

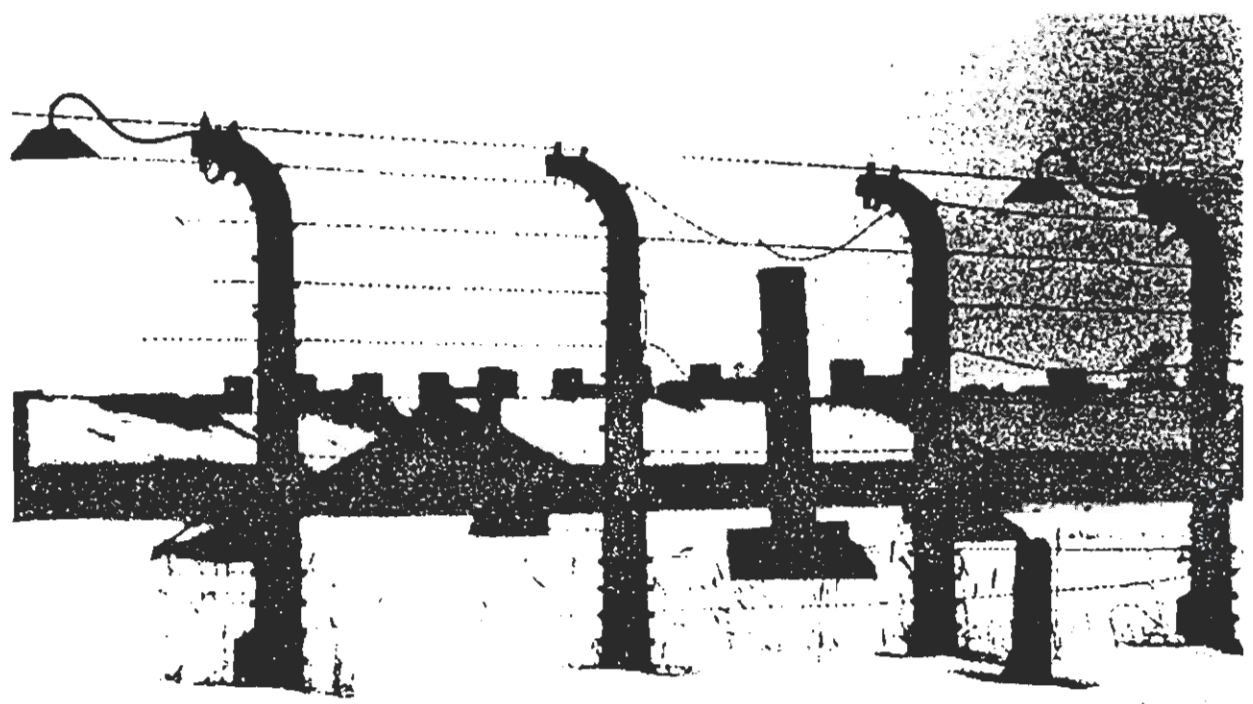


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# 103

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## TURKEY'S RULERS TIGHTEN UP POLICE STATE

While the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly endorsed human rights violations in Turkey by deciding to validate the Turkish delegation's credentials and to hold a mini-session in that country in 1986, a new law was passed by the Turkish National Assembly on May 8 —and an additional bill tabled— aimed at tightening up Turkey's police state and at widening the range of repressive measures against the opponents of the military dictatorship.

The law which was passed by the National Assembly provides that people who turned informers against "resistant groups" can be pardoned and, possibly, benefit from esthetical surgery. This law ensures impunity for people who inform against organizations involved in "crimes against the State", provided that they did not themselves take part in any act of violence; in the event that they do not fulfil this condition, they will benefit from significant reductions in their sentences. The State will ensure their protection by enabling them to change their identity, to settle in a foreign country or, if necessary, by means of esthetical surgery. This law is primarily aimed at pro-communist, separatist and anti-secular activities.

Stepping up repressive measures was described by Premier Ozal as a precondition before any amnesty can be taken into consideration on behalf of certain persons who were condemned by the military courts following the September 1980 military coup.

On the other hand, this draft bill which is expected to be adopted soon, enables policemen to resort in much more cases to using fire arms. Phone tappings are being legalized and depend solely on the Governor's approval, without a warrant issued by a judge.

Suspects can be kept under police custody for interrogation during fifteen days. In case of "extraordinary conditions", police are entitled to double the period under police custody without a warrant issued by a judge. Furthermore, police will be entitled to close down any premises where activities are taking place that are regarded as "contrary to the constitutional order, to the principles of decency or likely to threaten general security." Finally, this bill has the effect of stepping up repression against homosexuals who are to be filed by police.

As explained in the previous issues of this bulletin, the "Law on Repentance" has already provoked some reactions in democratic circles as well as within the European institutions. During the debates at the National Assembly, Populist Party (HP) Deputy Cüneyt Canver had a row with Motherland Party (ANAP) deputies, when Canver said from the rostrum that those taken into custody on the strength of denunciations by informers may be subjected to torture. ANAP deputies rose shouting "There is no torture in Turkey".

Canver replied referring to a case in Beyşehir, where a complaint was lodged against the security officers involved. Canver's statement was greeted with further protests from ANAP deputies and Minister of Justice Necat Eldem.

Speaking from the rostrum on behalf of the government, Eldem said "It is unfortunate for Canver to mention the word 'torture' in Parliament, at a time when unfounded claims abound in Europe about torture in Turkey."

To this Canver retorted from his seat: "Am I to shut up and cover everything up of the sake of public opinion?"

Thereupon, ANAP deputies started booing Canver. Before his words caused an uproar, Canver was saying that "turning informer" is inadmissible by traditional Turkish standards. He said the government's concept of law "is found to be wanting, since it places informers' accounts over legal arrangements which will base investigations on legally valid evidence."

"This law allows identity changes for informers. Perhaps, it could be amended in the future so as to provide a change of sex for them as well," he mused.

Yet, this bill which was due to enter into force the next day, was vetoed on May 20, 1985 by the "President of the Republic". The reason for this veto, however, is not the law's anti-democratic nature. General Evren's main objection to the "Law on Repentance" was that those who are involved in crimes against the Turkish State and the Republic cannot be pardoned every time again. He further pointed out that this bill also enables members of clandestine organizations to get a reduction in their sentences by denouncing each other in a planned way.

As a result of General Evren's veto, the National Assembly will have to wait for adopting the draft bill, until the amendments are approved of by the former.

Likewise, the new draft bill on the rights and powers of the police was also strongly opposed by the opposition parties.

Chairman of the Social Democracy Party (Sodep), Erdal İnönü; "This draft bill gives police extraordinary powers which are acceptable only under extraordinary conditions and on a short-term basis. By virtue of these powers police are entitled to search without a warrant, to tap telephones, to conduct investigations of any kind on private property including documents, to seize private letters and to read them, to keep suspects under custody without the ruling of a judge, to question prisoners in jail and to decide to close down any trade union, association and professional organization. The same draft bill entitles them to close places of entertainment and theaters. Police will be free to conduct all these things with a single word of instruction by the local governor."

İNönü pointed out that most of the provisions which are stated in this bill are already in force as a result of current martial law regulations in the country. In addition, he said that even in the event of martial law being lifted, nothing will change and the regulations, previously imposed on the citizens under martial law, will become regular police practice.

"The Interior Ministry claims that so far police only used to act upon receiving a warrant issued by a judge and that the new law is simply a short cut. This is nothing but an excuse. Freedoms are being restricted on the grounds that it is a short cut. The draft bill is a clear breach of the civil liberties set out in the Constitution. This draft bill is also contrary to Turkey's commitments in the international arena", he said.

The Populist Party (HP) provincial leaders said in a common statement that the bill will put democratic rights and freedoms in grave danger, and points to the Government's determination to gradually establish a police state in the country.

The True Path Party (DYP) Deputy Chairman A. N. Tuna said this bill is in contradiction with his party's philosophy, thus "throwing a shadow on civil liberties. It would be more correct to expand freedoms rather than to restrict them", he said.

The Welfare Party (RP) spokesman A. Nedim Cetin said his party does not approve the fact that police powers are enlarged to the extent that individual liberties are being undermined.

Even the National Democracy Party (MDP), which has so far voted in favor of authoritarian measures, opposed the draft. "The law must be cautiously worded within the Constitutional framework. If extremes are included, reactions will emerge. The draft must be carefully reviewed," party secretary general Ulkü Söylemezoğlu said.

Another reaction to the bill came from the representative of the Socialist Group at the European Parliament, Ludwig Fellnermaier. During his visit to Turkey, on May 21, Fellnermaier, answering the questions of Turkish journalists, said:

"I would like to read a passage from an interview by Premier Ozal given to a German paper. He said with great pride that since he took office in 1983 his administration had lifted martial law in 44 provinces out of 67. This is one side of the coin, however he did not say anything concerning the other side of the coin. The proposed amendment to the police law is a gross intervention in the basic freedoms and rights of the individual. Actually it is worse than martial law. The powers given to the police can be very negatively exploited. And if the bill clears the Turkish Parliament in its current form, it could lead to strong reactions abroad.

"When we criticize this bill no one should accuse us of interfering in the internal affairs of Turkey. In doing so I am not only making a statement but I am also fulfilling my duty. The bill completely violates the European Human Rights Convention of which Turkey is a signatory country."

## VICTIMS OF MARTIAL LAW

Ankara Deputy of the Populist Party (HP), Seyfi Oktay disclosed on January 10 that every since the takeover by military, the number of those who had been dismissed by order of the martial law authorities already exceeded 100 thousand. "There are many people who have never been subjected to any legal proceedings, nor summoned to any police center... When they apply for a job in the public services, intelligence services make an investigation about them. This is a situation entirely incompatible with the Constitution and the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. I am afraid that this number may reach 200-300 thousand," he said.

Commenting on the same issue, Social Democracy Party (SODEP) Chairman Erdal İnönü said that many innocent people in Turkey were fired from their posts and that it was time to handle their problems.

## GENERAL EVREN'S ANGER!

*It is very well known that General Evren and his prime minister Ozal have no intention to take heed of what European democrats say. Just after the validation of the Turkish delegation's credentials by the Council of Europe, General Evren, in his speech delivered on April 29 in Antalya, defied the Council of Europe Resolution on human Rights.*

*"We have enemies as well as friends in the world. These enemies have organized hands abroad in order to destroy the current atmosphere of security in our country. In 1982 Turkey adopted a new constitution which is a guarantee of peace and prosperity for the Nation. They know it very well... And they do their utmost to abrogate this constitution. They tell us to modify it if we wish to take part in the community of civilized nations. They urge us to lift martial law. This choice is in our hands, not in theirs.*

*"They talk very often of torture in Turkey. They come here and talk with terrorists who are in jail, not with people in the street. Obviously, a terrorist who is to be condemned to capital punishment claims that he was tortured. A person of goodwill should not rely on their allegations.*

*"They are against the death penalty, they find it contrary to human rights... Are we obliged to feed in prison those who have assassinated ten, twenty, thirty persons. Moreover, the European Convention on Human Rights has never abolished the death penalty.*

*"They claim that there are prisoners of opinion in Turkey. The Turkish Penal Code does not include any article concerning opinion crime. They make allusion to articles 141 and 142 of the Code. These articles had already been enacted in 1936, at the period of Atatürk. Some members of associations are in prison in accordance with articles, but they are not prisoners of opinion..."*

*As for Prime Minister Ozal, he had already declared during his visit to the United States that there are no political prisoners in Turkey, except the leader of the MHP neo-fascist party, Alparslan Türkeş, and that all other prisoners are anarchists or criminals. In Ozal's view, since the recent release of Türkeş, there are no more political prisoners in Turkey!*

"At least they should have been given a chance to defend themselves. There was havoc during the September 12 period and many people suffered due to the extraordinary conditions of the time. The State should do whatever it can to ensure their rights are he said.

## DARWIN BLACKLISTED

Minister of Education, Youth and Sports Vehbi Dinçerler sent a directive to schools objecting to the teaching of Charles Darwin's theory of evolution "as an absolute law", the daily *Cumhuriyet* of March 26, 1985

In the minister's view, teaching the theory of evolution "results in the implication that there is a controversy between science and religion," this can be read in an addendum to a report on Darwinism prepared by the Council of Education and Training which keeps a strict eye on secondary (high-school) education curricula in the schools controlled by the ministry.

The report prepared by the ministry points out that theory of evolution "first calls to mind the heresy that man is descended from the ape," and claims that the fossils of hominids discovered in Peking, Piltdown and Hong kong are "scientific fakes".

The ministry's report also denounces Darwin as an "atheistic materialist".

## YOUTH UNDER PRESSURE

The daily *Cumhuriyet* of March 26, 1985 reported that 1985 which has been proclaimed Year of Youth by the United Nations, has been the Year of Bans for the youth of Turkey.

- In many cities, university students who get together in coffee houses, or clubs are being forced by police to leave these places and to return home.

- Thousands of students have been expelled from universities on the pretext that they are not successful.

- In all universities, all students are denied the right to organise themselves in youth associations.

On April 5, twelve university students who gave some opposition deputies in Parliament a petition about repressive measures were taken into custody by

police. They are accused of having made an unauthorized demonstration.

Another repressive measure hits draftees for military service. According to a regulation issued by the Ministry of National Defense, university graduates who are considered "suspect" by the intelligence agency will be assigned, during their military service, to special activities.

## MAN-HUNTINGS IN APRIL

4.4, in Sırnak, Siirt province, a Kurdish militant was shot dead and 7 more arrested.

5.4, in Istanbul, 18 left-wing militants were arrested.

6.4, in Sırnak, a Kurdish guerilla group attacked a military mission and shot dead a lieutenant, a policeman and three state employees.

10.4, in Bursa, a Jordanian doctor and 5 other persons were arrested on a charge of fundamentalist activities.

13.4, in Istanbul, 13 political activists were arrested.

17.4, in Gaziantep, 5 left-wing militants were arrested.

18.4, in the district of Genc in Bingöl province, a Kurdish militant was shot dead by the security forces.

20.4, in Mus, security forces arrested 20 Kurdish militants.

21.4, in Giresun, 12 persons were arrested by security forces.

30.4, in the district of Karlıova in Bingöl province 2 Kurdish militants were shot dead and another was wounded by the security forces. On the same day, in Diyarbakır, three Kurdish militants were fatally wounded.

## CONDEMNATIONS IN APRIL

18.4, in Adana, a political mass trial ended with 5 death sentences, 11 life-sentences and 51 other prison terms of up to 20 years.

27.4, in Diyarbakır, a militant of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Turkey (TDKP) was sent

enced to death, another to life imprisonment and 8 others to prison terms up to 13 years.

30.4, in Ankara, the leaders of the Workers' and Peasants' Party of Turkey (TKP) were condemned again to imprisonment after their first sentence was overruled by the Military Court of Cassation. TKP was one of the legal left-wing political parties in Turkey prior to the military coup. Party chairman İnoğu Perinçek and 8 codendants were condemned to 8 years each and six others to various prison terms.

#### NEW CASES IN APRIL

13.4, in Izmir, a leading member of SODEP, Kamil Karavelioğlu, was brought before a military tribunal for having criticized the National Security Council. Karavelioğlu is one of the authors of the military intervention of 27th May 1960.

14.4, in Istanbul, the trial of 100 presumed members of the Communist Party of Turkey (TKP) started at a military tribunal. Among the defendants are also two members of the SODEP, presently the main opposition party.

25.4, in Istanbul, the military prosecutor took new legal proceedings against the officials of DISK on the charge of having brought into the country cars and office equipment without paying custom duty. In fact, this equipment had been sent by European trade unions as part of a solidarity action.

30.4, in Istanbul, a new trial against seven members of Dev-Yol. Each of them faces a 20-year prison term.

#### NEW PRESS TRIALS

4.4, in Ankara, Turhan Dilligil, chief editor of the daily *Adalet* was brought before a military tribunal for having criticized a supreme court which was dissolved 20 years ago.

11.4, in Istanbul, journalist Hüsni Aktas is being tried before a military tribunal for his book entitled "Civilized Savagery". Publishers Ali Sahin and Seyfettin Oğuzlar are also being tried in the same trial. All of them are under arrest.

20.4, in Istanbul, the Martial Law Command appealed to the Military Court of Cassation with the demand of overruling the acquittal of 18 members of the Union of Turkish Writers (TYE).

On the other hand, on April 29, the Ministerial Council banned the introduction into Turkey of 11 publications printed abroad.

#### BAN ON SINGER RUHI SU

Turkey's most popular singer, Ruhi Su, was banned from travelling abroad by the military despite the fact that he is suffering from a grave disease. The Turkish doctors say that he absolutely needs medical treatment in Europe.

This inhuman practice of the military has aroused protest from many democratic organizations and personalities. In Germany, Heinrich Böll, Wolf Bierman, Günther Grass and Günther Wallraff sent a letter to the Turkish Culture Ministry insisting that he should be permitted to travel abroad.

#### MORE RESTRICTIONS ON TRADE UNION RIGHTS

Not satisfied with existing restrictions on trade union rights, Turkey's business circles have forced the Government to draft a new amendment to the labor code, so as to impose further restrictions on trade union activity.

According to the bills drafted by the Government:

- Ministry of Labor is entitled to urge the Labor Court to ban any trade union assembly it considers unlawful.

- Any trade union official accused by the Ministry of Labor of making expenditures not provided for in the labor code, can be condemned to prison terms ranging from three months up to one year. So, a trade union official can be imprisoned for sending flowers at the occasion of a ceremony or for giving a dinner in honor of a foreign trade union mission visiting Turkey.

- To check if at least 10 percent of the employees in an economic sector are affiliated to a particular trade union - which is a condition for being entitled to engage in collective bargaining - the Labor Court shall take into consideration only the registers of the Labor Ministry. Registers certified by a notary will no longer be considered a proof.

- In the event of a vote resulting in rejection of a strike, the trade union will be obliged to conclude a collective agreement with the employer within 15 days. If the agreement cannot be signed within this period, the trade union concerned will lose its competence for bargaining and the workers will be denied any wage increase until designation of another trade union for starting up collective bargaining.

- The number of government representatives in the Supreme Arbitration Council will be increased. The Government will be represented by three members, whereas the workers and employers unions are - both of them - being represented by two mandates. Thereupon, trade union officials declared that, should

these amendments be adopted by Parliament, their unions will be turned into "mutual aid associations".

On the other hand, the Government has recently issued a new decree with the purpose of pressing employees of state economic enterprises to give up trade union membership. According to this new decree, any employee who gives up his affiliation and signs a special contract with the employer, is to benefit from a wage increase of 10 pc compared with unionized workforce.

In fact, even prior to these new amendments and decrees, workers had in practise already been deprived of the right to strike.

Turkish Press-Workers Union Chairman, Ali Ekber Güvenç described, in his statement of March 26, the right to strike as the workers' most important weapon to defend their economic and special rights. "But when we study the laws in Turkey, we see that there are clauses which aim to prevent workers from using their basic rights or which aim to make the right to strike less effective," he said.

The Chairman of the Health Workers Union, Mustafa Basoğlu claimed that recent practice is proof that it is urgent to reconsider the current labor laws. The recent adjustments have totally ignored workers, and with the laws presently in force, there is no possibility for workers to strike.

Bayram Meral, The Chairman of the Highway Workers Union said that the labor code was a blow to workers' rights and free trade unionism. "Production should cease once a strike has been announced in a plant. But in Turkey, prevalent the practice is rather strange. You announce a strike but the employer is free to forward his stocks to the market or to hire another group of workers and to carry on with production. Who on earth could describe this situation as a true strike?"

According to *Cumhuriyet* of January 13, in 27 major economic sectors, 37 trade unions have been declared competent to engage in collective bargaining for a total of 1,594,577 employees. However, the total workforce in those 27 sectors is of 2,590,978.

It has been announced that in the course of this year, the competent trade unions will be engaged in collective bargaining for 1,011,088 employees.

The daily *Hürriyet* of March 17 reported that a total of 530,000 employees in the sectors declared of strategic importance for the security and welfare of the country were officially deprived of the right to strike: 24,000 in the oil industry, 81,000 in the coal

industry, 62,500 in banking, 69,000 in energy, 40,500 in education, 11,000 in road transport, 28,000 in railway transport, 14,000 in maritime transport, 21,000 in health services, 32,000 in national defence services and 124,500 in municipal works.

What is more, the Government issued on March 14 a new decree depriving firemen and factory guards in the sectors where strikes are permitted, of the right to go on strike. Besides, the strikes of 800 workers in agriculture and 300 workers in timber-work which had already started, have been banned by Government decision. This practice discourages all other attempts of strike.

## IMPOVERISHMENT OF WORKERS

The practical consequences of these restrictions on trade union rights can be outlined as follows:

1. The share of national income assigned to wage earners is gradually declining. While the wage earners were benefitting from one third of national income in 1970, the share of the same group has gone down to 20 percent in 1985. Others who live on profits and "private income" receive as high as 80 percent.

Years	Share of wages in national income	Share of profits, rent and interests in national income
1961	32.7 pc	67.3 pc
1965	32.1 pc	67.9 pc
1970	34.3 pc	65.7 pc
1975	31.0 pc	69.0 pc
1980	25.8 pc	74.2 pc
1981	23.4 pc	76.6 pc
1982	23.2 pc	76.8 pc
1983	22.8 pc	77.2 pc
1984	20.0 pc	80.0 pc

(Source; *The Turkish Daily News*, 4.1.1985)

The 1984 World Development Report prepared by the World Bank confirms that among the 43 countries examined, Turkey is seventh on the list with respect to the number of very poor people who are striving just to get their daily bread to keep alive. In contrast to this, Turkey is also seventh among the other countries whose rich population dominates in number over the others in the society.

The imbalance in the distribution of national income is striking. "The World Bank report divided the population of Turkey into five slices of each 20 percent. According to this survey the businessmen and industrialists get the lion's share with 56.5 percent of national income.

The second group of people who may also be described as well-to-do are the parliamentarians, artisans and tradesmen, who get 19.5 percent of the national income.

The third group are the highly paid civil servants or specialists working for the private sector with a share of 12.5 percent.

The remaining two groups are the lowest paid. Workers and civil servants get 5 percent of the national income. Only 2 percent is left for the real poor who struggle each day for a loaf of bread.

The lop-sidedness of the national income distribution was displayed recently when General Evren visited the Uludağ winter sports resort. He remarked he was amazed to see that so many rich men live in Turkey. The same day newspapers reported that 14 people committed suicide within one week because they were reduced to a state of dire poverty.

According to another survey published by the daily *Hürriyet* of May 13, the gap between the incomes of the poorest 20 percent of the population and that of the wealthiest 20 percent is rapidly growing. This difference has already reached a ratio of 1 to 16, compared with 1 to 4 in Finland, 1 to 5 in Britain, 1 to 7 in Spain, 1 to 8 in South Korea, 1 to 9 in France and 1 to 10 in the USA.

2. As result of the devaluation of the Turkish the hourly salary rate of Turkish workers which was equivalent to 1.5 DM in 1980, decreased to 0.90 DM in 1983, while the wages in other countries were rising in their Deutsche Mark equivalence.

COUNTRY	HOURLY WAGES IN DM	
	1980	1983
Sweden	16.44	18.08
Belgium	14.98	16.48
Norway	17.25	19.25
FRG	14.14	15.27
USA	18.03	20.09
Switzerland	16.97	19.56
Holland	13.23	14.56
Canada	16.94	19.11
Denmark	17.60	19.20
France	10.94	12.18
Italy	9.24	11.85
Japan	12.90	14.13
Britain	12.12	13.16
TURKEY	1.50	0.90

Again according to a survey published by *Hürriyet* on March 14, 1985, even the most qualified workers in the industrial sector are still badly paid in Turkey in comparison with other countries. Given that a garage mechanic and a turner are paid 100 in Vienna in 1984, their colleagues in other European cities are comparatively paid as follow:

CITIES	Garage Mecanic	Turner
Vienna	100	100
Düsseldorf	119	128
Zürich	207	192
Paris	96	93
London	96	74
Milan	74	51
Amsterdam	124	107
Stockholm	127	98
Copenhagen	152	115
Oslo	120	101
Athens	78	67
Istanbul	25	18

3. In addition to the devaluation of the Turkish lira, the skyrocketing hike of the prices of some vital goods and services has been another reason for the fall in purchasing power of working people.

The table below published by the *Turkish Daily News* of January 4, 1985, illustrates clearly the impoverishment of wage earners:

Years	Nominal Daily wage	Prices Index	Real Daily wage	Real wage Index
1963	17.91	100.0	17.91	66.1
1977	146.53	541.3	27.07	100.0
1978	207.93	876.3	23.74	87.7
1979	294.31	1433.1	20.54	75.9
1980	426.96	2784.1	15.34	56.7
1981	543.84	3891.2	14.19	52.4
1982	691.03	5083.0	15.51	57.3
1983	944.37	6548.7	13.83	51.1
1984	1302.00	9823.0	13.25	48.9

Another table published by the daily *Hürriyet* on January 25, 1985, on the 5th anniversary of the adoption of the drastic economic measures imposed by the IMF highlights the price hikes over a 5-year period.

ITEMS	1980 (TL)	1985 (TL)	1985 (DM)	Rise (pc)
Milk (lt)	40	270	1.80	575
Egg (one)	6	30	0.33	600
Spaghetti (kg)	25	160	1.06	540
Tea (kg)	100	1150	7.66	1050
Coffee (kg)	250	3900	26.00	1460
Newspaper	5	50	0.33	900
Margarin (kg)	72	580	3.86	705
Sugar (kg)	18	140	0.94	677
Meat (kg)	250	1250	8.33	400
Potatoes (kg)	20	117	0.78	485
Rice (kg)	44	353	2.35	702
Monthly rent	12,500	40,000	266.66	220
City bus ticket	5	70	0.46	1300
Movie ticket	35	330	2.20	842

It appears from recent figures published in a report on consumer price increases among OECD countries, that Turkey comes at the top of the list with a 45.6 percent rise, followed by Iceland (30.3), Spain (11.3), Italy (10.8), Ireland (8.6). The average increase of consumer prices in the OECD countries was 5.3 pc.

Data from all official sources, including the Ozal government itself, show that inflation is continually increasing in Turkey. The inflation rate for the first quarter of 1985 is 54.6 percent, compared with 32.3 in the same period of 1984.

Over this 5-year period wage increases have been very far from catching up with these hikes. Monthly net minimum wages rose to 16,421 TL (109 DM), compared with 12,500 TL in 1980. As for the average monthly net wages, they rose to 24,128 TL (160 compared with 8,684 TL in 1980).

According to a survey conducted by SIAR (Society for Social and Economic Research), a 4-member household has to spend 102,000 TL (600 DM) on rent and basic expenditure (*Hürriyet*, 4.4.1985). For Türks (Confederation of Turkish Trade Unions), the minimum monthly income of a 4-member household should be 136,130 TL.

This low level of wages in Turkey is greatly appreciated by foreign investors, and the Ozal Government bases its campaign for attracting foreign capital primarily on cheap manpower.

During his visit to Turkey, the Vice-president of the American Express Bank, George Carmany, expressed his satisfaction in the following terms: "Your wages, until a few years ago, were higher than those of other Asian countries. But now they have fallen under the level of them. Thanks to this evolution, your goods have become competitive on the world market." The Chairman of the British delegation of commerce, Michael Turner, has already voiced the same view: "The wages are so low in Turkey that the high inflation rate has no negative effect on foreign investments." (*Cumhuriyet*, 25.2.1985).

#### PORTER COMMITS SUICIDE

In order to illustrate more clearly the impoverishment of working people in Turkey, we have reprinted below an information appeared in the *Turkish Daily News* of February 12, 1985:

"KOCAELI - A porter committed suicide: Monday in this city, after seeing his two children working here and there in an effort to increase their household income. Basri meram, who worked in a private company at Tütüncülik as a porter earned 15 thousand liras (100 DM) monthly and paid eight thousand of this sum for rent. However, the remaining seven thousand was never enough to support his wife and two sons. Yesterday seeing his two sons, one working for a grocer and the other selling bread, he first went to a nearby coffee house and started to weep complaining that he could no longer care for his family. Badri Meram then returned to his job and after writing a final letter to his family, killed himself with rat poison."

According to an earlier issue of the same newspaper, the number of suicides for economic reasons marked an increase after 1980. The State statistics Institute announced that the rate of suicide for these reasons rose to 14.5 pc of the total number of suicides in 1981 and 10 pc in 1983, while it was only 2.8 pc in 1980. (*Turkish Daily News*, 17.8.1984)

As regards prostitution, Populist Party (HP) deputy Engin Aydın declared that the number of registered prostitutes rose to 233,000 in 1983, compared with a mere 2,000 in 1974. 87 pc of the prostitutes are children of poor families. (*Hürriyet*, 23.8.1984).

The daily *Tercüman* of September 25, 1984 reported that 6,481 women had been taken into custody over the first six months of 1984 for prostituting themselves without legal authorization, compared with a mere 571 in 1981.

The number of divorces has also increased by 30.2 pc over the last 10-year period. While 11,547 couples got divorced before the courts in 1974, this number rose to 17,475 in 1983. (*Milliyet*, 28.9.1984).

The deterioration of living and housing conditions is reportedly the main cause of the divorces. Both the State Statistics Institute and the State Planning Organization announced that the annual housing deficit has reached 350-400,000 in Turkey. About 5 million persons live in houses worse than slums. What is 40,000 families live in grottos and 120,000 families in huts.

#### ANTI-IMMIGRANT MEASURES

The provisions in Minister Gol's bill concerning registration of no-EEC aliens have come into force on 1st May 1985. This means that henceforth, in six co-munes (municipalities) in Brussels urban area, Anderlecht, Forest, Molenbeek, Saint-Jilles, Saint-Josse and Schaerbeck, the right of residence or settling is subjected to restrictions.

## TURKISH WORKERS BEATEN UP BY US MILITARY POLICE

*On March 13, at the end of the day, workers of the US air base at Incirlik, a city located in south Turkey, were preparing as usually to leave the base to go home. At the exit, they were halted by 35 helmeted US MP, led by a squadron commander, who started searching the workers. But these along with their union representatives (for HARP-IS trade union), refused to this body search which was not in conformity with current laws. Then, the MP commander ordered on the spot to use force.*

*The MP, flanked by police dogs, charged into the workers. As a result, six of them were injured, two of whom had to be transferred to a hospital.*

*Thereupon, the martial law command in this region immediately imposed a total blackout on this incident and justified the violent reaction of the US MP. On the other hand, neither the local martial law command nor the Prefect of the district accepted to receive a National Assembly member speaking for the workers.*

*The US air base at Incirlik has become famous at the time when a US U-2 spy-plane took off from there and was shortly after shot down, as it was flying over the Soviet Union. Furthermore, this base is also being used to threaten the Middle East countries.*

Eight Brussels communes had been selected by Minister of Justice Gol to give their views on this proposal for restriction. As it turned out, only the Town Councils in Etterbeek and Koekelberg opposed the enforcement of this anti-immigrant bill.

This measure is aimed at approximately 88,000 no-CEE aliens in Belgium, including 33,000 in Brussels. This law does not solve any practical problem but, instead, it disseminates in public opinion a new discrimination between EEC and no-EEC residents.

Another measure which has come into effect on 1st May, is the alien repatriation pay. No-EEC residents who are on the dole for a long time, can apply for it and get a sum equivalent to one year's unemployment benefit. As underlined by MRAK (Movement against Racism, Anti-semitism and Xenophobia), this measure too gives substance to the view that an excessive number of immigrants is allegedly the cause of the present economic crisis. Moreover, the voluntary nature of that sort of applications is often being questioned, in view of growing deportation risks or, simply, because of the threat of such a risk.

On the other hand, the Belgian daily *La Cité* exposed on April 25, 1985 a scandal which, though not new, is still hot news: the "additional tax" which is, sometimes illegally, required from immigrants and political refugees on delivery of administrative

As regards application for or deliverance of work permits, the municipal tax is set by law at 50 FB. But Anderlecht municipality requires 750 FB on application and 375 FB on delivery of this document. In Saint-Gilles and Ixelles this tax is set respectively at 800 and 2,000 FB.

People applying for a "professional card" (trade register, which is compulsory for self-employed people) have to pay 5,000 FB in Schaerbeek but nothing in the other communes. On the contrary, in Saint-josse applications for work permits are free, but when they are renewed, immigrants have to pay 1,580 FB.

### ANTI-IMMIGRANT ACTS

4.2, in Bielefeld, West Germany, Turkish worker Mehmet Yılmaz, 27, was shot down.

7.2, in Köln, West Germany, Turkish worker Ilyas Kaya, 40, was found dead at his home; he had been murdered.

16.2, in Winterslag, Belgium, Turkish miner Celal Tosun had been told by the doctor representing a mutual benefit insurance company to go back to work, notwithstanding that he was still sick. Moreover, he was to die a few days later on his place of work. He was head of a family of six.

6.3, in Enschede (Holland), Turkish worker Nec-

det Emzikli, married and father of five children, was murdered by unidentified people. He was first beaten up, then run over by a car.

8.3, in Brussels, Turkish worker Abdil Simsek, 42, was found stabbed at his home. He resided in Belgium since 1974. Later on, as he got unemployed, he was forced to send his family back to Turkey.

9.3, in Krefeld, West Germany, two Turks, Sevin Kılıç and Mehmet Cetin, were beaten up by police, as they refused to let them take away their children to the police station. Both Turks had to be transferred to a hospital badly injured.

10.3, in Bad Tölz, West Germany, a Turk named Hanefi Yavuz, married and father of a child, was found dead. He was reported strangled by unidentified people.

16.3, in Albertslund, Denmark, Turkish worker Ali Akın was assaulted by four Danish youths. Although the latter had turned the whole house upside down, they were afterwards set free by police.

18.3, in Lorch, a 24-year-old Turk, Kemal Semiz, was found dead with his head smashed.

19.3, in Gorinchem, Holland, Ruhi Cetin, chairman of a Turkish sports club was found fatally injured. He died in hospital.

25.3, in Bielefeld, West Germany, a 19-year-old Turkish girl who had applied for political asylum, was found dead at her home stabbed.

26.3, in Hamburg, West Germany, unidentified people fired several shots at the home of a Turkish worker named Mustafa K.

26.3, in Châteaubriand, France, Turkish worker Ahmet Seker died from a nervous breakdown: he did not recover from the shock caused by the murder of two of his mates in the same city in November 1984.

27.3, in Roermond, Holland, Turkish worker Kurban Kümetçi, 43, was found dead in a wood; he had been stabbed. He was head of a family of five.

5.4, in Biblis (Mannheim), West Germany, a Turkish family was assaulted by five Germans, as they were at home. Badly injured, Hüseyin Yalçın and his wife were sent to hospital.

26.4, in Karlsruhe, West Germany, a 76 year-old Turkish woman was ordered by the Aliens Police to leave the country, as she stayed at her son's home. Mrs Miyase Metin had come to West Germany in 1980 at her son's invitation who is working there for 14 years. As she has no relatives left in Turkey, she cares for her grand-children in Karlsruhe. But police insisted on her leaving the country on the pretext that her grand-children are already grown-up. West-German Stern magazine has blamed police authorities for their inhuman and heartless attitude.

30.4, in Monthéliard, France, a Turkish restaurant

called Istanbul Kebab was wrecked by an unexplained explosion. Two people, one Moroccan and one Turk, were found dead amidst the debris.

#### SUICIDE BY TURKS

Very often Turkish migrant workers and political refugees are being driven to suicide as a result of deteriorating life conditions. Recently:

2.2, in Istanbul, a 27-year-old Turkish woman, Sermin Celiker, committed suicide by throwing herself from the 5th floor. After her family's return to Turkey, she proved unable to adapt herself to life conditions in her country of origin. Moreover, her father opposed her going back to West Germany.

On the same day, a 48-year-old Turkish worker, İlyas Kaya, who had left West Germany some time before, committed suicide as a result of a nervous breakdown. He complained that it was impossible for him to get a job in Turkey.

14.2, in Berlin, a 31-year-old Turkish woman, Nadide Uzenli, strangled her 2-year-old baby following a nervous breakdown. Then she tried to kill herself by taking an overdose of a medicine.

23.2, in Balıkesir, Turkey, migrant worker Ahmet Durmaz tried to commit suicide by throwing himself from the 4th floor. He had come back after working 13 years in West Germany but he could not get a job in his country of origin.

14.3, in Braunschweig, West Germany, Selçuk Sevinç, killed herself by fire after her application for political asylum had been turned down.

4.4, in Hamburg, FRG, a 41-year-old Turkish woman committed suicide as a result of a nervous breakdown.

6.4, in Bremen, FRG, young Ahmet Öztürk, 19, hanged himself in utter despair because all his efforts to get a job had ended with complete failure.

13.4, in Bochum, FRG, a 22-year-old political refugee was found dead at his home. For four years he had been waiting for the outcome of the procedure.

17.4, in Hamburg, FRG, a father of five children named İsmail Patan, hanged himself in prison due to a nervous breakdown.

21.4, in Meisungen, FRG, a Turkish woman, Fatma Tuncer, committed suicide as a result of a nervous breakdown. Shattered by the loss of his wife, Selman Tuncer died of a heart attack.