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The compromise between five European countries and Turkey has aroused great reaction in human rights circles in Europe

"FRIENDLY" SETTLEMENT OR SUPPORT FOR THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS?

Despite the constant violation of human rights in Turkey, European bodies, to the great surprise of observers, have not reached the stage of taking coherent positions but continue to adopt contradictory decisions with regard to the Turkish regime. The December 9th, 1985, judgement from the European Commission on Human Rights of the Council of Europe is a new example.

In 1982, five European states –Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden– lodged five petitions against Turkey with this Commission and denounced the violations of:

- Article 3 of the Convention, in that detainees were tortured or subjected to inhuman or degrading treatment, and that such cases constituted a widespread and systematic practice;
- Articles 5 and 6 of the Convention with regard to detention and criminal proceedings under martial law; and
- Articles 9, 10 and 11 of the Convention with regard to restrictions on political parties, trade unions and the press.

While the Commission was dealing with the petitions, a few months ago, on October 23, 1985, the European Parliament adopted a resolution that was very critical of the human rights situation in Turkey and set five conditions for resuming relations with the Turkish Parliament:

- abolition of the death penalty and amnesty for political prisoners;
- an end to torture;
- an end to mass trials;
- the possibility for each Turk to submit matters to the European Commission on Human Rights;
- lifting of the restrictions on political and social freedoms and on the freedom of opinion.

In spite of this firm stand by the European Community's elected representatives, the said commission has made known that the Turkish government and the petitioning five governments adopted a "friendly" settlement on December 7, 1985.

According to press reports, the Commission first met representatives from the Turkish government in



Paris. From this meeting, it appeared that a compromise was reached between the two parties. From there, the Commission has asked the governments of the five countries to react upon the proposition for compromise.

After the discussions between the parties, representatives of six governments presented the Commission's delegation with a common plan for regulations. In its definitive form, the content of the plan is drawn up as follows:

"A. As to matters relating to Article 3 of the Convention

"1. The state Supervisory Council set up under Article 108 of the Turkish Constitution will be ins-

tructed to have special regard to the strict observance by all public authorities, including the military and civilian detention houses and prisons and police headquarters, of obligations assumed by Turkey under Article 3 of the European Convention of Human Rights.

"2. The Government of Turkey prevailing itself from Article 57 of the Convention, will report on 1 February 1986, 1 July 1986 and 1 October 1986, to the European Commission of Human Rights, via the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, of the measures by which the internal law and practice of Turkey ensures the effective implementation of Article 3 of the Convention (including conditions and procedures of detention). Each report is for the information of the Commission of Human Rights only and should not be used for other purposes.

"3. During a period not exceeding three months following the submission of each report, a dialogue will be held on the basis of the information envisaged in paragraph 2 above, by delegates of the European Commission and representatives of the Government of Turkey. The dialogue will be carried out by correspondence and, if so requested by one side, by a meeting the duration of which should not exceed one week, or by any other appropriate means agreed upon by both the delegates of the Commission and the representatives of the Government of Turkey.

"4. In the course of the dialogue, the delegates of the European Commission of Human Rights, may comment on the information received. Such comments are of a confidential nature and should be made to the representatives of the Turkish Government only.

"5. The dialogue being carried out under the joint responsibility of the Commission and the representatives of the Government of Turkey, a short final report on the implementation of the present arrangement shall be prepared not later than 1 February 1987, by the participants at the dialogue and be made available at the Secretariat of the Commission, to representatives of the Contracting Parties to the Convention.

"B. As to derogations under Article 15 of the Convention

"1. While noting with satisfaction that the Government of Turkey has progressively reduced the geographical scope of martial law, and also that the martial law administration is making use of its powers with the greatest restraint only, special regard is given to the following declaration made by the Prime Minister of Turkey on 4 April 1985 in Washington D.C.:

"I hope that we will be able to lift martial law from the remaining provinces within 18 months".

"2. As a number of restrictions of personal rights and freedoms have been implemented during the emergency situation covered by Article 15 of the Convention, it was noted that a number of decrees or other legal enactments, mentioned by the applicant Governments in their applications, have been changed or amended in the meantime, taking into account the obligations assumed by Turkey under the European Convention on Human Rights. A table indicating those changes is attached hereto as Annex I. The Government of Turkey will keep the Commission informed of further changes to be enacted in the same spirit.

"C. As to the issue of Amnesty

"The question of amnesty is of concern to the Turkish Grand National Assembly and to the Government of Turkey. Work on amnesty has been started by the Turkish Government with a view to facilitate, within the framework of the Turkish Constitution, the granting of amnesty, pardons or similar measures

of leniency. Deliberations are expected to take place in Parliament in the forthcoming months on the basis of initiatives under Article 88 of the Turkish Constitution. The Turkish Government will inform the Commission of developments on this matter."

After receiving the plan for settlement presented by the two parties, the Commission, "noting the willingness of the five applicant governments, in the light of the developments in Turkey, including the measures taken by Turkey with a view to reestablishing an effective democracy and securing compliance with the rights and freedoms defined in the Convention, to discontinue the contentious proceedings dealing with allegations for the period 12 September 1980 to 1 July 1982", has adopted by majority vote the report, in conformity with Article 30 of the Convention.

Although the Commission's decision aroused great reaction in human rights circles in Europe, the European press favorable to the Turkish regime expressed its satisfaction with the European retreat: "Taking into account the promises that the Turkish government has made, it is intelligent and right that the five countries have withdrawn their official complaint. Turkey is not a democracy according to western norms and it is certain that the country will still not be one a year and a half down the road. All the same, there are sufficient reasons to continue to help the Turks and to have confidence in them. This country is surrounded by real and potential enemies: Iran, Iraq, Syria, the Soviet Union, Bulgaria and Greece. Relations with the rest of Europe and with the United States are the only means to come out of this isolation." (*NRC Handelsblad*, 11.12.85, Rotterdam).

As for Turkey, government circles have announced the Commission's decision with a triumphant air, all expressing their hope of reestablishing Turkish-European relations, despite the European Parliament resolution setting five concrete conditions for resuming these relations (as already mentioned above).

The daily *İhittiyet* of December 17, 1985, presented this new European position as the result of European countries' worries about their commerce and investments. According to this paper, these five countries, since the lodging of their complaint against Turkey, have stated that their investments have not been a part of the Turkish economic plans which add up annually to three billion dollars.

REACTION OF ETUC

Whatever may be the true reasons for the five European countries' new position, the trade union movement in Europe has reacted immediately against this conciliation.

The Executive Committee of the European Trade Unions Confederation (ETUC) expressed, during its meeting in Brussels on December 12-13, 1985 its extreme dissatisfaction and has rejected the "friendly" settlement between Turkey and the five complaining countries in the following terms:

"The situation in Turkey with regard to trade union rights, human rights and democracy does not improve; this in spite of considerable pressure internationally in particular, by way of trade union activities through the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, the World Confederation of Labour and the European Trade Union Confederation and in spite of governments' activities through the Council of Europe, the European Economic Community, the International Labour Organisation and the United Nations.

"The Turkish government seems unwilling to listen and take heed of international opinion; they continue with their undemocratic policies and methods,

denying their people democracy, human and trade union rights.

- The trials against DISK, its affiliated trade unions and leaders continues in its fifth year

- No amnesty has been given to political prisoners
- Human rights are not accorded to the people of Turkey

- Trade union rights are limited and do not conform with international labour standards

- Freedom of the press and expression is limited and does not live up to the Council of Europe's statutes

- No major steps towards democracy, as pointed out in the Council of Europe's statutes are taken by the Turkish government

- DISK's elected leadership and its affiliates are invited and would like to have the opportunity to travel out of Turkey to participate at the ETUC Executive Committee meetings and other European trade union meetings and are denied the permission to travel.

"1. Therefore, the European Trade Union Confederation has to reinforce its activities and pressure on the Turkish government.

"2. Therefore, the ETUC urges the Council of Europe and its Parliamentary Assembly to put real and concrete pressure on the Turkish government, to union rights in Turkey. By not doing so, the Council of Europe accepts double standards where it concerns its member states' convictions towards democracy and human rights in Europe.

"3. The ETUC urges the Council of Europe, the European Community, the European Parliament and EFTA, to do their utmost to put political and economic pressure on the Turkish government until democracy, human and trade union rights are reinstated in Turkey.

"4. The ETUC also urges all the European institutions and all the governments of Western Europe to request the Turkish government to stop the trials against DISK, its affiliated trade unions and its leaders, with immediate effect, and to restore to DISK and its affiliated organisations, the funds and assets that have been confiscated.

"5. To achieve a stop of the trials against DISK and its affiliated trade unions, the ETUC plans to make a representation to the Council of Europe, the European Community, the European Parliament and EFTA.

"6. ETUC's national affiliated trade union confederations are asked to make representation to their national governments urging them to demand an end to the trial against DISK and its affiliated trade union organisations and its leaders.

"7. The ETUC urges all concerned to observe the facts that DISK, its affiliated trade unions and its leaders in Turkey were only carrying out normal trade union work and activities. The Turkish government has been unable (after five years of continuing trials), to produce any conclusive evidence that DISK has been involved in any illegal or un-democratic activities. Despite this, 78 of DISK's leaders are still under the threat of a death sentence, and 1,477 others are menaced by long prison terms. Information received at the ETUC Secretariat indicates probably that "the death sentence may be converted to 10-20 years of imprisonment and for the others, the prison sentence of between 6-10 years".

"8. The ETUC finds this totally unbearable as a development and considers it a crime against justice, democracy and human rights in Europe.

"9. ETUC expresses extreme dissatisfaction and rejects the friendly settlement which the five complaining states (Norway, Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands and France) have entered into with Turkey,

as a result of the case placed with the Council of Europe's Human Rights Commission. The compromise promises vaguely "discontinuation of torture, but it contains nothing on the reintroduction of trade union rights". A large number of trade union leaders are still on trial, under the threat of capital punishment or extreme prison sentences. The financial means of the trade unions are still confiscated, or stolen, their premises occupied. The acceptance of the compromise signifies that the five complaining states have legitimized a dictatorship's violation of trade union rights in Turkey and failed human rights.

"10. The ETUC now urges all democratic bodies and powers to show on whose side they are.

"11. Do they support the Turkish government as it shows no signs to move towards democracy, human and trade union rights in Turkey.

"12. Or are they ready to stand up for democracy and human rights and take real measures so that the Turkish government will finally live up to the Council of Europe's constitution and its regard for human rights issues, democracy and freedom."

TENSION BETWEEN ANKARA AND THE EEC

This "friendly" settlement is not a surprise to those who are already familiar with the five countries' changes in position which have been happening since last year.

It is thanks to such change that the Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal made a visit to Paris on November 15, 1985 despite the existing tension between the two countries on the Armenian question. During a meeting held at UNESCO, about thirty French students protested against Ozal's presence, shouting, "Assassin, get out of France!" The French and Turkish police gave an example of close collaboration when brutal means were used against the protestors.

However, the Ankara regime's political "conquest" in the European Community still has a long way to go. Under pressure from the trade union movement and European democratic forces, the European Community Commission still has not reached the stage of inaugurating good relations with the Ankara regime. Above all, attacks from Ankara against Mr. Gwyn Morgan, the chief of the EEC Press and Information Office in Turkey, have worsened the tension between Ankara and Brussels.

Everything began when the European Parliament charged one of its members, Richard Balfe, with writing a report on the human rights situation in Turkey. Mr Morgan first helped the British member of Parliament to establish contacts in Ankara. Then on Balfe's request, he commented in writing on the report plan destined for the European Parliament. As agreed with the reporter, Morgan addressed his observations to John Taylor, the director general of research in the European Parliament. But there are two John Taylors in the European Parliament, and it was the other one who received the packet and the observations. This John Taylor is a British member of Parliament, but a conservative. Furthermore, it has been found out that he has always had excellent relations with the authorities in Ankara and that he even owns a holiday residence on the "Turkish part" of Cyprus.

For obscure reasons, Parliamentarian Taylor seized the comments which were not addressed to him and he brought them to the attention of the Turkish ambassador to the EEC. Shortly afterwards, the Turkish press launched a new campaign of insults against Mr. Morgan.

According to the *Financial Times*, the ambassa-
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dors of the Federal Republic of Germany, Great Britain and the Netherlands in Turkey estimate that it will be necessary to replace Mr. Morgan. For these diplomats —concerned about treating Ankara carefully—he has become embarrassing.

In spite of this submission, European Commissioner Claude Cheysson has defended Mr. Morgan, saying that "Gwyn Morgan has done his job."

Following this stand, the Turkish press has taken the European commissioner as target: "Cheysson defends the snake in our midst!" (*Hürriyet*, 7/11/85). When Mr. Morgan returned to Ankara from Brussels, after his contacts with the Commission, the same newspaper in Ankara announced the news in its November 27, 1985, edition with the headline "Morgan the shameless has returned."

Although the hoopla surrounding the report in question (*Info-Türk Bulletin* of October, 1985) continues, the report's author, Mr. Richard Balfe, has challenged Ankara in a clear and precise manner: "I invite the Turkish government to publish this report in Turkish. So that the people of Turkey can themselves give their judgment with regard to this report."

TORTURE STILL...

According to the aforementioned mutual plan between Turkey and the five European countries, "the State Supervisory Council set up under Article 108 of the Turkish Constitution will be instructed to have special regard to the strict observance by all public authorities, including the military and civilian detention houses and prisons and police headquarters of obligations assumed by Turkey."

But this agreement on Turkey's part has no value for those who know the contents of Article 108 of the Turkish Constitution. According to this article, "the Armed forces and the judiciary organs are outside the jurisdiction of the State Supervisory Council." What is more, the members of the Council, including its president, are nominated by the President of the Republic..." Given that the present "President of the Republic," General Evron, is the Number One person responsible for repressive measures, how can we hope that these people will adhere strictly to human rights. Even if control were possible, the practice of torture in the detention centers and military prison could be outside the competence of this commission.

What is still more, even after the conclusion of the agreement between Turkey and the petitioning countries, accounts of torture are going on without end. According to a December 23, 1985, dispatch from the Agence France-Presse, about fifty parents of those in detention have publicly accused warders in the military prisons in Metris and Sigmalcılar in Istanbul with beating political prisoners who refuse to wear uniforms, with making them stand for hours in the snow in their underclothes, and with beating them up when they resist force searches. The women, according to these accounts, are as much a target as the men. Notably retired teacher Nurettin Gedik has described how for eleven days he was tortured by police who was looking for his son, exonerated however in a political affair. He has particularly denounced putting electrodes on the fingers and the genital areas, hanging people by their arms and beating them on the soles of their feet (the "falaka"). These cruelties, he added, are accompanied by psychological torture, such as the treat of throwing one from a precipice.

Furthermore, a deputy of the Populist Social Democrat Party (SHP), Mr. Cüneyt Canver, has shown journalists and his colleagues an electric generator used during torture.

STILL A POLICE STATE

A second finding by the petitioning states is "the gradual reduction of martial law over a certain geographic area..."

If one takes into consideration that martial law has been lifted in 42 provinces in the country, including Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir, this finding might seem correct. In fact, martial law remains in effect since November 19, 1985, in only nine eastern provinces: Bingöl, Diyarbakır, Elazığ, Hakkari, Mardin, Siirt, Tunceli, Sanlıurfa and Van. All the same, martial law has been replaced in 16 provinces by another exceptional regime, the state of emergency, particularly in the three biggest cities in Turkey: Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir.

Moreover, throughout the country, political crimes are still judged by exceptional tribunals: the State Security Courts.

What is most serious: In spite of the lifting of martial law, all those who were charged and brought before military tribunals prior to the lifting of martial law are still judged by the same military tribunals. All the requests by those accused and their lawyers to transfer their cases to civil courts have been categorically refused by the military tribunals. Prime Minister Ozal has stressed that the continuation of cases by the military tribunals would be quite in accordance with the Constitution.

RESULTS OF THE MILITARY TRIBUNALS

The General Headquarters of the Turkish Armed Forces published on December 31, 1985, the results of the military tribunals' activities from December 26, 1978, to November 1, 1985.

During a seven-year period, the military tribunals have tried 45,613 cases, of which 44,507 have ended in judgements:

15,897 convictions
13,603 acquittals
15,007 withdrawals, etc.

For the moment, there are still 1,106 cases which are still being tried by the military tribunals, notably those of the leaders of DISK, the Turkish Committee for Peace, the Union of Turkish Writers, political parties and some intellectuals who signed a petition addressed to the "President of the Republic."

The majority of the cases are related to the mass proceedings. The total number of people sentenced has risen to 44,256. The details of these sentences are as follows:

22,912 persons sentenced to up to a year in prison;
10,783, to up to 5 years;
6,166, from 5 to 10 years;
2,396, from 10 to 20 years;
939, to more than 20 years;
630, to life in prison;
429, to death.

Of the death sentences, 32 have been ratified and 27 carried out. Four of those sentenced have escaped from prison and the security forces have shot dead one during an act of resistance. Eighty death sentences which have already been approved by the military Court of Cassation still wait for the National Assembly's ratification.

According to the same source, 67,304 people were the object of an arrest order during the same period. On the day when the communiqué was published, 15,307 people found themselves in military prison —9,805 sentenced and 5,502 under arrest.

In fact, it is necessary to note that the number of people who have passed through prison or military

detention centers without being under arrest have risen to more than 200,000. They have been placed under guard on the basis of preliminary inquiries, but the majority have been released after having been temporarily deprived of their freedom.

The number of people that security forces are still seeking for political crimes has risen to 5,624.

NEW POLICE MEASURES

In order to best describe the state of terror in the country of which many areas are not any more under martial law, we recap below several recent dispatches which deal with the reinforcement of a police state in Turkey:

The Minister of the Interior has announced that since 1984 the Intelligence Services have started a security inquiry on 190,793 functionaries.

The same minister has declared that according to a new regulation, the security inquiry on persons who are candidates for state jobs would be standardised and those persons who fall into any of the categories below would not be given the "security card", necessary for access to the public service:

- Those who have been involved in crimes against the State.

- Those who were born in a hostile country and have not yet lived in Turkey more than ten years after his naturalisation.

- Those who have close relatives who have been sentenced as communists or suspected communists.

- Those who have any characteristics that might lead them to be under the influence of a foreign state.

- Those who are married to people who are not of Turkish origin, or who are not joined to the ideal of Turkism.

Ten lie detectors to interrogate suspects were put in use in the big towns of the country. The Minister of the Interior has announced that next, all the police stations in Turkey will be equipped with these devices imported from the United States.

Furthermore, it has been announced during the National Assembly's budget debates that the amount of funds allocated to the National Intelligence Service has gone up to 418 million Turkish Lira, although it was 172 million in 1984 and 264 million in 1985.

PROSECUTION OF DISK AND THE PACIFISTS

Although the Turkish government has stressed that martial law has been lifted in Istanbul, repressive measures taken by the military against DISK continue just the same. All the leaders of DISK are still judged before the military tribunal.

What is most flagrant, as is indicated in the Declaration of the ETUC, is that all the financial possessions and means of DISK and its affiliates are still being confiscated by trustees appointed by martial law, and DISK's activities are suspended on the basis of martial law decision. If martial law is really lifted in Istanbul, DISK should be able to resume its trade union activities, and the trustees should return all the Confederation's possessions to its elected leaders. But, all the steps taken by DISK's lawyers in this regard have been categorically blocked by the "civil" authorities, and the most combative trade union center is still deprived of its union rights despite all the protests coming from the ILO and international trade union movements.

As for the Turkish Peace Committee, its leaders are still being kept in prison, despite the fact that their

sentence has still not been ratified by the military Court of Cassation. Recently, on December 19, 1985, the sentence was annulled by the superior court on the grounds of insufficient evidence. However, the same court refused to free the pacifists.

NEW PROCEEDINGS AGAINST SIX DOCTORS

One of the European authorities' requirements to reestablish relations between The European Community and Ankara is the abolition of the death penalty. But the Ankara regime, without showing any signs of doing anything in this regard, bring before the courts those working in favour of this humanitarian step.

Recently, six well-known doctors in the country, Nusret Fisek, Atalay Yörükoglu, Haluk Ozbay, Nevzat Eren, Ragıp Cam and Hüsnü Cuhadar, all members of the Central Council of the Turkish Doctors' Union (TTB), introduced a petition to the "President of the Republic", in favour of abolishing the death penalty. Thereupon, the Minister of Justice ordered the Public Prosecutor in Istanbul to begin proceedings for lifting their posts in the Union and their case began on December 23 before a tribunal in Istanbul.

NO AMNESTY FOR PRISONERS

Another European requirement is amnesty for political prisoners. In the settlement between Ankara and five European countries, it is declared that "debates are foreseen in Parliament over the next months on the basis of initiatives conforming to Article 88 of the Turkish Constitution."

This argument is very far from being serious. One should realize that legislative elections were already held more than two years ago, and the National Assembly still did not get to this humanitarian question.

What is more, in keeping with Article 88 of the Turkish Constitution, amnesty never means that truly political prisoners will be freed, because this Article excludes from any possible amnesty all political prisoners sentenced for crimes against the State. Although the leaders and activists of the neo-fascist party are judged only for criminal acts, all the intellectuals and activists of left-wing parties are, without exception, tried and sentenced on the basis of the Turkish Penal Code articles, particularly articles 141, 142 and 146 which concern crimes against the State.

On December 30, 1985, during a campaign in the southeast region, General Evron once more reminded his listeners that those who were condemned for the crimes against the State would never benefit from amnesty. It means that, the neo-fascist leaders and activists, who are the ones mainly responsible for the political violence before 1980, will be freed and will get to participate again in Turkey's political life, while the left-wing prisoners are remaining in prison.

Following a communiqué from the military authorities, a total of 5,602 people in Istanbul only are still tried before military tribunals despite the lifting of martial law. Although there are only 152 people charged in five cases against right-wing organisations, 5,081 are accused and tried in 31 cases against left-wing organisations. The details are as follows:

DISK: 1,477; Peace Committee (2nd case): 48; Communist Party of Turkey (TKP): 383; the Revolutionary Left (Dev-Sol): 1,210; the Revolutionary Path (Dev-Yol): 464; TKP-ML: 426; Liberation: 186; the Workers' Party of Turkey (TIP): 170; the Socialist Workers' Party of Turkey (TSIP): 98; the Labour Party of Turkey (TEP): 36; others: 543.

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DESTRUCTION OF 133,607 BOOKS

One of the most scandalous practices of the Turkish military regime is the banning and even the destruction of books considered harmful by the military authorities.

Despite the assertion about "going to civil rule," Ozal's government maintains similar practices. On December 11, in a circular addressed to all educational institutions, the Minister of National Education announced a list of the books recently banned. Included on this list was Plato's "The State", as well as a world atlas published by the American magazine *Time*.

On December 24, the Council of Ministers adopted a decree banning the entry of 12 different publications printed abroad into Turkey.

Another ban concerns Mr Aziz Nesin, the president of the Union of Turkish Writers (TYS) and also the most renowned Turkish humorist in the world (see *Info-Türk Bulletin*, September 1985). Despite his heart ailment which needs treatment in the United States, the Turkish authorities have for months refused to give him a passport. Following Nesin's protests against this measure, the Minister of the Interior announced on December 18 that because of proceedings against the TYS, of which Nesin is president, the humorist is forbidden to travel abroad. Nesin and other TYS leaders have already been acquitted by a military tribunal in Istanbul, but this judgement was revoked by the military Court of Cassation. A second acquittal by the military tribunal on December 26, 1985, will have to be studied anew by the Superior Court.

On the other hand, the destruction of 133,607 books from the publishing house *Bilim ve Sosyalizm* (see *Info-Türk Bulletin*, July-August 1985) has formed the basis of a case against the martial law authorities in Ankara.

According to Mr Süleyman Ege, the publisher of the firm, 133,607 books with 30 different titles, whose sale and distribution are banned by martial law, were taken away in 7 trucks between August 28 and September 9, 1982. But all these titles had already been the target of judicial proceedings, but the editor had been acquitted by the proper tribunals which have not found any "crime" in them.

Mr Ege, after the seizure of his books, approached the martial law authorities several times and, producing the acquittal judgements for each title, requested the return of the books. Finally, on June 1985, just before the lifting of martial law in Ankara the Direction of Ankara Police informed him that all his confiscated books had been destroyed but refused to give details about the means and place of the destruction.

All the following protests against this measure to the "President of the Republic" and the Prime Minister have been without response up to now. At this point, Mr Ege has lodged a complaint with a tribunal against the martial law authorities; he has requested an indemnity of 115 million Turkish Liras (240,000 dollars).

PERSECUTION OF INTELLECTUALS

11.11: The Union of Turkish Doctors (TTB) announces that some 70 doctors have been denied public service jobs because of their political views.

13.11: Two university professors, Mrs. Rukiye Fatma Bursalı and Mrs. Samiye İnci Ataberk are sentenced to 6 years and 8 months in prison for spreading communist propaganda.

14.11: The editor-in-chief of the daily *Milli Gazete*, Mr. Mustafa Kurtalan, is sentenced to 16 months in prison for anti-secular propaganda.

22.11: Two university professors, Mrs. Rezzan Tuncay and Mrs. Huri Özdoğan are dismissed from their posts at the Faculty of Medicine on the recommendation of the Intelligence Services.

23.11: Five programme producers on Turkish television are indicted for putting on television in 1977 Ali Özgentürk's film titled "the Ban."

24.11: In Ankara, two high school teachers and two students, 17 and 18 years old, are tried before the State Security Court, on charges of spreading communist propaganda.

1.12: A new case against the well-known singer Rahmi Saltık for a song considered "defamation of the security forces."

6.12: In Ankara, 19 teachers are tried before a tribunal for having changed certain words in the national anthem when they sang it.

7.12: A former university professor Mr. Halil Berktaş has been arrested in Edirne for his political activities before the coup d'état.

18.12: Mr Doğu Perinçek, chairman of the Peasant Workers' Party of Turkey (TIKP), barred after the

coup, is tried for his articles which appeared in the press more than ten years ago.

19.12: Singer Erol Büyükburç is tried before a military tribunal in Istanbul on charges of defaming the Turkish State.

28.12: İlnur Çevik and Oktay Balamir, the editors of the Turkish Daily News (the only daily published in English in Turkey), are tried before a tribunal on charges of having praised former premier Demirel in an article.

MANHUNT

The combing operation in the Turkish Kurdistan continues, and, according to official figures, the number of victims during the period of August 15, 1984, to December 31, 1985, has risen to a total of 279, of which 118 Kurdish militants, 74 soldiers or policemen and 77 civilians killed during armed confrontations.

Recently killed:

7.11, two Kurds in Semdinli and two soldiers in Bingöl;

18.11, two Kurds in Tunceli;

21.11, two Kurds and a soldier in Hakkari, a Kurd in Tunceli;

8.12, three Kurds, a policeman and a gendarme in Tunceli.

Recent arrests: 13 members of Dev-Yol in Amasya, 10 of the TKP in Ankara, 11 Bahais in Edirne, 4 Kurds in Tunceli, 12 left-wing militants in Ankara, 8 members of the DHB in Malatya, 21 left-wing militants in Izmir, 21 Kurds in Mardin, 20 Kurdish mili-

tants in Izmir, 7 Kurdish militants in Tarsus and 2 militants of the Dev-Sol in Istanbul.

RECENT SENTENCES

9.11: in Diyarbakır, 16 militants of the PKK; in Erzurum, 40 members of Dev-Yol;
 10.11: in Izmir, 11 right-wing activists;
 14.11: in Diyarbakır, 5 militants of Kawa;
 15.11: in Erzurum, 373 members of Dev-Yol, 11 of which received capital punishment;
 21.11: in Diyarbakır, two members of Rizgari;
 27.11: in Ankara, 9 members of the TKP/B; in Erzurum, 10 people of the Left;
 4.12: in Erzurum, 6 members of Revolutionary Liberation;
 18.12: in Ankara, 5 members of Liberation; in Diyarbakır, 16 Kurdish militants;
 19.12: in Ankara, 13 members of the TKP/ML;
 21.12: in Ankara, four right-wing activists, one of whom received capital punishment;
 25.12: in Diyarbakır, 6 Kurdish militants;
 26.12: in Istanbul, 6 left-wing militants.
 28.12: in Ankara, 93 right-wing activists, 7 of whom received capital punishment; in Istanbul, 40 members of Kurtulus, in Izmir, 4 fundamentalists;

30.12: in Elazig, 3 Kurdish militants, one of whom received capital punishment.

NEW MASS PROCEEDINGS

9.11: in Bozdogan, against 36 people accused of fundamentalist activities.
 12.11: in Ankara, against 49 supposed members of the Kurdish organisation. TKKKO.
 16.11: in Istanbul; against 12 fundamentalists.
 21.11: in Istanbul; against 27 supposed members of the TKP.
 23.11: in Diyarbakır, against 12 Kurdish militants
 27.11: in Istanbul, against 53 supposed members of Dev-Sol, 14 of whom may face capital punishment. In Izmir, against 5 members of the Welfare Party (RP) for what is considered their anti-secular declaration.
 30.11: in Diyarbakır, against 25 members of the TDKP and 8 members of the PKK.
 28.11: in Istanbul, against 16 alleged members of TKKKO.
 11.12: in Ankara, against 39 members of the Socialist Workers' Party of Turkey (TSIP).
 14.12: in Diyarbakır, against 15 alleged members of the Kurdish organisation KDP, and 5 members of the PKK.

VIOLETION OF THE RIGHT TO POLITICAL ASYLUM

For some time, one has been noticing an alarming tendency in European governmental circles to strip of its substance the fundamental right to political asylum. Also, a lack of understanding is increasingly taking root among the European population because of provocative campaigns by xenophobes and racists.

At the present time, the majority CDU/CSU in the German Parliament is taking a series of steps to harden the measures of the 1982 law which, for those requesting asylum, has ended in "their confinement in group camps --without the right to work, the right of free movement-- and in humiliating handouts under the banner of social aid."

As for Belgium, several Christian political refugees from Turkey have been ordered to leave the country after the United Nations High Commissioner refused their request for asylum. Furthermore, certain Belgian newspapers have expressed opinions about these requests for refugee status, some earnest, others erroneous or even defamatory.

Most notably, the November 28th, 1985, *Le Soir* (referring to an extreme right-wing Turkish newspaper which is actually run by the Number Two man in the Turkish neo-fascist party) *Tercüman*, designated Zaventem airport in Brussels as a turnstile for the traffic of "false" refugees.

At this juncture, the Committee for Support of Turkish Refugees held a press conference on December 11 and drew attention to the fact that the Aramaic Community which was in question is a Christian community and is deprived of its fundamental rights in Turkey. "This community has continued to suffer political, professional and cultural oppression, and persecution from the Turkish government and local Muslim leaders. These people, whatever might be their social origin or their level of education, cannot enter state administration, the police force or aspire to a high position in the army.

"We also find ourselves confronted with the increasing disappearance of Aramaic people in Turkey, without the slightest international reaction, and in the face of indifference from western governments," said the Committee's spokesman. "It is clear that in

the case of being sent back to Turkey, Aramaic candidates for asylum face even worse treatment than before they left."

338 TURKS ABROAD BEING SOUGHT

Minister of Justice Necat Eldem stated on December 21, 1985, that at the present time, 338 Turkish citizens, being sought by the police and military authorities for political reasons, were abroad and that the Turkish government had asked the foreign governments to extradite these persons to Turkey.

Since the military coup, the Turkish government has invited about thousand Turkish nationals abroad to return to Turkey and hand themselves over to the military authorities. About one hundred of them, two of whom are Info-Türk organisers Dogan Ozguden and Inci Tugsavul, have been deprived of Turkish nationality following their refusal to obey this call.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST VISA REQUIREMENT

Turkish nationals, including migrant workers who were born or raised in the European Community, have to obtain visas to travel to European countries.

Recently, a group of ecologist and socialist representatives lodged a proposal with the European Parliament to end this visa requirement for migrant workers and members of their families in the European Community.

"Considering that the visa requirement leads to discriminatory treatment and restricts freedom of movement," the authors of the proposal invite the member states' governments to "see to it that an end is put to visa requirements throughout the Community."

RIGHT TO VOTE FOR IMMIGRANTS

In Holland for the first time, immigrants residing in Leerdam and Vianen municipalities were called upon to take part in the municipal elections. The election day of November 27, 1985, saw great participation among immigrants. The progress by the PVDA

(socialist), in comparison with the municipal elections in 1982, has been noteworthy in Iccordam, which has a strong concentration of immigrant workers.

After this first experience, immigrants participate in municipal elections of March 17, 1986, throughout the country, and several political parties were already carrying immigrants as "candidates."

RACIST AGGRESSIONS

While Europe was getting ready to celebrate Christmas, Ramazan Avcı, a Turkish worker in Ham-bourg, was killed after a racist attack by about fifty German "Skin Heads".

Avcı, 26, had been working in Germany for nine years. He was with his brother in a café when the Skin Heads began to insult the Turks. When he replied, the aggressors jumped on him and beat him, kicking him and hitting him with a stick. Ramazan

Avcı was hospitalised with skull fracture, but immediate surgery still could not save his life.

Here are some other recent acts of aggression against Turkish immigrants:

On the 26.11.85, in Zaandam (Holland), a Turkish mosque in the Krommenie quarter was set afire by unidentified persons for the second time.

2.12, in Hannover, the Islamic center is destroyed after a bomb placed by unknown persons explodes.

14.12, in Itzeho-Hambourg (FRG), a grocery belonging to a Turkish national is set afire by unknown persons.

16.12, in Berlin, a Turkish woman's house is burnt down by unknown persons.

24.12, in Zurich (Switzerland) a neo-fascist group attacks a meeting of Turkish refugees and wounds 6 of them as well as a journalist.

27.12, in Temse (Belgium), two young Turks, Salahattin Mert and Mustafa Arslan, are found dead in the canal.

SOCIO-CULTURAL ACTIONS OF THE "SUN WORKSHOPS"

The Sun Workshops (les Ateliers du Soleil) of Info-Türk marked the enlargement of their socio-cultural activities by organizing a popular festival which continued till daybreak on October 25, 1985, at the halls of School No.9 in Brussels: SUN FESTIVAL (Fête du Soleil).

Attended by a mixed public —adults, youths, children, women and men, of different nationalities— it was also an occasion for the Workshops to exhibit their works: Paintings, handicrafts, pyrography, macramé, modelling, etc.

The second part of the festival consisted of folkloric dances, sketches and a theatrical play, "Day and night, I walk..." A play whose content was actually the real-life of the Sun Workshops' young participants.

With this popular event, the Sun Workshops rendered public all their achievements coming from a 11-year experience.

PERMANENT ACTIVITIES OF THE SUN WORKSHOPS

EACH WORKING DAY (except Wednesday): 4 alphabetisation classes in French and 4 classes of French language for adults; a home-work school for children.

TWO DAYS EACH WEEK: An alphabetisation class in Turkish and a Dressmaking class for women.

CREATIVE WORK-SHOPS: Painting, handicrafts, songs, folkloric dances, theatre, modelling, reading, graphics and computer.

SOCIAL PERMANENCE: Social assistants help the participants of the Sun Workshops with their social and administrative difficulties.

INFO-TURK/ATELIERS DU SOLEIL a.s.b.l.

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