workers hand in hand for general strike!"

Mr. Yılmaz concluded his speech by saying:

"I repeat. The prevalent conditions cannot bring peace.

"It is foolish to try to play around with TÜRK-İŞ, a giant organization which not for and instance has neglected its love for the nation.

"It is a must to show prudence for workers' reaction and workers' voice.

"I want to see all of you in solidarity.

"I want to see you all of you ready for struggle.

"I want to see you, just as you are here, in discipline, decisive and strong."

The rally ended with the excitement of workers to meet in Adana next...



## news

**The government and the employers will pay as compensation for additional increase and average of 10.000.- TL (\$ 7.5) per month.**

### **PAYMENT FOR ADDITIONAL INCREASE**

Labour Unions consider the fixed amount for increase to be extremely low. They say "this is charity rather than payment" Additional increase is not to count for wage increase.

**W**age increase gained through collective agreements of the previous year was adjusted according to forecast low inflation rate. However the real inflation rate prevailed much above that rate. The officially announced inflation rate by the end of March 1988 was 70%. Thereupon the labour unions demanded additional increase as of the end of 1987. Ministry of Labour and the Employers Association started then to discuss the matter which took some months and eventually decided upon an average of 10,000,- TL. They will do the payments at fixed dates. Some 530,000 workers in the public sector will benefit from additional payment. It will be optional in the private sector. Unions consider the amount fixed for increase very low. Yol-İş (Construction Workers Union) launched "No to charity" campaign. Many other unions called upon their members not to accept the money, and some others left it up to the consent of the workers.

Orhan Balaban, General Organizing Secretary of Türk-İş, in his announcement regarding the additional increase said: "There is no such thing as additional increase. Employers decided upon the matter on their own. Who would accept to receive it is not a matter for us to decide. Everybody wants it. If not today, a few days later they would. Workers are in need for 500.- TL (40 ) We are not excepting anything from anyone; say we will get it..."



*Mr. Necati Çelik*

### **ACTION FOR ADDITIONAL INCREASE**

**N**ecati Çelik, president of the Confederation of Hak-İş, announced that they will take action in those working places where the employers refuse additional increase to be given. In the working places where Özdemir-İş, an affiliated union of Hak-İş Confederation, is organized the workers organized the lunch boycott. Nearly 7500 workers participated the boycott.

### DISMISSALS OF ENGINEERS AND BURO PERSONNELS FROM NETAŞ

After the first successful and massive strike of NETAŞ workers since 1980, many workers were dismissed and now the employer is dismissing the engineers and buro personnels.

In the statement of TMMOB (The Union of Architects and Engineers' Chambers) it was said that after the workers' dismissals the engineers' turn

had come in the operation of purifying (!) the workshops from the trade union. According to the explanation of the president of TMMOB, the real purpose of the employer was to turn the workshops into rose bushes without any thorns and this was a part of desyndicalization operation. Dismissals of another 1000 workers are expected in the short run.

### WORKERS FROM EMAYETAŞ MADE A SIT-DOWN ACTION

Workers at EMAYETAŞ workshops organized by independent Otomobil-İş (Metal Workers Union) Union made a sit-down action. According to the ISHA reporter, the reason for it was that the workers could not get their bonuses for 3 months and social rights for 2,5 years. Activated workers to receive their rights continued their protest by sitting in the factory's yard.

### WORKERS CLAMOUR IN THE COAL MINES: "WE ARE HUNGRY"



Miss İmren Aykut

Miss İmren Aykut, Minister of Labour, and Mr. Tınaz Titiz, Minister of Tourism, were met in Zonguldak Coal Mines by clamouring workers: "We are hungry."

Minister of Labour, with whom was a group of press officials, was met by clamouring workers 400 meters below the ground to whom she replied "We love you all."

Miss Aykut, seeing that the workers meal consisted of eggs and bread asked: "They used to give chicken meat, is that not so?" The workers replied "That was in the good old days. We can hardly get bread now."

Leaving the mine after her visit, Miss Aykut said: "It really is a disaster."

### UNIONIST STABBED

A worker, member of the independent Otomobil-İş Union was stabbed by other "workers" who were brought to İstanbul and employed by the employers themselves. It is reported that the assault took place in connection with union challenge. Employer augments pressure in the Nursan Steel Furniture Factory of the Koç Holding where Otomobil-İş is authori-

zed to bind contract. Eighty union members were sacked within a month, and on 31st March 1988, Ahmet Gülger was stabbed. Orhan Ökten, otomobil-İş Topkapı Branch Secretary, who was wounded during the clash said "This evnt established, at a time when unity is on the agenda, that the Türk-Metal Unions is regarded as a vehicle to destroy that unity." Although the authors of the crime were immediately caught, they were later freed.

## THE 2nd USUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF BANKS (Banking and Insurance Workers' Union) WAS HELD

The re-elected general president Meral Ekim said that the main duty they fronted was to provide the solidarity of trade-unionism.

The 2nd usual general assembly of BANKS was already held and Meral Ekim was re-elected as general president of the independent union. Trade unionists from Türk-İş Confedera-

tion, some exadministrators of DISK which was banned and Hans Schwass, the general secretary of local activities of FIET attended to the assembly and Mr. Schwass made a speech. He said:

### WORKERS AT DOKUSAN ARE BEING FORCED TO DISMISS

1200

workers are being dismissed by force DOKUSAN workshops where Teksif (Textile) Union affiliated to Türk-İş, is organized. Workers who participated fully in the general meal boycott, called for a 3 days of meal boycott to protest against the chaos in receiving their wages and social rights. Therefore the employer drove out the workers from the factories by using force. According to the news that the ISHA reporter picked up, the employer was dismissing the workers by threatening, constraining and more strikingly by flagging. Workers said to the reporter that 7 workers were already dismissed.

"We have far reached to full capacity of employees in the banking and insurance sector and because of this, half of the world's largest 100 banks dismissed some employees last year." Pointing out the fact that the labour laws in Turkey weren't proper as far as the international standarts concerned, Hans Schwass stated that they would support the working class in Turkey as it was against the unrest restrictions in the labour laws and they would fight for to change them on international platforms.

In the essembly, the re-elected general president, Meral Ekim said that to have 4 unions in the workshops lessened the strength of the working class, thus they would do their best to change the situation. She emphasized that their main duty was to establish a solidarity in tradeunionism. Then she went on:

"We benefited a lot from the experiences given by our unique union formed in the beginning of 1970. 8 years have passed over 12 September 1980. We want to overcome all restrictive measures and re-gain our democratic rights and freedom. We look forward to a country and a world without wars, oppressions and exploitations.

### YOL-İŞ (the Highway Workers' Union) UNION HAS WARNED THE EMPLOYERS

The campaign Yol-İş has gone through on rejecting the additional increase in wages determined by the Government, is still going on. Some question marks have arised in the employers' minds mainly due to the article sent by the Union under the slogan of "No to Charity"

It was stated in the article that notifications of TÜHİS (Public Employers' Union) warning the

employers to pay the increase in wages, violated the collective bargaining agreements and also added the legal aspects of the reasons why TÜHİS had taken such a decision were totally vague since TÜHİS did not care for the approval of Yol-İş Union. Paying the workers according to the employers' own will and ignoring the agreements signed itself violated the present collective bargainings.



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### **ÇİMSE-İŞ (Ceramic Workers' Union) UNION IS GETTING READY FOR A STRIKE**

The union and the employer couldn't come to an agreement on the collective bargaining negotiations including 12.913 workers at 32 workshops. Stressing hardly that no agreement could be achieved under these conditions, the union announced the preparation of a strike on 1st May. Mehmet Selçuk, the General Secre-

tary of Çimse-İş Union, said:

"We support all decisions taken by Türk-İş and we will go on a strike at 32 public factories where disagreement exists."

He also stated that this decisions would carry out the preparation for a general strike which Türk-İş was aiming and they were ready for it.

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### **DOCKYARD WORKERS' PROTEST AGAINST ADDITIONAL INCREASE IN WAGES**

The members of Dok-Gemi-İş (the port, dock and shipping industry workers' union) Union affiliated to Türk-İş, remonstrated on the Governments' decision of insufficient and ridiculous increase in wages. Workers from Camialtı, Haliç and Pendik Dockyards in İstanbul affiliated to Dok-Gemi-İş Union, collected 100

TL per person and sent the total to Prime Minister Turgut Özal in order to protest the amount of the increase. On the other hand, it was found that the workers had get their payments since the Union did not decide to reject the additional increase.

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### **WORKERS' DEMONSTRATION IS DISPERSED AT TAKSAN**

Workers belong to the trade union of Öz-Demir İş affiliated to HAK-İŞ CONFEDERATION and organized at TAKSAN have started an action in Taksan Machine Tools Factory. Workers at the factory built in Kayseri, didn't accept to use bus service provided and

brought into a long line to start walking to the town. The row of 1200 workers was scattered by the intervention of police and the gendarme and they were forced to get in the buses to be sent to the town.

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### **TEZ-KOP İŞ AND UFWC (Cooperative and Office Workers' Union) UNION HELD A SEMINAR TOGETHER IN ÇEŞME**

Tez-Koop İş Union affiliated to Türk-İş and UFWC (American Trade and Food Workers Union) held a cooperative seminar in Çeşme İzmir. At the meeting called "Seminar on

Democracy and Trade Unionism", the president of Tez-Koop İş, Kenan Gürbüz said:

"Nowaday workers can gain their rights only through strikes"

# QUESTIONNAIRE FOR ISHA BULLETIN

Dear readers,

ISHA Bulletin is the only publication in English, printed in Turkey, which is concerned primarily with the labour and trade union movement there.

In order to offer you a more satisfactory service, we would like to know your expectations from such a bulletin; namely, what would you like to see most, the kind of information that interests you, and what might be boring!

We have therefore prepared a brief questionnaire. We would be grateful if you could duly fill it and send to our address without sparing any comments and/or suggestions you deem useful. Thank you in advance.

ISHA Bulletin



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- e) SHORT NEWS OF STRIKES AND INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES .....
- f) BACKGROUND ARTICLES ON INDIVIDUAL TRADE UNIONS IN TURKEY .....
- g) PROFILES OF TRADE UNION LEADERS .....
- h) INTERVIEWS WITH LEADING FIGURES IN THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT IN TURKEY .....
- i) WOMEN AND TRADE UNIONS .....
- j) INTERNATIONAL VIEWS OF TRADE UNIONS IN TURKEY .....
- k) POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES OF TÜRK-İŞ (TURKISH T.U. CONFEDERATION) .....

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