



1989
MAY

INEO TÜRK INEO - TÜRK INFO-TÜRK

bulletin mensuel • monthly bulletin • maandelijks bulletin

151

13 th year ★ 38, rue des Eburons - 1040 Brussels - Belgium
Published in English and French ★ Fax: (32-2) 230 95 42 ★
Tel: (32-2) 230 34 72 ★ ISSN 0770-9664 ★ Dép.légal: 2198
Annual subscription: 500 FB ★ CCP 000-1168701-45 - Bxl.

BUREAU DE DEPOT
BRUXELLES 4

BLOODSHED ON MAY DAY



While all countries of the world, as well in the West as in the East, were celebrating May Day in full liberty, the Turkish police turned this Labour Day into a blood bath by shooting dead a young worker and injuring more than 30 people in Istanbul.

The violence took place near the central square of Taksim, the scene 12 years ago of a May Day rally in which 37 people lost their lives. Celebrating worker solidarity on May Day has been proscribed since the 1980 military coup.

This year, the decision on whether to march split union ranks. Considering the fact that the state of emergency was recently lifted in Istanbul, eight major trade unions pledged to celebrate May Day. However, the leadership of TURK-IS, the Confederation of Turkish Trade Unions, dissociated itself from member unions. The leadership of the banned DISK, Confederation of Progressive Trade Unions, supported the move to celebrate May Day.

Although the idea of celebrating May Day was also supported by the main opposition party, SHP, the government refused to give permission. Despite this refusal, trade unions declared that they were determined to celebrate May Day even if it is illegal.

In retaliation, the government sent 18,000 policemen, many dressed in riot gear, into Taksim Square and the surrounding area to deal with the demonstrations. They were joined by a commando unit. These security forces, backed by armoured cars and with a military helicopter circling above, prevented any marchers gaining entrance to the square. Thereupon, eight trade unions, at the last minute, called off rallies.

However, about 1,000 demonstrators, defying the ban and security measures, started to march towards Taksim Square chanting May Day slogans in Turkish and, unusually, Kurdish. At that moment the police started shooting, first above the crowd and then into it. The protesters tried to escape into the narrow streets leading from the square, or by commandeering passing cars and taxis, but police stopped many of the cars and forced the marchers out. Dragging them along the street to a van, policemen beat protesters with truncheons and piece of wood.

About 400 people were detained by police. Some of those arrested were simply picked off the street by groups of police searching for protesters. One pregnant woman was held after blood was seen on her dress.

A 18-year-old demonstrator named Mehmet Akif Dalci, shot in the head, was later coupled to a life support machine, but died two days later.

Elsewhere in Istanbul as well as in other cities, smaller groups marched on May Day. In the district of Sisli in Istanbul, about 500 workers walked to the police station, led by two opposition members of parliament, but were dispersed by the police. One of the deputies said that he tried to stop them beating an injured woman, but was then attacked himself. "I told them I was an MP," he said, "but they said they did not care."

Police arrested more than 1,000 demonstrators throughout the country.

Few days later, on May 4, during the funeral of Mehmet Akif Dalci, police again resorted to violence. To disperse the people crowded in front of the mosque, police used clubs, fire arms and tear gas, and wounded more than 30 people. Journalists who tried to photograph the incidents were also brutally beaten and wounded by police.

Opposition leaders and human rights groups accused the government of resorting to violence. SHP leader Erdal Inonu, who had argued that demonstrations should be permitted to allow workers to express discontent, said: "This kind of demonstration is held all over the world but police do not rely on shooting; they use smoke bombs or riot shields. If the Interior Ministry cannot find any other way of keeping the peace except having people get killed, it is a very serious matter."

The Independent of May 2, 1989, comments the May Day incidents in following terms: "Apart from its domestic impact, yesterday's violence is likely to be a setback to Turkey's application for full EEC membership."

The May Day incidents reflects public disillusion with the increasingly insecure government of Turgut Ozal, which has failed to control inflation - now 75 per cent- and is accused of widespread corruption.

The police violence also coincided with the deadlock in negotiations between the government and unions representing more than 600,000 public sector workers. Monthly net wages of workers are currently varying between TL 83,000 and TL 190,000 (\$40 and \$90). According to the daily *Cumhuriyet* of April 30, only the kitchen expenditures of a 4-person family reach TL 348,870. Unions demand to raise monthly net wages to a level between TL 300,000 and TL 700,000 (\$150 and \$350).

The same daily reports in its April 14, 1989 issue that the share of wageearners in the gross national revenues fell to 12.80% in 1989 as it was 26.66% in 1980, the year of the military coup: As for the share of profits and interests, it climbed to 70.20% in 1989 as it was 49.47% nine years ago.

Since the right to strike is not recognized in some public sectors by the virtue of labour legislation adopted by the military regime, workers of these sectors, in a move to supporting their unions in collective negotiations, resort to a series of original protest actions such as leaving altogether workplace for medical control, boycotting meals and growing a beard.

MORE TERROR BY POLICE IN TWO MONTHS

In March:

2. Police arrested 20 people in Kiziltepe.

4. Seven university students arrested during an authorized demonstration in Adana alleged that they were tortured by police. Same day, eleven alleged members of an outlawed organization were arrested in Tunceli.

7. After their sentences were overruled by the Military Court of Cassation, 135 defendants of the TKP Trial are tried again by the Martial Law Court of Ankara. The military prosecutor claimed prison terms of up to fifteen years against 41 of the defendants.

8. Omer Kizilirmak, a 26-year old detainee, was taken to hospital because of a problem of respiration cropping up during his interrogation by police. The Medical Chamber of Ankara announced that such a problem could happen due to a lung contraction caused by electroshock.

22. Police detained 18 people for having celebrated Newroz, the national day of Kurds.

22. The Association of Solidarity with the Prisoners' Families (TAYAD) reported that police detained 146 people in Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir for commemorating the victims of Kizildere Massacre in 1972.

In April:

4. Police announced that 30 alleged members of Dev-Sol (Revolutionary Left) in Istanbul during last ten days.

13. Former European box champion Cemal Kamaci and Ahmet Vanlioglu were condemned to prison terms of four years and two months each for religious activities.

14. Six of the alleged members of Dev-Sol, after their release, said that they were tortured during their interrogation by police. Omer Lutfu Top his shoulder bones were dislocated, his ribs broken and his foot was crushed during the torture.

25. The President of the Women Association for Democracy (DEMKAD), Hatice Arikan, and four other members were taken into custody while they were going to a meeting on torture in Ankara. All detainees were beaten at the police headquarters. Besides, police raided and searched the association's office.

26. In the special prison of Nazilli, 32 political prisoners revolted against ill-treatment. The protest action was suppressed by force. Penitentiary authorities claimed that 18 prison guards were injured during the conflict. The number of injured inmates was not given.

27. A Polish origin woman, Janetta Simit, alleged in Istanbul that she was detained while she was hitchhiking and was beaten and raped twice by policemen during her interrogation. Same day, a group of homosexuals said that they were arrested during a police operation and subjected to torture. At a medical control traces of torture were found on the bodies of eight of them.

PERSECUTION OF STUDENTS

Police actions against secondary school students are still carried out despite virulent protests by the press and democratic organizations.

The prosecutor of the Izmir State Security Court, claiming that the first medical report contains contradictions, ordered to put 15-year old Melih Calaylioglu, for a second time, under legal medicine's observation.

Calaylioglu, son of a migrant family had been arrested in September 1988 for making communist propaganda in high school and was kept under arrest for months. (See previous issues of *Info-Türk*).

On April 22, in Konya, a 17-year old girl, student of high school, was arrested by the State Security Court on the charge of separatist propaganda.

The worst, during a cultural evening on April 23, the

day of children, a group of primary school students told in public how were they detained and beaten at a police center and said: "Let all children live freely and without being beaten. We wish work for our fathers and food for our home."

At the Istanbul University, in March, 173 legal actions were started against 49 students, accused of reading leftist publications and participating in protest actions.

On March 19, in Mersin, 31 students were arrested for participating in protest actions against ill-treatment in prisons.

On March 22, police detained 15 university students in Ankara.

On April 4, in Edirne, 23 university students were detained for chanting slogans during the concert of the folk music group Yorum.

On April 15, police detained four students of the Hacettepe University in Ankara for carrying out protest actions against pressure on student associations.

On April 27, in Kirsehir, 30 left-wing students of a Vocational School were arrested and 14 others declared "wanted".

ÖZAL'S FACE-LIFTING AFTER ELECTORAL DEFEAT

After his last electoral defeat, Prime Minister Turgut Ozal announced on March 31, 1989, extensive changes in his government, moving away from Islamic fundamentalists and aligning himself instead with the Liberals and Nationalists. The move is an apparent effort to change the image of his government following the defeat suffered by his party in the March 26 local elections.

Ozal retained only 10 of the ministers from his previous 22-man cabinet and introduced 15 new names. Only seven of the former cabinet members retained their posts, three others changed seats. The seven include Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz. Ali Bozer, the state minister responsible for European Community affairs, was named deputy premier.

New names in the state ministries are Gunes Taner, 40, a former Citibank employee who will look after the Mass Housing Fund; Isin Celebi, 41, an industrialist known as one of the few former leftists in ANAP, who will be responsible for environmental affairs and some state economic enterprises.

Oltan Sungurlu is again the Minister of Justice. He was in the same post before the elections in November 1987. Diyabakir Deputy Abdulkadir Aksu, 45, has been named Minister of Interior. He served as police chief and in several provincial seats in the 1970s before he became an ANAP member in 1983. Safa Giray, one of Ozal's former housing ministers, will be the new Minister of Defense.

Halil Sivgin, one of ANAP's nationalist faction members, was named to the Health Ministry. Another nationalist, former MHP member Namik Kemal Zeybek, 45, was appointed the Minister of Culture. Zeybek was brought to trial after the 1980 coup on charges of instigating armed strife, a violation which carried the death penalty.

In a press conference after his new cabinet was announced, Ozal said he was personally taking responsibility for running the government's key economic bodies, such as the State Planning Organization (DPT), the Undersecretariat of foreign trade and treasury, Central Bank and other public banks which were formerly under his younger brother, Yusuf Bozkurt Ozal, who lost his cabinet seat in the reshuffle.

Ozal indicated his resentment over not being able to assign a cabinet post to his brother. However, Yusuf Bozkurt Ozal was immediately appointed to the post of "governor" of the Islamic Development Bank of which 43 Islam countries are shareholders. This bank has investments in Nasas (aluminium), Bakirsan (copper) and Kirikkale Cam (glass) industrial corporations of Turkey.

Prime Minister's other brother, Korkut Ozal, is the director of this bank which plays a great role in strengthening Saudi influence on Turkey's social and political life.

GAIN OF EXTREME-RIGHT PARTIES

One of the main reasons of the Ozal Government's face-lifting is no doubt the fact that two extreme-right political parties made impressive gains in the March 26 local elections, winning eight provincial capitals. Especially the gains of the Islamist RP show that an important part of fundamentalist votes are now leaving the ANAP and returning to the ranks of their former leader Erbakan, whose *National Salvation Party (MSP)* had been disbanded after 1980.

Erbakan's new *Welfare Party (RP)* won five mayoral offices, including Konya, the fourth largest city in Turkey. In addition to Konya, a traditional stronghold of the Islamic fundamentalist movement, RP also won the mayoral offices in provincial capitals of Kahramanmaraş, Sivas, Sanliurfa and Van as well as in 15 townships and 48 municipalities.

Erbakan and other executive members of MSP spent at least two years in jail after the military coup in 1980. They were finally acquitted of charges of heading an organization aimed at setting up a state in Turkey based on Islamic law.

RP increased the number of nation-wide votes it won from 7 percent in 1987 to 9.8 percent in the last local elections. In a national election, a party taking a minimum of 10 percent of the popular vote may take a seat in Parliament. The percentage of votes polled by RP is even higher than the 8.5 percent rate that went to MSP in the 1977 elections.

The ultra-right *Nationalist Labor Party (MCP)* of Alparslan Turkes also managed to increase its share of the electorate. Polling 4.2 percent of the nation-wide vote, it won the mayoral offices in three provincial capitals, 10 townships and 11 municipal administrations.

Like Erbakan, Turkes spent four years in prison after the coup on charges of inciting violence in Turkey. Turkes, whose *Nationalist Action Party (MHP)* was disbanded by the military regime in 1981, had polled 6.4 percent of the national vote in the 1977 elections.

MCP won mayoral offices in the provincial capitals of Yozgat, where the ultra-nationalist movement has always been strong, Elazig and Erzincan.

ARREST OF AN ISLAMIST MAYOR

Just the controversy over the segregated bus services was developing (*See the box on this page*), Halil Ibrahim Celik, the Welfare Party (RP) mayor of Sanliurfa was arrested on April 16, for claiming that he was neither a supporter of Kemal Ataturk nor of secularism.

Celik was in Ankara Saturday with 79 other RP mayors to attend a meeting with party chairman Necmettin Erbakan. At the meeting, the RP mayors threatened to resign if legal action is taken against Konya Mayor, author of the segregated bus service. Celik defended his colleague, saying Urun acted in goodwill. "But this was unpalatable for those who call themselves modern women. The circumstances have brought us to a stage where they might demand common bathrooms for men and women," added Celik.

The Sanliurfa mayor said he was neither a supporter of Ataturk nor a believer in secularism. "I am just a Moslem," he said in a television interview with a West German television station. In the first constitution of the republic put into force in 1924 there was no such concept as secularism, Celik argued. "In the 1924 constitution, Turkey is referred to as an Islamic republic."

After the publication of Celik's remarks by the press, Nusret Demiral, the chief prosecutor of the Ankara state security court, ordered the arrest of the mayor. Demiral also ordered a search in Celik's houses in the southeastern town of Sanliurfa. Police confiscated 287 religious books found in Celik's two houses.

Celik had caught the attention of the press shortly after his election to office on March 26, when he submitted a statement on his wealth to election authorities, as required by law. He included two wives and 9 children on the list.

The prosecutor also summoned Konya Mayor Urun, Van Mayor Fethullah Erbas, Sivas Mayor Temel

Karamollaoglu and Kahramanmaraş Mayor Ali Seval for questioning. Urun and Karamollaoglu said they arrived at the meeting after Celik spoke. But the other two mayors confirmed that the Sanliurfa mayor said he was against secularism.

Oguzhan Asilturk, the general secretary of RP, accused the Motherland Party (ANAP) government of plotting against his party.

"Not knowing what to do following its defeat in the local elections, the government is attacking right and left. This is a plot by the government," said Asilturk.

Secularism is an immutable principle of the republic and the government system in Turkey, Asilturk admitted.

"But it is unthinkable that individuals are secular. The state has to be secular in order to treat members of different faiths in an equal way. But you cannot expect individuals to treat Moslems equally with those who belong to another religion or who do not believe in God at all," said the RP general secretary.

Asilturk also said the party would sue those responsible for Celik's incarceration.

The Turkish press reported that Celik, in his testimony, did not deny his remarks. He only said he did not know that saying he was not a secular person was an offense. The mayor said he made his remarks to explain his belief that secularism is not correctly understood and practiced in Turkey.

Baykal, secretary general of SHP, said the surfacing of fundamentalism at such a level is the result of systematic efforts going on for years.

Demirel, the leader of the DYP, said it is meaningless to fan anti-secular feelings.

Besides, many distinguished intellectuals of Turkey, criticized the mayor's arrest for claiming to be against secularism and Ataturkism. They have argued that nobody should be prosecuted for his opinions and that everybody must have the right to freely express his opinions against secularism as long as he does not resort to violence.

ISLAMIST MAYOR'S SEGREGATIONIST ACTIONS

Konya's new Islamic fundamentalist Welfare Party (RP) mayor has, in an apparent effort to make municipal regulations comply with the Islamic code of behavior, implemented a segregated bus service for male and female university students. Two buses were put into service in Konya on April 10 to carry students from the city center to the Selcuk University campus. One of the buses carried the sign "For Girl Students."

A group of male and female students boarded the bus for girls in protest against the practice of segregation. Male students argued with the driver. The driver had to take all the students to the campus when the male students refused to get off the bus.

The new regulation has given way to protests from secular circles. The rector of Selcuk University in Konya, Prof. Halil Cin, refused to allow the segregated buses on campus, saying the decision to segregate female students is "primitive and against contemporary civilization."

"The previous administration of the municipality also tried to start a separate service for the girl students. We have resorted to this practice to solve the problem of crowded buses in an economical way. Anyone can get on the bus he or she likes," said the mayor at a press conference Wednesday. Urun, showing a number of "For Girl Students" signs and said these were prepared before he took office, said: "Those who are against this practice should explain their reasons without giving way to their emotions."

Before Urun, the post of mayor in Konya was occupied by a member of Ozal's ANAP.

Sener Battal, one of the top executives of RP, said on April 12 that the matter was distorted by the press. He said there is no connection between the new bus service and the principle of secularism. "Girl students are not able to get on the buses during rush hours. Those who can get on the bus have to be squeezed in with the male students. This situation has led to complaints by the parents and the students themselves," said Battal.

"The mayor cannot segregate boys and girls in buses that belong to the public. There is an investigation going on about the matter. If the girls want to go to school separately they should hire a minibus" said Ozal Thursday replying to reporters questions after his meeting with President Kenan Evren.

Erdal Inonu, the leader of the main opposition Social Democratic Populist Party (SHP), said mayors should not indulge in actions which violate secularism.

ISLAMISTS IN DEFENSE OF JESUS

Protests by both fundamentalist Moslems and Christians against the screening of *"The Last Temptation of Christ"* at the Istanbul Film Festival resulted in the arrest of four Americans.

The protest was spearheaded on April 4, 1989, by some 50 Islamic fundamentalists identifying themselves as "Moslem Youth."

The crowd of fist-waving young men, many sporting rounded religious beards and fingering prayer beads, shouted "Allahuakbar" ("God is great") and other chants, including: "The prophets are innocent," "The Prophet Mohammed is the messenger of God and Jesus is the spirit of God," and "Jesus is coming and liars will die."

After 15 minutes, the shouting protestors separated themselves from the moviegoers and flooded down Istiklal Caddesi to Taksim Square, where they dispersed under the eye of several dozen helmeted security police. Spe-

cial security measures already in force to search all film viewers, due to an alleged bomb threat which proved unfounded, combined to delay the first screening nearly 45 minutes. Searches continued at subsequent screenings in the theater that day.

Following this street demonstration in front of Emek cinema in Beyoglu, police arrested four American nationals, David K. Wilson and his wife Pamela, Norma J. Cox, and Brian S. Thorsvik, for distributing pamphlets against the film. They claimed their purpose was not to stop the film's showing.

"We are not against freedom of thought and the press. It's just that the Jesus presented in the film is not the real Jesus," they were quoted as saying. Headlined "This isn't the Jesus of the New Testament," the leaflet went on to say, "The Jesus Christ who is the Word of God is without blemish," closing with a plea for educated and mature viewers to read the New Testament themselves to meet the real Jesus.

HELSINKI WATCH REPORT ON TURKISH PRISONS

US-based human rights group Helsinki Watch has completed research on prison conditions in Turkey. The upcoming report will be part of a series the group is writing on prison conditions in several countries, using United Nations' guidelines as the standard. The work on Turkey, to be published later this year, will be the fourth in the project.

Jeri Laber, executive director of Helsinki Watch, and two colleagues, Dr. Herman Schwartz, professor of law at the American University in Washington, and Kenneth Schoen, a former commissioner of corrections for the State of Minnesota, gathered information and took testimonies from dozens of former prisoners and lawyers of prisoners during an eight-day visit to Turkey at the end of March. They said they could not get permission to visit prisons to speak to current inmates, although the government never told them it was forbidden.

The study was not limited to political prisoners the mission worked on the detention conditions of all prisoners, including non-political ones.

Although Laber said she did not want to draw conclusions on the study before reviewing the copious material gathered by the group, she said the problems in prisons stem from the fact that procedures for dealing with detainees and convicts have not been standardized.

"(Prison) rules are applied arbitrarily and are used to keep people intimidated," said the executive director. "No one knows what to expect."

She said the August 1988 prison reforms were ostensibly an attempt to standardize conditions but, in fact, further confused the issue of prisoner rights. The reforms were made just after all prisons were placed under civilian authority, instead of being divided into military and civilian divisions. The reform decree sparked a nation-wide hunger strike by prisoners that resulted in wardens making policies for their individual prisons.

This variation in policy has led to uneven treatment, with prisoners buying favors from guards. Those favors usually involved getting some extra services, she said, but in extreme cases included young inmates bribing guards to get to self sexual favors to other prisoners.

"I was shocked that apparently the very young prisoners are not kept separate from the others," said Laber, setting the youths' ages at 13 or 14.

Laber also pointed to inadequate food which is supplemented by gifts from family members, poor medical care and problems with visiting rights. She said in some cases, inmates must talk to visitors through dirty, double-paned windows through which it is difficult to see or hear. And rights to see visitors are often denied as punishment.

Laber said that in E-type (educational) prisons there is a particular problem with isolation and a lack of meaningful work.

She said the Helsinki Watch investigators did not intend to focus on the initial detention of prisoners in police stations, but that because most convicts spoke of being tortured, it is included in the study.

"I would say that almost 90 percent of the people we interviewed about prison conditions were tortured before they went to prison," she said.

She said the use of generators and other special devices for torture are proof that the maltreatment is premeditated and routine and not the result of the spontaneous anger of a single interrogator. Laber emphasized that Helsinki Watch, unlike Amnesty International, does not use the controversial word "systematic" in its reports on torture. The group, instead, uses "routine" which reflects its common occurrence but does not suggest it is part of the legal system.

The Turkish government has vigorously denied that torture is frequently used on detainees, claiming it is a rare occurrence and that policemen suspected of torture are brought to trial.

Still, Laber said "the system encourages" torture.

"They torture because they think they can get away with it," she said, adding, "It may be outside the will of the government but it's not outside its reach."

When questioned by Cumhuriyet newspaper, Cox specified that the leaflet distribution was a private action by individuals, stating, "We just believe in Christ. We are Protestants, associated with the American Protestant churches."

After the interrogation, the public prosecutor ruled the four Americans had violated Article 534 of the Turkish criminal code, which prohibits the public distribution of literature without prior authorization. Since this represents a minor misdemeanor calling for a minimal fine, all four detainees were fined 5,000 TL. Besides, three of four detainees were ordered to leave the country on April 12, Thursday. Although the four have lived in Turkey for periods varying from three to eight

years, only one, Brian S. Thorsvik, possessed an official residence permit.

Initial protest to the film's inclusion in Istanbul's eighth annual film festival was registered March 28 by the Iranian Ministry of Culture and Information, which announced Iran was boycotting the festival by withdrawing the one Iranian film that had been entered.

"The Last Temptation of Christ" has provoked explosive demonstrations around the world since its release last September by Universal Studios. The only outbreak of violence in Istanbul was when a Molotov cocktail was thrown into the foyer of Moda cinema during the last showing of the film on April 8. No one was injured, but the cinema was damaged.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S NEW REPORT ON TURKEY

Amnesty International has recently issued a new report entitled "Turkey: Torture and Deaths in Custody".

Recalling that Turkey ratified the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture in February 1988 and the UN Convention Against Torture in August 1988, AI says:

"Torture nevertheless continues to be widespread and systematic. Despite repeated calls by AI the Turkish Government has failed to implement effective measures against torture.

"Since Turkey ratified the UN Convention Against Torture, AI has received hundreds of torture allegations, including reports that in some cases torture had resulted in the death of the prisoner. Most alleged torture and deaths in custody as a result of torture are reported to have taken during the first days of interrogation.

"One of the most recent cases concerns the death of Neriman Papis, born 1944. On 9 January 1989 she was taken into custody and interrogated by the second branch of Istanbul Police Headquarters on suspicion of pick-pocketing. On 13 January she was rushed to Taksim Hospital, already in a coma. She died here the following day.

"Officials from Istanbul Police Headquarters declared that she had fallen into a drug-related coma, but officials in the hospital and two independent witnesses stated that her body had been bruised and there had been traces of burning caused by electric shocks. Six fellow detainees alleged that she had been tortured in their presence.

"On 1 February 1989 AI submitted the case to the Turkish authorities, but had not received a reply at the end of March. AI was informed by lawyers acting on behalf of Neriman Papis that they had still not been able to obtain an autopsy report two months after the death."

AI had earlier published a list of over 220 names, dates and places of deaths in custody reported to be the result of torture between September 1980 and April 1988. Since the publication of this document the Turkish authorities have provided information on 154 cases.

AI, after having compared its information with the official response and fresh information from other sources, compiled a revised list giving details about deaths in custody between December 1979 and March 1989.

In their responses the authorities acknowledged that in 40 cases the deaths were due to torture by stating that torturers had been prosecuted. AI independently discovered that in another seven cases torturers were convicted,

making a total of 47 cases in which torture has firmly been established to be the cause of death:

Prior to 12 September 1980:

Eyup Akkurt, Yasar Gundogdu, Mehmet Ali Karasoy, Faruk Tuna, Huseyin Karakas, Oruc Korkmaz, Ali Olcay, Mustafa Olcay, Mehmet Kodak,

After 12 September, in 1980:

Sadan Gazeteci, Zeynel Abidin Ceylan, Omer Aktas, Hasan Asker Ozmen, Ahmet Karlangac, Ekrem Eksi, Behcet Dinlerer, Metin Aksoy, Ilhan Erdost, Cengiz Aksakal, Kenan GURSOY, Hasan Kilic,

1981:

Sinan Karacali, Vakkas devamli, Hasan Huseyin Damar, Ensar Karahan, Ali Saribal, Ataman Ince,

1982:

Haydar Sonmez, Cennet Degirmenci, Talip Yilmaz, Bedii Tan,

1983:

Enver Sahan

1984:

Sehmus Begec, Bekir Tirasli, Hasan Hakki Erdogan, Sahismail Sut,

1985:

Halil Çelik, Akin Tanis, Omer Corak,

1986:

Yasar Durmaz, Hasan Çelik, Adnan Tuysuz, Zulfikar Bayram,

1987:

Aziz Biltekin, Haydar Talay,

1988:

Emin Ozkaya, Nihat Yurtoglu.

In another 172 cases the organization has asked the authorities to clarify the circumstances of the deaths.

Deaths in custody prior to 12 September 1980:

Aziz Agac, Abdulkadir Tapti, Sait Gozet, Cuma Ozaslan, Remzi Yalvac, Recep Estik, Osman Mehmet Onsoy, Halil Gundogan, Recai Unal, Songul Kayabas, Aziz Aras, Ali Uygur, Mustafa Yalcin.

Deaths in custody after 12 September, in 1980:

Ramazan Oguz, Cavit Ozer, Hasan Donmez, Emin Alkan, Himmert Uysal, Fuat Gurbuz, Feridun Yilmaz, Sukru Gedik, Rustem GURSOY, Mehmet Sani, Nihat Arda, Rafet Demir, Huseyin Karakas, Ali Inan, Ahmet Hilmi Feyzioglu, Mehmet Cizreli, Cemil Kirbayir, Sait Simsek, Ahmet Altan, Ibrahim Eksi, Cafer Dagdogan, Hay-

rettin Eren, Ercan Koca, Mahmut Kaya, Manzur Geçgel, Turhan Sağlam, Mehmet Dağ, Davut Elibolu,
1981:

Yılmaz Peköz, Mehmet Emin Kutlu, Hasan Kelce, İlyas Gülec, Mehmet Kazgan, Ali Kucuk, Nurettin Yedi-
goğ, Cumali Ay, Ahmet Sakin, Ali Ekber Yurek, Ozalp
Öner, Selim Martin, Bedri Bilge, Bayram Kocabas, Meh-
met Yıldız, Hasan Alemoğlu, Günay Balçık, Serif Yazar,
Ayhan Alan, Ahmet Uzun, Adil Yılmaz, Ahmet Demir,
Osman Karaduman, Mehmet Ali Erbay, İbrahim Alpdö-
gan, Omer Aydoğan, Hulusi Talak, Bedrettin Sinak, Ay-
din Demirkol, Şahin Satılmış Dokuyucu, Hasan Gazoğlu,
Mustafa İsik, Sadiye Yavuz, Bozan Cimen, Abdurrahman
Cecen, Hüseyin Erol, Yusuf Bağ, Süleyman Cihan, Fehmi
Ozaslan, Metin Sarıbulut, Behzat Firik, Mehmet Ceren,
İsmail Esen, İsmet Taş, Hakan Mermeroğlu,
1982:

İsmet Çelik, Süleyman Seker, Bahar Yıldız, Asker
Demir, Alaybey Yılmaz, Hüseyin Colak, Yusuf Ali
Özbeç, Kenan Kucuk, Bahadır Dumanlı, Sevket Sevseren,
Abdurrahim Aksoy, Cemal Kilic, İsmet Omurcan, Omer
Demirok, Kenan Ciftci, Mehmet Ali Eraslan, Mustafa
Tunc, Aziz Özbay, Adnan Zincirkiran, Zafer Mucteba-
oğlu, Mustafa Asım Hayrullahoğlu, Seyithan Sak, Hüse-
yin Sertkaya, Feyzullah Bingöl, Aziz Büyükerem,
1983:

Halit Atalay, Mehmet Mutlu Cetin, Ali Güven, İsmet

Kiran, İsmail Cuncayt, Ramazan Yayan, Mehmet Emin
Akpınar, Mazlum Guder, Niyazi Gundogdu, İbrahim
Kosar, Medet Özbadem, Hamdi Filizcan, Hüsnü Seyhan,
İbrahim Ulag,
1984:

Nurettin Öztürk, Mustafa Tepeli, Omer Aydar, İbra-
him Kurt, Hüseyin Basaran, Bahri Aslan, Necmettin Bu-
yukkaya, Maksut Tepeli, Halil İbrahim Baturalp,
1985:

Evren Battal, Haydar Yağmur, Yusuf Alta, Yıldırım
Özkan, Kazım Çakır, Kenan Özcan, Hasan Akan, Siddik
Bilgin, Serafettin Tiric, Halil Yuluk, Cevher Yaşar, İbra-
him Polat, Hamza Tutan,
1986:

Ali Kilic, Veysi Simsek, Mustafa Taş, Recep Tuna,
Mustafa Yağci, Omer Cavusoğlu,
1987:

Hidir Keskin, Ahmet Cetin, İbrahim Savas, İbrahim
Öztürk, Muhammet Hilmi Musa, Sabri Cuhadar, Mehmet
Temel Oktay, Feridun Çelik, Mehmet Kalkan, Kemal Ka-
rapınar,
1988:

Muhlis Akbulut, Mustafa Gulmez, Gulseven Ulukoc,
Derviş Savgat, Hüseyin Kazi, Sadık Celebi, Manuel
Demir,
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Neriman Papis, Omer Kizilirmak.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE: HUMAN RIGHTS IN KURDISTAN

The International Conference on "Human Rights in
Kurdistan" was held from 14th to 16th April 1989 in Bre-
men, under the auspices of the President of the Bremen
State Parliament, Dr. Dieter Klink. Participated by parli-
amentarians, academics, journalists and creative artists
from 16 countries, the conference declared on the situa-
tion of the Kurdish people and the violation of human
rights as follows:

"The Kurdish people is one of the oldest in the Mid-
dle East, with its own culture and history, and a popula-
tion of over 20 million people. In its divided homeland -
in Turkey, Iraq, Iran and Syria- it experiences extreme
oppression. These states deny national and democratic
rights to the Kurds. The struggle of the Kurds for a life in
freedom in their country and for equality with all other
peoples has to this day been brutally suppressed. The
Conference was able to document this with examples
from Turkey and Iraq.

"Turkey has since 1925 denied the existence of the
Kurdish people, in conflict with international human
rights law. The Turkish Government consistently at-
tempts to assimilate the Kurdish people by force, to de-
stroy its national identity and to "turkify" the Kurds.
This racist policy continues unchecked.

"In view of the threat of the elimination of the Kur-
dish people, the International Conference "Human Rights
in Kurdistan" makes the following demands:

" - The United Nations must urgently place the situa-
tion of the Kurdish people on its agenda and within the
framework of international law and the principles of
equality and the right to self-determination of peoples to
work toward the solution of the problems.

" - Member states of the Council of Europe, signato-

ries of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in
Europe, to which Turkey belongs, and the European
Community, to which Turkey has applied for member-
ship, must force the Turkish government to live up to
their international obligations and to act on the relevant
human rights principles.

" - The states which are working for a peaceful solu-
tion of the conflict in the Middle East must ensure that
the Kurdish question is taken up at the forthcoming con-
ference on the Middle East and facilitate the participation
of the political representatives of the Kurds at the Middle
East Peace Conference.

" - The Secretary General of the United Nations and
the participants in efforts to secure peace at the end of
the Gulf War must ensure the involvement of representa-
tives of the Kurdish people.

" - And, until human rights are fully observed in Kur-
distan, industrial nations must end all kinds of military
aid and all types of financial credit to Turkey, Iraq and
Iran.

" - All human beings and organizations should pro-
test against the oppression of the Kurdish people,
against the destruction of their historical and cultural
heritage and their national identity, against deportation
from their original homeland and the resulting impover-
ishment. Increased activity is urgently needed so that
displaced people can return home, the fate of the
"missing" is clarified and refugees from Iraqi Kurdistan
are accorded refugee status by the Turkish Government,
in accordance with the Geneva Convention.

" - To ensure that Kurds living as immigrant minori-
ties outside Kurdistan can enjoy their cultural and lingu-
istic human rights, governments should provide support

for the maintenance and promotion of Kurdish language and culture, in the education system, in the media, and in dealings with authorities.

" - An organization, independent of states and governments (NGO), should be established with the task of monitoring the situation of the Kurdish people and publicizing the violation of human rights."

RECENT VIOLATIONS OF PRESS FREEDOM

In March:

2. Monthly review *Hedef* was confiscated for an article on the Kurdish question.

3. Monthly review *Adimlar* was confiscated for an article on the Kurdish question.

3. Emin Sert from the monthly *Emek Dunyasi*, Mahmut Metin and Metin Tekes from the monthly *Medya Gunesi* were indicted by the State Security Court for separatist propaganda.

4. A criminal court in Istanbul sentenced two magazines, *Playboy* and *Bravo*, to a fine of LT 76,689,201 (\$ 39,000) in total.

4. The journal *Sosyalist Ogrenci* was confiscated for separatist propaganda.

8. The Board of Censorship announced that the magazine *Marie Claire* is harmful to minors.

10. Sociologist Ismail Besikci's trial began at the Ankara State Security Court. He faces a 5-year prison term for an interview on Kurdish question which he gave to the review *Gelecek*. Besikci was already imprisoned for ten years for his academic works on this question.

In April:

1. Selling the German magazine *Geo's* special edition on Turkey was banned by the State Security Court, for containing a map of Kurdistan. Mrs. Fatma Emel Orcan, the review's distributor in Turkey was indicted on

the charge of separatist propaganda. She faces a prison term of up to 15 years.

2. Six members of a Dutch TV team and two journalists from the monthly *Yeni Cozum* were detained by police while they were shooting films in Istanbul.

4. Zeki Ozturk, editor of the *Sorun Publishing House*, was indicted by the Istanbul State Security Court for communist propaganda. He faces a prison term of up to 15 years.

6. Unsal Ozturk, editor of the *Yurt Publishing House*, was sentenced to 7 years and 6 months by the Ankara State Security Court for having published poet Nihat Behram's book "Death under torture". The prison term was later commuted to a fine of TL 613,500 (\$ 308). Poet Behram, deprived of Turkish nationality, is currently in exile.

7. The April issue of the monthly review *Yeni Cozum* was confiscated by the Istanbul State Security Court. 13 out of 23 issues of this review have been the victim of confiscation.

13. Two journalists from the monthly review *Emek Dunyasi*, Osman Gunes and Salahatin Karatas, were sentenced to 6 years and 3 months each by a court in Istanbul for an article on the Kurdish question.

13. Chief editor of the monthly *Toplumsal Kurtulus*, Yalcin Kucuk, and responsible editor Ilhan Akalin were arrested by police in Ankara.

13. Two monthly reviews, *Yeni Acilim* and *Kivilcim*, were confiscated by the Istanbul State Security Court for having published articles on the Kurdish question.

19. Two editors of *Toplumsal Kurtulus*, Bilgesu Erenus and Ilhan Akalin, were indicted by the State Security Court for an article the fact that all inhabitants of the Yersizyurt Village were forced to eat excrement.

23. Editor of the monthly review *Genclik Dunyasi*, Erdal Belenlioglu, was sentenced to a fine of TL 14 millions (\$ 7,000). He had earlier been sentenced to a 75-day prison term for another article.

25. The State Security Court ordered the confiscation of the issue of the weekly *2000e Dogru* for having published the final declaration of the Bremen Conference on Human Rights in Kurdistan (See: "International Conference on Kurdistan" in this issue).

26. Two monthly reviews, *Emek Dunyasi* and *Yonelis*, were confiscated by the State Security Court. Besides, Safiye Fidan, responsible editor of *Yonelis*, was detained and subjected to torture and insults by police.

30. Members of the folk music group *Yorum* were detained in Eskisehir for having performed a forbidden song during a concert.

HELSINKI WATCH ON THE PRESS

Helsinki Watch, on March 31, released a report on freedom of expression and association in Turkey, calling on the United States government to exert its influence on the Turkish government to protect these rights.

The report maintains that while the press has gained freedom since the 1980 coup, journalists still face the threat of trials and prison sentences for articles deemed harmful to the government. It states that from the end of military rule in 1983 to mid-1988, 2,127 journalists were tried for publishing works. Another 41 remain in

RECTIFICATION FROM THE GERMAN GREENS

Mr. Jürgen Maier, Federal Executive Committee member of the German Greens (Grünen) has sent us the following rectifications related to our article about the extreme right in Germany, appeared in the Info-Türk Bulletin No. 160:

"The extreme-right "Republicans" fielded enough candidates to fill the 11 seats they won. However, there were not enough candidates in one district assembly in West Berlin where they won more seats than they had candidates. But this was not in the all-city parliament, just in one of the districts of the city.

"The NPD ("National Democratic Party", not "National Front") unfortunately never has been banned by the German Ministry of Interior. In the case of West Berlin, the situation is somewhat different. Berlin is not a part of the Federal Republic of Germany just as the other 10 states of the FRG, it is only an associate state. In West Berlin, the 3 Allied Powers (US, UK, France) still exert supreme power over the city's affairs. They have always banned the NPD in West Berlin from running in elections."

jail, mostly for publishing organs of various leftist parties declared illegal after the 1980 coup.

This latest research on Turkey, "*Paying the Price: Freedom of Expression in Turkey*," was written by Lois Whitman, consultant to Helsinki Watch, an international human rights watchdog group, and Tom Froncek of the International Freedom to Publish Committee of the Association of American Publishers. The information used in the 210-page report was gathered by the authors during a trip to Turkey last October.

They focused on the weekly magazine *2000'e Dogru* (Toward 2000) as an example of a journal with frequent conflicts with authorities. In the two years during which the magazine has been published, the government has brought 28 cases against it for violations of the penal code. In the most recent case, the magazine's responsible editor, Fatma Yazici, has been sentenced to six years, three months in jail for publishing a summary of Helsinki-Watch's March 1988 report on "the destruction of ethnic identity of the Kurdish minority in Turkey."

The report also describes bans and censorship of periodicals, books, films and music. All films and music cassettes must be submitted to censorship boards before release. The boards have the right to ban the works or to make cuts and changes. Provincial governors also have power to ban works.

Many publishers and authors have been harassed on charges that their works were obscene. The report points to the recent high court decision to destroy two novels.

In an appendix to the report, more than 1,000 foreign published items are listed as awaiting the approval of authorities. Another 331 printed works are listed as having been confiscated or forbidden in the country.

The report concludes with 11 new recommendations on expanding the right to free expression in addition to three it has made in past reports. These suggestions include amending at least eight articles of the penal code that restrict freedom of expression and abolishing several censorship laws and the boards that uphold them.

It also recommends that the US government "exert whatever influence it has on the government of Turkey to encourage it to undertake these reforms."

RETURN OF SIX MORE EXILES

Six more Turks living in self-imposed political exile in western Europe since the early 1980s, returned home on April 9. Police arrested one of the six and released the rest after briefly questioning them at the airport.

Gencer Ucar, a provincial secretary for the now defunct Progressive Youth Association (IGD), who returned from Switzerland, was arrested. Police gave contradicting information about Ucar. At the airport security officials said Ucar has been sent to the political police department because there was an arrest warrant against him. But a spokesman for the political police department said Ucar was not held by his department. The trial of the group to which Ucar belonged ended in 1986 with the acquittal of all the defendants.

The other five political exiles released after questioning were Vehbi Ozer, another IGD member, Celal Guney, a member of the Textile Workers Union (Tekstil-Is) from Holland, Ufuk Erdogan, a member of the disbanded Metal Workers Union (Maden-Is) from Denmark, Ahmet Turkmen a former member of Maden-Is from Greece, and Kemal Bulut of Genel-Der, another left-wing professional association disbanded by the military regime in 1980 also from Greece.

Pieter Dankert, a former speaker of the European Parliament, representatives from Dutch labor organizations and the Union of Churches accompanied the refugees returning from Holland.

Foreigners accompanying the refugees held a press conference same day and expressed their satisfaction over the release of the five after a short interrogation. They demanded Ucar's release from the Turkish authorities.

Two TBKP top officials, Nabi Yagci and Nihat Sargin, who returned first from exile are still in prison and being tried by the Ankara State Security Court.

Out of the eight political refugees who attempted to return to Turkey last December, five were forced to go back to Europe on return flights of the planes that brought them to Turkey. Three were arrested by the political police and released later.

***On the occasion of the Information Forum
organized by the CSCE in London, 18 April - 12 May 1989***

A new pamphlet by Info-Türk

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OF THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF OPINION AND EXPRESSION
IN TURKEY**

(A 5-month report)

30 pages, 50 BF