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ANSWER OF THE SOCIALIST LEADER TO THE FASCIST JUNTA

The fascist military junta in Turkey, being panic-stricken by the campaign launched by the socialists, progressives and democrats abroad for establishment of democracy in Turkey, has resorted to a new repressive measure: depriving its opponents of the Turkish nationality and annulling their national passports. This measure was applied first to Mrs. Behice Boran, President of the Workers' Party of Turkey (TIP). She gave the fascist military junta the following answer:



THIS DECISION IS LEGALLY UNFOUNDED. IT IS UPHELD BY NO LEGAL CONCEPTION WHATSOEVER, IT IS BY NO MEANS LEGITIMATE. A POWER THAT HAS BANNED THE CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER BY THE FORCE OF ARMS, THAT HAS DISSOLVED THE GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF TURKEY, THAT HAS ABOLISHED THE PARLIAMENTARY REGIME, THAT HAS GROUPED INTO THE HANDS OF FIVE MEN THE NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY WHICH BELONGS INDISPUTABLY TO THE NATION, HAS NO LEGITIMACY IN ITSELF.

NEITHER A DECISION ISSUED BY SUCH A POWER, NOR A DECREE BY ANY SIMILAR AUTHORITY WILL TEAR ME AWAY FROM MY COUNTRY OR FROM MY PEOPLE TO WHOM I DEVOTED MY WHOLE LIFE FOR THEIR FREEDOM AND THEIR HAPPINESS.

TURKEY WILL NEVER BE THEIRS...

PRESIDENT OF THE WORKERS' PARTY OF TURKEY (TIP) BEHICE BORAN
HAS LAUNCHED A CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE MILITARY JUNTA IN TURKEY

BRUSSELS (ITA) - Mrs. Behice Boran, president of the Workers' Party of Turkey who came to Brussels on the invitation of Mr. Diet Dankert, Vice-President of the European Parliament has had a talk with him and with Mr. David Blackman, Deputy-Secretary of the Socialist Group on the present situation in Turkey and what were the prospects for a return to democracy.

Mrs. Boran emphasized that the important point was not so much the answer to the question "when?" as what sort of "democracy" the present military rulers of Turkey had in mind. The announcement about the formation and functioning of a constitutional assembly gives a clue. This will not be a freely elected body and will only prepare the drafts for a new constitution and for the laws on political parties and parliamentary elections. The National Security Council will have an absolute right of disposal over these drafts, making any amendments it wishes which thereby constitute the final texts. From this constitutional assembly commissioned to lay down the foundations of the political system of the country politicians, whatever their status and importance, will be excluded.

Mrs. Boran pointed out that General Kenan Evren, combining in himself the titles and functions of the head of the state, the president of the National Security Council and the Commander-in-chief of the Turkish Armed Forces insistently repeats that a new "democracy" on the line of Atatürkism will be built and that no deviation or difference from that line will ever be permitted; any such attempts will simply be crushed. It is evident that no working class parties, no left-wing parties in any sense will be permitted. Those parties that will be permitted will be various copies of the same prototype.

Mrs. Boran subsequently enumerated and explained the measures taken against the workers: all strikes were and are banned; workers on strike were forced to resume work. Collective bargainings covering about 500,000 workers which were under way were suspended and standard models of collective labour contracts are now being prepared for each sector of production to be obligatorily adopted in every case of collective bargaining. Discharge of workers on grounds of their work not being "beneficient for the enterprise" has become the rule. Wage increases of only 70 percent are allowed when the rate of inflation is over hundred percent. New restrictive laws are being drafted concerning trade-unions, strikes, any democratic form of resistance, collective bargaining and employer-worker relations.

"Wide spread torture prevails in interrogations of the suspected culpables," pursued Mrs. Boran and said that she had received recent information about the mistreatment of the leaders, functionaries, representatives and rank and file members of the progressive trade unions confederation DISK and of the affiliated unions. Around two thousand of them have been passed through military interrogation. Action at law has been brought against 506 of them, over three hundred having been arrested. They were subjected to tortures ranging from electric shocks, beatings to deprivations from sleep.

As a last point, Mrs. Boran expressed the opinion that the military rule shall not be able to suppress and eliminate terrorism for two reasons: First, the ultimate responsables shall not be disclosed and removed. Secondly, the ruling classes, monopoly capital collaborating with imperialism cannot assure the continuation of the present system of exploitation, deprivation and poverty without taking recourse to terrorism to suppress the resistance and militancy of the masses. The fact that the military junta has brought legal action against the "Nationalist Action Party (MHP) leaders including Turkes should not be taken to mean

that the military rulers are really against this fascist party constituting the source of terrorism. Turkes, his party and its affiliated organizations were so openly involved in acts of violence, political murders and massacres that they had to be pushed aside and a military junta had to be contrived and put into force. It should not be forgotten that fascism may and does assume various forms."

New measure of intimidation

As the Council of Europe was discussing the violation of human rights in Turkey, the military junta resorted to a new repressive measure. The military junta declared on January 25, 1981 that Mrs. Behice Boran, President of the Workers' Party of Turkey who had visited the European Parliament had to return immediately to Turkey and to surrender to the military authorities, otherwise she would be expelled from the Turkish nationality.

This communiqué of the Coordination Department of the martial law Commands in the capital was repeatedly issued by the Turkish State radios and televisions. The Turkish television showed also a photograph of Mrs. Behice Boran.

A similar communiqué was issued also for Mr. Gültekin Gazioglu, president of the Teachers' Association, who is reportedly in European countries.

Mrs. Boran, 71, despite the fact that she suffers from a heart disease, had been put under surveillance in her home at the first day of the military coup d'état, on September 12, 1980. Under those hard conditions, the health of Boran deteriorated because of the lack of medical care. On the vigorous protests of the world democratic forces, the military junta was obliged to admit her to leave the country.

Mrs. Boran was, during the 4-year period of her electoral mandate between 1965-69, also a member of the Joint Parliamentary Commission of the EEC and Turkey. As being a former European parliamentarian, she was invited by the Vice-President of European Parliament, Mr. Dankert, to Brussels, while she was abroad.

Just after the appearance of the news about her interview with Mr. Dankert in the Turkish press, the pro-governmental newspapers have launched a campaign of attack against Mrs. Boran. Following this campaign, the junta took this new anti-democratic measure.

The same measure of intimidation menaces also thousands of Turkish progressives and democrats abroad who lead a vast campaign for establishment a real democratic regime in Turkey. A law project aiming to deprive them of their national passports is still on the agenda of the National Security Council. But even without waiting the ratification of this project by the NSC, the military authorities have started to apply this new measure against Mrs. Boran and Mr. Gazioglu.

The Europe Committee of the Union for Democracy in Turkey has protested against this now attempt of repression of the military junta.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE ON TURKEY

STRASBOURG (ITA) - The violation of human rights in Turkey caused animated discussions in the Council of Europe at the end of January 1981, and numerous parliamentarians from different countries and political groups talked on the report presented by the Austrian representative Ludwig Steiner. Although Mr. Steiner who visited Turkey as the mission of the Council of Europe suggested to European body to take a tolerating stand on the General's regime, both the Political Affairs Committee and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council adopted the following resolution on Turkey: ./. .

"The Assembly, having considered the report of its Political Affairs Committee drawn up following a fact-finding visit to Turkey carried out from 5 to 8 January 1981 by two of its members;

"Reaffirming its position based on the Statue of the Council of Europe that only states respecting democratic principles can maintain their membership of the Council of Europe and recalling, in this connection, Recommendation 904 of 1 October 1980, stressing the necessity of a rapid return to normal democratic life in Turkey;

"Taking note of the reply of the Committee of Ministers to Recommendation 904 in which it declared that it will continue to follow developments in Turkey attentively, in close liaison with the Assembly;

"Reaffirming, as was stipulated in paragraph 10 of Recommendation 904, the requirement that the Turkish Government give precise indications on the conditions and timetable for the restoration of democratic institutions fully respecting the freely expressed will of the people, as well as complete political, trade union and press freedom;

"Taking note of the intention expressed by the Turkish Government to satisfy its obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights and in particular to respect fully the rights from which Article 15 of the convention allows no derogation;

"Considering that democratic principles are not at present applied and that human rights are not respected in Turkey, as appears from information concerning:

- " i. arrests and imprisonment, so far without trial, of thousands of persons;
- " ii. several cases of torture although the Prime Minister declared on 6 December 1980 his firm intention to enquire into allegations of torture and, if need be, to prosecute the guilty officials;
- "iii. de facto censorship of press and literary activities;
- " iv. other violations of the Human Rights Convention including ill-treatment;

"Concerned by the recourse to the execution of death sentences contrary to previous practice even though in conformity with the law;

"Considering that the absence of concrete progress towards the restoration of democracy would be incompatible with Turkey's continued membership of the Council of Europe;

"Expressing the wish that the investigations being carried out into the cases of the two members of the Assembly at present in detention be completed rapidly in order to make personal contacts possible,

"Instructs its Political Affairs Committee to follow internal developments in Turkey closely;

"Instructs its Standing Committee to review the situation at its meeting in The Hague on 26 March 1981;

"Instructs the Secretary General to seek with the Turkish authorities information in every case of alleged torture or ill-treatment of prisoners brought to his attention by members of the Parliamentary Assembly;

"Decides to examine the situation in the light of paragraphs 1 to 12 above, at the first part of its 33rd ordinary session in May 1981."

During the debates, European parliamentarians expressed their anxiety for the violation of human rights in Turkey as follows:

CLAUDE DEJARDIN (Belgian Deputy and member of the Belgian Committee for Defense of Human Rights in Turkey): "The numbers published at the beginning of this month by the press, totally controlled by the power, show that since the 12th September 1980, 32,537 persons have been arrested, of which 1,135 are extreme-rightists, 4,509 are extreme-leftists and 883 militants of separatist organizations which claim the cultural identity of the Kurdish people. The number of other detainees who cannot be qualified as extremists is over 26,000. ./.

"The repression has reached even beyond the Turkish borders: I have been alarmed yesterday evening by telephone from Brussel that Mrs. Behice Boran, President of the Workers' Party of Turkey who is actually abroad was summoned to surrender immediately to the military authorities in Turkey. The Workers' Party of Turkey which had been by the military in 1971 and authorized again in 1975 obtained 0,5% of the votes during the last elections; A percentage which is equal to that of the Republican Reliance Party, of which Mr Steiner had the possibility to talk with the leader..."

"It is a fact that the Turkey of Generals is not in conformity with the requirements of the articles 1 and 3 of the Statute and that the dispositions of the European Convention on Human Rights are no more respected in this country. It is a government of fascist type and it has no right to keep its seat among us..."

At the debates, Norwegian deputy Liv Aasen too accused the Turkish regime as follows:

"It is quite evident that Turkey is no longer a democracy and that she no longer fulfils the conditions for membership of the Council of Europe. Pluralist parliamentary democracy and its fundamental values are set out in the European Convention on Human Rights and are a necessary requirement of membership of the CE. We all know that if we had applied these requirements strictly, Turkey would already have been suspended from the Council of Europe.

"We know that the situation before 12 September was terrible, with increasing terrorism, but we can never agree with terrorism being fought by state terrorism. We cannot tolerate police forces or military forces applying torture and this kind of so-called official terrorism. This is clearly stated in Article 3 of the Convention on Human Rights.

"So what are the plans of the National Security Council as regards going back to democracy. General Evren said in a speech on 7 January that a new constituent assembly would prepare a new constitution. The new constituent assembly will be appointed by the National Security Council. The whole plan is an insult to the politicians, and the result will in no way be a democracy."

"During the May session we have to review the situation, and we have to be convinced at that time that dictatorship will be replaced by democracy. We have to express our solidarity as democrats with those who are oppressed, and we have to demand that freedom of political activity, of trade unions and of the press be restored in Turkey. If generals in Turkey continue to govern that country, the consequence will have to be that Turkey will have to leave the Council of Europe."

LEADERS OF THE DISK UNDER TORTURE

ISTANBUL (ITA) - As explained by the President of the Workers' Party of Turkey Boran at the European Parliament, the principal leaders, representatives and members of the Confederation of Progressive Trade Unions of Turkey (DISK) are systematically tortured during their interrogations at the military barracks. Below we publish an affidavit on the tortures applied to trade union leaders. The name of the DISK member who sent the affidavit is kept secret by us for his security:

"I am a member of DISK (Confederation of Progressive Trade Unions of Turkey) and was working in one of the big factories of Istanbul, also was a worker representative until September 12, 1980. After the September 12 take over, all the executive and administrative members of DISK and the affiliated unions and also head worker representatives of the factories located in Istanbul province whose DISK was organized were kindly invited to surrender to the martial law authorities through a special declaration.

"By September 17, 1980 nearly 2000 DISK members surrendered with their own will, thus showing confidence to the declarations of the National Security Council (NSC) with the hope of a release within a week or so. We were all put under custody in Istanbul, Metris, Hasdal, Alemdağ, Maltepe military jails. Abdullah Baştürk, the President of DISK was taken under custody on the morning of September 12, 1980. During this time many detainees houses were searched thoroughly.

"At first nothing happened. We kept waiting in anxiety. We were detained from seeing our families who were made to wait outside the jails to pass on a few written words, to send money or cigarettes. Later it was declared that we had been kept as guests of the NSC until October 6, 1980. Up until then, nobody could be kept under custody more than 30 days according to the law in practice. However with a special amendment to the Law, NSC prolonged this period up to 90 days. They released nearly 1300-1400 union members at the end of the October. Interrogations started no earlier than, October 27, 1980. Two months later I got the full story.

"On October 27, 1980, they first took Baştürk and 6 other union leaders from Metris jail to Davutpaşa Barracks, located in the 26th Division at Mertür, Istanbul. In Davutpaşa Barracks, they were put in Otağ Hümayun (in Ottoman it means Empire Tent) which the trade unionist called the "cami" (mosque). In that place they were tortured severely. They were kept sleepless there until November 3, 1980, 7 days and nights, sitting on an iron chair. Some of them given electric-shocks, some were beaten heavily, their bodies bumped against the walls. Baştürk (52), former PRP member of Turkish National Assembly between 1969-1977 was also given electric-shock and given steady blows on the head for 7 hours. They were forced to curse on one another. They were forced to shout some slogans that they are against. During all the interrogations detainees eyes were closed with a circular band of cloth. Nobody knows the interrogators. But the general assumption is that they were from MIT (National Intelligence Agency), military attorney and from the Trade Union Bureau of Section 1, Security Police of Istanbul.

Then other members of DISK were taken from Metris to Davutpaşa Otağ-1 Hümayun and were daily interrogated under torture there. We were 545 union members. Except very few all the 545 have been through torture at that place. They applied electrodes, had them go through all kinds of physical and psychological humiliation and torture by hitting, by forcing them to oath that they would not indulge in any kind of trade union activity any more, and by having them urinate on themselves. They pulled hair, mustache, they gave the impression that they were going to throw the detainee from a window 20-30 metres high, or they threatened him by hanging.

"One day they took one of my friends to that place and told him that they had executed Baştürk and others by hanging and it was now his turn. They asked whether he wanted an imam (moslem priest) or not. When he demanded "imam" somebody impersonating the "imam" came. They opened his eyes for the first time. Then they asked him to say his last wish. He wanted to write a letter to his children. He was sure that he was going to be hanged. With the eyes closed again they mounted him on a chair, they fixed the loop and pushed the chair. It is hard to express the feelings one trade unionist experienced at the verge of death, especially when one is totally sure of his innocence. But to his surprise he fell down, one of them said: "What a pity, the rope broke again for the 5th time today. And we have no extra loop left. Take him away and bring him back tomorrow morning." And the next day he just signed a paper with his eyes closed, not being able to read what he had signed, nor knowing how many pages his "confession" was.

"One of the victim was me, beaten heavily, given electric-shock. I do not want to tell the physical and psychological effects of the different kinds of torture. They are well known.

"Most of the union members were talking during their sleep at nights. They had broken one of the workers' leg. He is in the Davutpaşa jail now, arrested on January 6, 1981. Some of the union leaders and members were urinating blood. Military doctors were totally startled. Torture was such a common practice that in the mornings the serving soldiers as nurses were calling out at the door "who were tortured yesterday, get ready for the dressing of the wound."

"They were trying to get 'confessions' concerning others by making us throw blames on others. They were trying to get us 'confess' that DISK was communist party! They asked whether we had participated in the celebrations of First of May, or went to the funeral of Kemal Türkler, ex-president of DISK who was shot by a fascist squad whom are jailed now. Actually all of these were legally permitted meetings or marches. We were asked whether we had been to the union training programmes and inquired as to the things we had been taught. They particularly interrogated the persons who participated in international union activities. But in reality they were just trying to humiliate the union leaders and members so as to hamper their activities in futuro. Thus, the progressive trade union movement of Turkey was being penalised.

"After 60 days of interrogations full of horror, threat and torture, we were brought before Court-Martial No.3 under the Commendership of the First Army and Martial Law of Istanbul.

"The military attorneys made a serious legal error. Without taking the statements of the detainees after the 'police' interrogation, they sent us to Court-Martial where some of us were arrested for 'crimes' based on 'confessions', which are obviously not legal documents at all. Many of the detainees, including Baştürk and some other executive members of DISK refusing their 'police statements' were able to have their torture claims put down in the minutes and so 'confessions' put in their files were nul. And so many detainees gave 8-10 pages of their torture stories to the examining magistrates or military judges of Court-Martial No. 3. Now all of the torture stories are in the files. On December 27, 1980, Court-Martial No. 3, presided by a military judge senior major İsmet Aytuğ released 438 detainees out of 506. Baştürk and executive members of DISK were arrested together with the former mayor of Istanbul, Ahmet İsvan under the charge of providing DISK with aid during the celebrations of First of May. On January 6, 1981, 15 more union leaders were arrested out of 39. Meanwhile on January 5, 1981 Commander of Martial Law of İstanbul dismissed major Aytuğ from his job to another place, whose effort was simply trying to act as lawful as possible.

"For the time being the trade unionists are jailed at Davutpaşa Askeri Ceza ve Tutukevi, Davutpaşa/Bayrampaşa, İstanbul/Turkey.

"Probably all the detained union members and leaders, nearly 2000, will be charged with the articles of 141, 142, 146 of the Turkish Penal Code which covers the crimes of attempting a coup d'etat or take over, and to organize illegally to get the power and establish a class dictatorship. What a fancy!

"They invaded the headquarters of DISK several times and searched every single corner. They tried to find "hidden" guns, pistols, bombs, just to accuse DISK as a terrorist organization who resolutely denounced terrorism. Yet, nothing was found, to their distress. They confiscated all the materials, files, letters, everything is in their hands now. DISK worked openly, legally, And its activities were written in detail in its documents, bulletins, magazines, reports.

"On the other hand NSC closed DISK and MISK (Nationalist Trade Union Confederation which worked in parallel with Nationalist Action Party) but not Türk-İş. So they wanted to create an image in the West that they are agains

extremist organizations, an extreme left, DISK, an extreme right, MISK, but not moderate unions. It is ridiculous to compare DISK with its 500.000 members with MISK who had only 5.000 members and at whose headquarters pistols and bombs of fascist squads were found.

"They also put an end to strikes and collective agreements and declared that no worker would be fired from the factories. In practice hundreds of workers were fired out soon. After a week NSC declared 70 o/o wage increase for those who were working for collective agreements. In Turkey as you know the inflation rate was nearly 100 o/o in 1979 and 120 o/o in 1980. Yet many employers did not obey even the 70 o/o wage increase declaration.

"Then Türk-İş gave its secretary general to the newly founded government who docked the social rights of the workers. With the new laws on taxes they put tax reduction instead of wage increases won by collective agreements and with a special law they left the fate of the workers in the hands of the High Court in which Türk-İş holds two seats out of 9. So, Türk-İş which wasn't closed down became redundant in actuality. But the passive administrators of Türk-İş are continuing to get their salaries, while the members of it in the factories are blaming even more fiercely.

"In Turkey all the conventions and recommendations of ILO have become nul, and Universal Declaration of Human Rights and European Charter are rejected. And now DISK is at the point of being closed forever. This letter is written only for the trade unionists who struggle for union rights under all conditions and also for fair-minded people all over the world who by their silence and indifference may only add to the continuation and spread of torture, to the annihilation of the basic rights, including the right to organize, the right of collective agreement and the right to strike. 82 trade unionists are in the Davutpaşa Military jail now. While these trade unionists are kept in prison, you can not be liberated indeed.

"Let us show that the international solidarity is not a dead slogan.

"Let our aims for Peace and Freedom be realized. January 9, 1981."