

1984
APRIL

INFO-TÜRK INFO-TÜRK INFO-TÜRK

bulletin mensuel • monthly bulletin • maandelijks bulletin

90

8TH YEAR • PUBLISHER: COLLECTIF TURC D'EDITION ET
DE DIFFUSION • INFO-TURK - 13/2 SQUARE Ch. MAURICE
WISER - 1040 BRUSSELS • TEL: (32-2) 230 34 72 • ANNUAL
SUBSCRIPTION: 500 BF • CCP 000-1168701-45 • ISSN 0770-9013

TURKISH REGIME CONDEMNED AT PUBLIC HEARING

Two elections in four months... Two resounding victories for the Motherland Party (Ana-P) of Turgut Ozal... Lifting of martial law in eight provinces out of 67. Is it a real return to democracy? This question has been very often asked in European mass-media as well as in international forums.

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe which failed to keep out Turkish deputies at its January session will debate this question again on May 9 in Strasbourg. In connection with this, a delegation from the Council has already visited Turkey at the end of April and had talks with the Turkish political leaders as well as with some victims of repression.

The North Atlantic Assembly, parliamentary organ of the North Atlantic Alliance, has already decided to welcome 10 Turkish parliamentarians to its plenary session to be held in Luxembourg on May 24-28, 1984.

As for the European Parliament, it rejected on April 12 an appeal by its Socialist Group calling on the European Community to intervene on behalf of political prisoners in Turkey.

Nevertheless, the case of Turkey will come again on the agenda of the European Parliament on May 21. The Political Affairs Committee of the European Parliament, taking into consideration the remarks made by its representative, Mr. Ludwig Fellermaier who visited Turkey in late April, and the argument of international non-governmental organizations set forth at a hearing will present a new draft Resolution on Turkey to the General Assembly.

The public hearing on the respect for Human Rights in Turkey, organized by the Political Affairs Committee of the European Parliament, has taken place on April 26, 1984 in Brussels with international non-governmental organizations taking part.

This hearing, initially scheduled at late March, had been deferred in view of the local elections which recently were held in Turkey. As three more parties had been allowed to contest for the election, the EP's Committee did not want to interfere in the course of this election.

Besides non-governmental organizations, the Political Affairs Committee has invited the Turkish Government. But the latter has refused to participate in the hearing, making it even clear that it did not intend receiving the Political Affairs Committee's rapporteur, Mr. Ludwig Fellermaier, who stayed in Turkey from April 16 to 19, 1984.

The Political Affairs Committee has limited itself to examine four themes, basing itself on the Human

Rights Convention laid down by the Council of Europe:

1. Torture
2. The conditions of arrest and the system of confinement of individuals
3. The right of persons concerned to a fair hearing and the right to defence
4. Press freedom.

The hearing presided over by Mariano Rumor, chairman of the Political Affairs Committee, opened at 9 a.m. in the presence of the Committee members, the representatives of the invited organizations, journalists and a Council of Europe observer.

Then the chairman of the Political Affairs Committee read out a message from European Parliament Speaker Dankert to the participants, reminding that holding a public hearing does not amount to a propaganda exercise, but that it is a fact-finding technique.

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"The EP Speaker Dankert reminded, has often exposed events in Turkey, without omitting the positive aspects of the latest developments (general election - local elections). The question is not to convene an international tribunal, nor to isolate a country such as Turkey, but to gather clear and full information with a view to coming to realistic political decisions."

During the hearing, each non-governmental organization has been given one hour time, including 10 minutes to make a statement and the rest to answer questions asked by the parliamentarians.

Hereafter we reproduce extracts from the statements of all organizations concerned, followed by the answers given to the most pertinent questions.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL (Mrs. Anne Burley)

"The restoration of civilian government has not so far resulted in any apparent change in the areas of interest to Amnesty International. AI continues to receive allegations that prisoners are tortured or subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment in police stations and prisons in various parts of Turkey; hundreds of prisoners of conscience remain in prison; more than 200 prisoners are under sentence of death and many more death sentences have been requested by military prosecutors in trials which are still in progress. 48 executions took place in Turkey between the military coup in September 1980 and June 1983. AI welcomes to halt to executions since June 1983, but for those under sentence of death and their families the knowledge that executions may be resumed at any time creates sometimes unbearable stress. Some prisoners under sentence of death who recently participated in hunger-strikes in Diyarbakır and Mamak Military Prisons, were reported to have preferred to risk death in this way, rather than wait for execution."

"Many press reports concerning political prisoners in Turkey refer to 'terrorists', as if all those now imprisoned for political offences had engaged in violent activities. This is far from being truth. Although there was a high level of violence throughout Turkey during the late 1970s and 1980, among the thousands of people detained following the coup of September 1980 were many who had never used or advocated violence, but were detained and subsequently charged solely for exercising their rights to freedom of expression, association and religion..."

"Torture in Turkey has been a concern of Amnesty International both before and after the military coup of September 1980... Reports of deaths alleged to have been caused by torture have continued up to this year. AI does not maintain that all deaths in police stations and military prisons are the result of torture. Of the more than 100 such deaths reported to AI since September 1980 nine people were said by the authorities to be still alive, others were said to have died from natural causes or to have committed suicide. In some cases, however, the authorities admitted responsibility for deaths and prosecutions of members of the security forces. But the number of such prosecutions is very small compared to the thousands of allegations of torture made in recent years and AI believes that the systematic and widespread torture which takes place in Turkey could only occur with official tolerance. This point was also made by the European Commission of Human Rights in its decision on the admissibility of the inter-state complaint against Turkey in December 1983. (...)"

"Until the authorities, both civil and military, take positive steps to halt the ill-treatment of prison-

ers, such as a reduction of the incommunicado detention period, which is still 45 days, allowing detainees access to lawyer and relatives throughout detention and independent investigation of all complaints of torture, Amnesty International fears that torture will not be eradicated."

Q - Is there any change in the situation since the elections?

A - We had no observation of amelioration. Martial Law continues. Prisoners are still in prison. Allegations of torture are still coming. We believe that the torture does not cease. Amnesty International has not been allowed to visit prisons. In January this year I travelled to Diyarbakır in Eastern Turkey on behalf of Amnesty International to seek further information about reported deaths in Diyarbakır Military Prison. I was able to talk to the military authorities but was not able to meet lawyers or relatives of the dead men, or other people who might have had information, because I was informed they feared contact with Amnesty International would cause problems for them."

INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS (Mr. Pieter De Jonge)

"Most of developments which followed the military takeover on 12 September 1980 led to flagrant violations of human and trade union rights, which continued to give cause for grave concern in the international trade union movement. While terrorism and random violence carried out by rival factions of different persuasions have been considerably reduced in Turkey over the last three and a half years, the suppression of political violence and restoration of the ailing economy have been (quite unnecessarily) at the expense of fundamental human and trade union rights."

"Of particular concern were the mass arrests during this period, the ban on all political activity, the barring of many former politicians from public activity, the dissolution of political parties, the large number of trials taking place before military tribunals, the persistence of torture and degrading treatment of suspects to obtain confessions under duress during the interrogation, the doubts cast on the impartiality and fairness of justice and the total inadequate access of defense lawyers to their clients."

"Among the first measures taken by the military were the suspension of DISK, the placing of this union's property in the hands of trustees ('curators'), (...) and the arrest of numerous trade union leaders and members. Similar measures were taken against two other trade union centers, i.e. MİSK and HAK-İS. Türk-İs and its affiliates - though some branches were suspended or disbanded by court decision - were allowed to continue with extremely severe limits. Even so, trade union activity was virtually banned after the coup, the right to strike suspended, demonstrations forbidden and collective bargaining abolished and replaced by compulsory and binding arbitration by a Government-appointed body, the 'Supreme Arbitration Council'."

"On 7 November 1982, a new Constitution was adopted following a referendum, held under conditions of martial law and censorship. A series of restrictive clauses in the adopted text do away with acquired rights and infringe on ILO minimum standards, thus creating an environment which strictly limits the operation of free trade unions:"

"- the requirement of ten years of actual work in the industry to qualify for eligibility for trade union office,"

"- the ban on political activity by trade unions,"

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"- severe restrictions on the right to strike (banning general strikes, solidarity strikes, go-slow action, etc.)"

"Subsequent legislation, i.e. the trade union law no. 2821 and the collective bargaining, strike and lock-out law no. 2822, promulgated on 5 May 1983, also contain a number of violations of trade union rights and standards. (...) Many obstacles to the full exercise of these rights still remain. The Supreme Arbitration Board still retains some powers in the field of collective bargaining but no longer decides the terms of all agreements. However, as the Board, prior to the return to collective bargaining, has been giving three year settlements, around half the country's workers cannot expect to resume collective bargaining until late 1983."

"In the main DISK trial the number of accused has risen till 85, out of whom 20 are currently under detention. If we add to the above trial the on-going trials against DISK affiliated unions, we reach a total of approximately 2,200 accused. Early March, according to the Turkish newspaper *Cumhuriyet* of 9 March 1984, not less than 1,233 trade unionists stood trial in 30 cases involving DISK and DISK-affiliated unions. The main DISK trial is now in its 30th month and at the present rate (one session a week) will go on for a long time yet."

Q - Did you observe any change in the prison conditions?

A - Three high-level ICFTU missions went to Turkey in April 1981, December 1982 and October 1983. During the last visit, we were informed that the conditions in Metris Prison were not changed. The prisoners were subjected to underwear inspection before going to tribunal. Food given to prisoners was simple and monotonous, and unsuitable for the older DISK prisoners. For instance, for Abdullah Bastürk, the DISK President, who suffers from gastro-enteritis. They sleep in collective cells below ground level accommodating up to twenty prisoners.

Q - Do you consider the elected Parliament able to change the situation?

A - The Parliament is unrepresentative and powerless. Last local election proved the unrepresentativity. Parliament cannot control the functionaries. The press is under a self-censorship. No proof has been given for the accusations against DISK. We ask justice for the political prisoners more than amnesty. This is our position.

WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOUR (Mr. Flor Bleux)

"Apologists for the military regime and their successors in Turkey have stressed and will go on stressing how the military have kept to the time-table, how elections have been held, how there is a parliament and civilian government now, etc. It is true that the military have kept to the time-table; a new Constitution is in force, general elections have been held and there is now a civilian government in Turkey."

"What matters is not the simple maintenance of a time-table but its content - a democratic constitution and democratic elections and total respect for human rights. This is what is crucial for democracy in Turkey. It is important to understand that the 'democracy' as envisaged by the military has nothing to do with the concepts and practices of democracy prevailing the West, except having some resemblance only in form."

"This 'new democracy', 'tailored democracy', or using General Evren's favorite expression, 'democracy on strong rails', was in the process of formation from

the very next day of the military coup d'état of 12 September 1980. The National Security Council proceeded to promulgate laws and decrees at an astonishing rate, relating to all phases of the state organisation and activities as well as to all fields of social life. (...)"

"The adoption of the new Constitution by a massive majority in a referendum, led some people to think that the Turkish people supported the military regime. However, the results of the elections, in spite of its anti-democratic nature, showed that the Turkish people have a great belief in democracy and that they will not accept 'to lead a vegetable life'. (...)"

"A 'wait and see' policy is not useful. One should be very firm with the Turkish Government. The 5 countries who had each filed with the European Commission on Human Rights and application against Turkey under Article 24 of the European Convention on Human Rights should go on with their application firmly."

"Torture seems to have stopped respecting cases which attract the attention of the international trade union movement (DISK) or the world public opinion (Peace Association of Turkey). Actually it is continuing in other cases all over Turkey and there is the danger that soon it may turn into genocide in the case of the Kurdish prisoners in the Diyarbakır and similar military prisons in the Southeast of Turkey. The situation should be protested very severely."

"The unjustifiably detained DISK officers should be released at once. The political trials against DISK and its affiliated unions should be stopped at once. DISK and its affiliated unions should become operative again and they should convene their conventions."

"The restrictive provisions respecting labour in the Constitution and the new trade union legislation should be changed and should continue as long as there is Martial law. Martial law should be terminated."

"General amnesty must be declared for all political prisoners and 'prisoner of thought'."

"Energetic international pressure should be stepped up. Governments of democratic countries should make economic and financial aid to Turkey conditional on the restoration of democratic, human and trade union rights."

Q - What do you think of the accusation against DISK that it was involved in terrorist acts? Is it a terrorist organisation or a trade union confederation?

A - DISK is a trade union confederation founded in accordance with the law. It carried out legal activities until 1980. All indictments about DISK are groundless.

Q - In comparison with the neighbour countries, are the trade union rights really more violated in Turkey?

A - No doubt, the countries neighbouring Turkey are not champions of trade union rights. However, there is a great difference between them and Turkey. At least in those countries there are not 3 thousand persons put in prison or prosecuted for their trade union activities, neither risk capital punishment.

Q - Is there any change in Turkey since elections?

A - Since the elections, we have not observed any change. Only, under the international pressure, a delegation of ILO was allowed to observe the DISK trials. But in the exercise of trade union rights there is not any amelioration.

MINORITY RIGHTS GROUP (Mehmet Ali Dikerdem)

"I am here also as the son, the very proud son, of former ambassador Mahmut Dikerdem, who, at the age of 68 and stricken with cancer, is at this very mo-
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ment serving a sentence of 8 years hard labour to be followed by 32 months internal exile. You will agree that I am not exaggerating when I say that my father is under a *de facto* death sentence. And this, after 40 years of impeccable service to his country, with 20 years of this bearing the title 'ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary', that is, bearing the right to speak on behalf of the privilege to represent the Republic of Turkey."

"My father is the President of the Turkish Peace Association, the only peace organisation which existed in our country. Less than 10 days after the general elections held in Turkey last November, 17 of his distinguished friends were sentenced to 8 years hard labour to be followed by 32 months internal exile, while 5 others, including the President of the Istanbul Bar Association, were given 5 years hard labour and 20 months internal exile."

"Thus, at a time when fanfares sounded Turkey's return to democracy my country also became the first and only member of the Council of Europe and NATO to suppress its peace movement and imprison its peace leaders."

"Each member of the TPA executive was prominent in his or her profession. They did not even share the same political beliefs and convictions. But what they did share was their profound concern for the Helsinki Final Act and their impeccable credentials as establishment figures. If people of such calibre and standing can be charged and sentenced, so can any one. Thus, pour *decourager les autres*, under the guise of exceptional martial law courts and in a political environment traumatised by political terror, certain circles in Turkey took the opportunity to remove from circulation some of their most distinguished critics, persons who could well form the nucleus of a movement of real democracy."

"The continued imprisonment of my father and his elderly friends is an affront to all human rights conventions signed by Turkey. Please let us try to end the shameful double-standards which relegate Turkey into the 'margins of the West's conscience and consciousness'."

INTERNATIONALE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR MENSCHENRECHTE (Mr. Harald Vocke)

"It is the European Parliament's duty to contribute to dismantling General Evren's military justice. Offences should be judged by civilian courts, not by military ones."

"On the other hand, I request from the Turkish Government to restore Turkish nationality to those of its citizens who were stripped of it."

Q - Is the decision that someone be stripped of Turkish nationality based on a judgment pronounced by a court?

A - No judgement by a court... They have been stripped of their nationality and property in pursuance of a decision by the junta which is still in force.

Q - Did you observe any change since the election with respect to the military regime?

A - Turkey's democratic existence has entirely been destroyed. No change has been noticed.

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF LAWYERS (Mr. Nial Mc Dermot)

"The new Turkish Constitution reflects the new legal framework formed by the laws and decrees of the National Security Council and is thus a constitutional consecration of the emergency legislation. In

the field of human rights the Constitution recognises a satisfactory list of rights and freedoms, but empties them of their content by a series of prohibitions, exceptions and restriction. The structure of the State is given an almost religious significance and is indeed described in the Preamble as the 'sacred state of Turkey'. The first three articles, dealing with the republican form of the state, the basic principles of the Republic and the indivisible integrity of the State, cannot be amended, and their amendment cannot even be proposed. The powers of amendments of the other articles are so restricted as to make it difficult to move towards a more liberal concept of democracy. This is the nature of the Constitution which the military leaders seek to impose permanently upon Turkey. Much more serious is the present situation under the transitional regime, which is far from a return even to this limited state of normalcy."

After Mr. Mc Dermot, Kurdish lawyer Hüseyin Yıldırım, who had been imprisoned and tortured in the Diyarbakır Military Prison, made an exposé, as a member of the International Commission of Jurists and gave details on the torture practice in Turkish military prisons.

"I want to make it clear to the representatives of European countries that," he said, "their expectations of a return to democracy established step by step in the wake of such elections, are a total illusion. What is being set up and reinforced is not democracy but fascism. Furthermore the repression has only become worse since the elections. At the very moment that the representatives of the Junta were taking their seats at the Council of Europe in January, burnt corpses were coming out of Diyarbakır prison. And at Mamak prison hunger-strikes and torture were continuing. Over the last ten days, 32 detainees have been sentenced to death; hundreds of others have been condemned to life imprisonment or sentenced to up to 36 years."

"The structures set up by Junta are still in place and martial law is still valid."

Q - Is there not any change since a civil government has come to power?

A - The parliament and government have no power of control over the martial law commanders or over the mechanisms at their disposal. The Justice Minister of a government, who claims that he is in power, has not even the right to access to the military prisons in his own country. The present Ministers of Health and of Justice were obliged to admit on their return from Diyarbakır that they had not been permitted to visit the prison and had no control over its administration."

INTERNATIONAL PRESS INSTITUTE (Mr. Peter Galliner)

"Despite all hope that before the elections the situation would improve, once again leading newspapers such as Tercüman, Milliyet, Nokta, Günaydın, Tan and Hürriyet were closed down for some time, and editors had to face the martial law commanders. Then, the new civilian government was elected. Hope was expressed by our Turkish friends, and by most of us that the civilian government would lift martial law and would grant an amnesty and be concerned with human rights and press freedom."

"... But harassment and persecution continue. Shortly before the recent regional elections, once again Mrs. Ilicak and her editor, Mr. Ilter of Tercüman, and Mr. Nadi and his editor, Mr. Gönsensin of Cumhuriyet, had to face investigations - and it looked that once again new trials in both these cases would take place."

"It is difficult to be over-optimistic on the return of Turkey towards greater democratic freedom at the present time. As I have mentioned, the closing down of newspapers had become commonplace. Editors are expected to use self-censorship. Any hope for the respect of human rights, the freedom of speech and freedom of expression has so far not really materialised. The pressures from the military remain extremely strong. The press laws are such that it is unlikely that there will be greater freedom of expression. We regard this Press Act as an outright violation of press freedom. If Turkey wishes to be accepted as a member of the free world, an amnesty should be granted; and the fear of harassment and persecution must cease. There cannot be a compromise on these basic principles. It is more than a year ago since President Evren stated that all necessary steps would be taken expeditiously for the establishment of a democratic parliamentary

regime. So far there has been little development in that direction."

Q - How are developments in Turkey being covered by the European press?

A - Unfortunately, the European mass media and most European governments are very lax with respect to Turkey. The Federal Republic of Germany was in a position --and it is still so-- to exert the strongest pressure. The European mass media, except for 2-3 newspapers, have paid very little attention to the persecutions in Turkey. News coverage is quite minimal. The activities of the Council of Europe are not taken seriously.

Q - Is criticism in the Turkish press tolerated by the authorities?

A - No, it is not. Self-censorship is still quite common practice. The press is not free, since democracy has not been restored."

STATE TERROR

OPPOSITION PARTY UNDER THE MENACE OF DISSOLUTION

Chief Public Prosecutor filed a case on April 6, 1984 at the Constitutional Court against the Correct Way Party (DYP) demanding the dissolution of this party on the grounds that the party officials have acted against the ruling law for political parties. The 15-page indictment claims that the DYP is a continuation of the now defunct Justice Party (AP) and the Grand Turkey Party (BTP). The Chief Prosecutor among its evidence points at a photograph of Yildirim Avci, Chairman of the Party, with Süleyman Demirel, former prime minister and Celal Bayar, former president of the Republic, with a caption which reads: "Three generations together".

The Constitutional Court gave the DYP 20 days to prepare a defense to the Prosecutor's allegations.

Besides, Mr. Avci was interrogated on April 19, 1984 by the Ankara Martial Law Tribunal in relation to the speeches he made during the local elections campaign.

On the other hand, former vice-chairman of the Social Democracy Party (SODEP), Mr. Oktay Eksi, was interrogated on April 4, 1984, by a public prosecutor in Ankara for his declaration prior to the legislative elections. The prosecutor accuses Mr. Eksi of saying that he would not cast a valid vote at that election which his party was not permitted by the NSC to participate in.

DRAFT BILL FOR AMNESTY WITHDRAWN

On April 12, 1984, an opposition deputy withdrew a draft bill he had introduced in the Parliament for an amnesty for prisoners. Mr. Cüneyt Canver told reporters that representatives of all three parties in the Parliament had decided to prepare a joint draft bill on the matter instead when his was debated at the Justice Committee. Canver's draft called for release of prisoners with terms of ten years or less, of life terms to 24 years and of death penalties to 30-year prison terms.

High-level officials of the ruling Motherland Party (Ana-P) have disclosed that they favor a system of early release under probation instead of a blanket gen-

eral amnesty. They also said the amnesty issue could come before the Parliament in a few more months.

The Justice Committee of the National Assembly rejected another draft bill stipulating a modification in the legislation on the execution of punishments to make possible earlier release of political prisoners.

STATE SECURITY COURTS

The State Security Courts, established in eight provinces will become operational on May 1, the official Anatolia News Agency reported. These extraordinary courts composed of military and civilian judges and prosecutors will replace the martial law courts and will rule on offenses against the State, smuggling and offenses mentioned in the law fire-arms.

TORTURERS ACQUITTED

Two army officers and 10 policemen accused of having tortured a political detainee was acquitted on April 19 by the Military Tribunal of Martial Law Command in Istanbul.

HUNGER STRIKES IN MILITARY PRISONS

The political prisoners and detainees in the military prisons of Metris and Sigmalcilar in Istanbul started on April 11, 1984, a hunger strike for protesting against the inhuman detention conditions. The military authorities claimed that one sixth of all detainees participated in the action.

On the other hand, the Turkish General Staff announced on April 5, 1984, that 290 prisoners at Mamak Military Prison had ended their hunger strike. 46 prisoners who had started the action on February 22, 1984, were hospitalized due to deterioration of their health.

In another official communique, the General staff rejected all allegations of systematic torture and ill-treatment in Turkey's military prisons, describing them as propaganda aiming at weakening the Turkish Government and harming its prestige abroad. "Leftist terrorists, the communique said, try to infringe prison regulations; some of them refuse to wear prison uniforms and carry on their activities in prison."

MAN - HUNTING

According to the data published by the daily *Hürriyet* of April 24, 1984, 233,645 Turkish citizens are wanted by the security forces. 18,696 of them are accused of their political acts or opinions.

Recent mass arrests:

8.3, in Kahramanmaraş, 15 presumed members of the Revolutionary Workers-Peasants Party of Turkey (TIHKP).

10.3, in Istanbul, 24 members of Dev-Sol.

15.3, in Istanbul, 28 members of the TKP/ML; in Giresun, 23 members of TKP.

17.3, in Bingöl, 3 presumed members of the Kurdish organisation KAWA.

31.3, in Adana, 22 presumed members of the Emergency Group.

NEW MASS TRIALS

4.3, in Istanbul, against 25 officials of the Miners' Trade Union (Yeraltı Maden-İs) and 13 of Public Workers' Trade Union (Baysen-İs), both affiliated to DISK.

5.3, in Istanbul, against 7 presumed members of the Revolutionary Communists' Union of Turkey.

15.3, in Istanbul, against 120 members of the Workers' Party of Turkey (TIP), closed down after the military coup d'Etat.

23.3, in Istanbul, against 43 officials of the Progressive Agricultural Workers' Trade Union (Devrimci Toprak-İs).

24.3, in Istanbul, against 5 officials of independent Chemical Workers' Union (Kimsan-İs).

CONDEMNATIONS

2.3, in Izmir, 9 presumed members of the Communist Party of Turkey (TKP), up to 4 years.

6.3, in Elazığ, 2 presumed members of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Turkey (TDKP), up to 10 years.

8.3, in Ankara, 4 members of the Communist Party of Turkey/Marxist-Leninist (TKP/ML) to life-term, 32 others to prison terms up to 15 years.

9.3, in Malatya, 17 presumed members of the Revolutionary Left (Dev-Sol), up to 10 years; in Erzincan, 25 persons accused of armed acts, to different prison terms.

13.3, in Izmir, 7 members of the Revolutionary Path (Dev-Yol) to life-term, 29 others to different prison terms.

15.3, in Adana, 4 members of the Kurdish organization Rızgari to life-term, 3 others to different prison terms.

16.3, in Erzincan, 5 members of the TDKP to 92-year prison term in total; 15 members of the Revolutionary Communist Labour Party of Turkey

(TIEKP) up to 15 years.

17.3, in Elazığ, 4 members of the Path to the Revolution of Turkey (TDY) up to 10 years.

26.3, in Elazığ, a member of the Kurdish organisation KAWA to Capital punishment.

29.3, in Diyarbakır, 39 members of the Liberation (Kurtulus) up to 20 years, and in another case in Izmir, 4 members of the same organisation to capital punishment, 4 members to life-term and 66 others to different prison terms.

INTELLECTUAL LIFE

10.3. Professor Toktamış Ates of the Istanbul University and Mrs. Filiz Nayır, publisher of the monthly literary review *Varlık*, were indicted for an article. They risk 2-year prison each.

12.3. The military prosecutor of Istanbul Martial Law Command started a new proceeding against Mr. Nadir Nadi, Chief editor of the daily *Cumhuriyet* and the dean of Turkish journalists, for one of his recent editorials

23.3. Famous movie actor Tarık Akan was interrogated by a military prosecutor in Istanbul for his participation in the actions of the Turkish Peace Committee prior to the military takeover.

26.3. In Istanbul, Mr. Nevzat Açı, responsible editor of the youth review *Halkın Kurtuluşu Yolunda Gençlik*, banned by martial law authorities, was condemned to 8 years and 9 months by a military court for an article appeared in this review.

29.3. A university assistant-professor renowned for his extreme rightists views, Mr. Tunca Toskay, was designated as the Director General of the Turkish Radio-Television Corporation (TRT).

31.3. Mr. Ali Sirmen, editor of foreign news desk of the daily *Cumhuriyet*, was tried before a martial law tribunal for having insulted the military prosecutor during his defense at the trial of the Turkish Peace Committee. He had already been condemned to 8-year prison term as a member of this committee.

19 DEPRIVED OF TURKISH NATIONALITY

The Turkish Government announced on March 29, 1984 that 19 Turkish citizens living abroad were deprived of Turkish nationality on the charge that they carry out activities against the security of the Turkish State. Among them is also the representative of DISK in Europe, Mr. Yücel Top.

A QUEBEC COMPUTER SCIENTIST JAILED

A computer scientist who is also a member of the Quebec professional Union, Mr. Bernard Bealieu, is being held in the prison of the city of Denizli since October 22, 1983, on a double charge of insulting General Evren and insulting the Turkish Government.

Pamphlet edited by Info-Türk

MILITARIST "DEMOCRACY" IN TURKEY

 PROTESTATIONS AND SOLIDARITY

IN THE UNITED STATES

The *Washington Post* published an article on March 17, entitled "Turkey's Mistreated Pacifists". The author, Colman McCarthy says:

"The Reagan administration's drive to militarize Turkey makes the jailing of 23 peace activists a minor issue. Congress complies. No one has yet to suggest, much less insist, that military aid be halted until the treatment of the peace association be explained."

"The astounding sentences on peace leaders serve only to damage the country's dignity and image abroad."

"Turkey's new government is asking the world for a chance to prove its commitment to democracy. It is asking too much, as long as the peace association remains jailed. With Turkey being increasingly militarized, patriots like Mahmut Dikerdem (Chairman of the Peace Association) should be given a platform to speak from, not a jail cell to rot in."

On the other hand, according to the Dutch daily *NRC Handelsblad* of March 10, three US organizations which are committed to defend human rights, maintain in a joint report that the State Department has inserted "political prejudice" in its annual report on Human Rights violations in 154 countries. These three organizations do not accept that Human Rights violations in countries like the Philippines, Uruguay, Guatemala and Turkey are described as assertions and allegations, while, according to these organizations, evidence is 'overwhelming'."

ARREST OF GERMAN GREENS

Seven members of West Germany's Greens Party, including three MPs, were arrested on March 23 in Ankara for protesting against alleged torture in Turkish prisons. They were later deported.

Others, including journalists covering the event, were also taken to the political section of security headquarters for questioning, but later released. Police refused to say how many had been in detention, but sources said 24 people were arrested.

A spokesman for the West German Embassy identified the Greens members arrested as Milan Horacek, Willi Hoss, and Gabriella Pothast, members of the Lower House. The spokesman identified the other four as Lukas Beckmann, Rudolf Bahro, Uli Fischer, and Kalle Winkler.

They carried posters in Turkish saying "Empty the prisons", "Respect for human rights in Western and Eastern blocks." One poster said: "There cannot be democracy with torture in prisons."

DRAFT RESOLUTION BY BELGIAN SENATOR

On March 22, Senator J.E. Humblet introduced before the Belgian Senate a draft resolution on the lack of respect for Human Rights in Turkey, both as regards persons and communities. He invites the Belgian Government and, particularly, the Minister of Foreign Affairs to make representations to the Turkish Government in view of the feelings of horror aroused by the inhuman practices in that country, and to endeavour by its actions in the international forums where Belgium is associated with Turkey, so as to bring every political, diplomatic and economic pressure to bear on Turkey in order that she put an end to these practices.

COMMUNIQUE OF BADL

The Belgian Association of Democratic Lawyers (BADL) made on April 10 a solemn appeal, calling on all Human Rights organizations to take, in concert, all measures likely to bring pressure to bear on the Turkish Government, and invited the Belgian Government to use all influence it wields in the international organizations in order that human rights violations in Turkey be stopped.

DUTCH POSITION

According to the daily *Volkskrant* of March 22, the Dutch Government has taken a position of "critical solidarity" towards the new Turkish Government, considering it is no use trying to isolate Turkey, Foreign Affairs Minister Van den Broek said during a meeting of the Foreign Affairs Committee of Parliament, which had been convened to examine a report by the Minister on the Netherlands' policy towards Turkey.

According to the Minister's statement, intolerable situations still prevail in Turkish prisons. After expressing doubts about the democratic nature of the new Turkish Constitution, he added however that "he did not intend to make a final decision until the text of the Constitution is detailed and completed in separate laws." In response to motions tabled by the Social-democratic Party (PvdA) and by the Leftists PSP, the Minister declared that he intended to approach the Turkish Government in order that an amnesty be granted to those political prisoners who had not been involved in violent actions.

MARCH IN SUPPORT OF PRISONERS

On April 22, on the place de la Bastille in Paris, film director Yılmaz Güney along with several prominent figures started a march to Strasbourg, organized by the Solidarity Committee with political prisoners in Turkey. The marchers are scheduled to arrive in Strasbourg on May 7, two days before the debate due to be held on May 9, during which the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly is expected to decide whether Turkey's parliamentarians are to be readmitted. The marchers from Paris, along with those who started marching simultaneously or a few days earlier from West Germany, Switzerland and Austria, purpose to organize in Strasbourg, on May 8, a "tribunal" with a view to shedding new light on the issue of repression in Turkey.

SWISS PRESSURE

By mid-April, Turkish ambassador Dogan Türkmén has been convoked to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Berne, where he was informed of a protest by the Swiss Government with respect to human rights violations in Turkey.

PROTESTS OF LAWYERS

300 West Berlin lawyers have addressed a letter to the Speaker of the European Parliament, asking that equal rights not be recognized to the Turkish regime. In Turkish prisons, it was emphasized, Turkish colleagues are tortured, along with trade-unionists.

Moreover, repressive measures are aimed against the press.

GERMAN AID TO CONTINUE

The West German Government has approved on

February 9 the report drawn up by the Foreign Affairs minister regarding West Germany's aid to Turkey. In his report Mr. Genscher maintains that Turkey has achieved substantial progress towards restoring democracy and, consequently, deserves West German economic and military aid for 1984.

IMMIGRATION

1.3, a Turkish woman, Nazire Çiçek, was deported from the FRG with her 6-month-old baby. She had come to Hannover to join her husband, but West German police refused to give her residence permit. Thanks to protests by a number of democratic organizations, her deportation had been deferred until the birth of her baby.

6.3, in Bergen Op Zoom, The Netherlands, a Turkish mosque was attacked by a group of Dutch racists.

7.3, a Turkish family fell a victim of the visa obligation imposed on Turkish citizens in France. A Turkish worker, Osman Cuci, had first tried to bring his wife Emine and his two children legally in France from Italy, but the latter had been turned back by the French Customs officers, because they had no visa attached to their passport. Later on, Cuci entered along with his family the 12 kilometer long Mont-Blanc tunnel. But, as they nearly reached the end of the tunnel, they were run over by a train coming from France.

7.3, in Brussels, Belgian police raided "City 2" trade center and arrested about 300 youths, most of them foreigners. This operation has aroused strong reactions from immigrant organizations.

8.3, end of West German Foreign Affairs Minister Genscher's visit to Ankara, during which the problem of Turkish workers in the FRG was high on the agenda. In accordance with the EEC-Turkey treaty granting Turkey the status of an associate member, Turkish workers will, from 1986, be entitled to free movement and free choice of their jobs in the countries of the Community. Minister Genscher, however, urged the Turkish Government that the application of the free movement agreement be deferred to a later date. It appears that the Turkish authorities intend to

turn this question into a means of bargaining, in order to get some concessions in their relations with the EEC.

9.3, according to a statement by the West Berlin Senate (local government), it emerges from a survey that 20 percent of all Turkish youths living in this city wish to become naturalized Germans.

12.3, in London, a night club belonging to a Turkish citizen was destroyed by a bomb explosion.

13.3, a Turkish citizen, father of two children of British nationality, was deported to Istanbul by order of the Home Office. Both children, respectively eight and six year old, were born in Great-Britain before the new Nationality Act came into force. In accordance with this law, birth in the UK does no more result automatically in obtaining British nationality.

16.3, in Copenhagen, the Court of Appeal has upheld the verdict of not guilty passed by a lower court on two policemen charged with beating to death a Turkish immigrant, Osman Polat.

20.3, in Oberhausen (FRG), a Turkish pub belonging to Mehmet Cokdemir was machine gunned by unidentified people. On the same day, in Hamburg, the house of a Turkish immigrant, Kamil Demirel, was set on fire by unidentified people.

22.3, in Brussels, the Belgian Parliament has passed by 100 votes against 61 and 18 abstentions the draft bill restricting, with regard to immigrants, their relatives' right to join their families from abroad, as well as immigrants' rights as regards residence and social aid. The Socialist opposition, joined by the Flemish party "Volksunie", the Communists and the Greens voted against.

25.3, in Liège, Belgium, immigrants went to the polls to elect 51 new members of the Immigrants Advisory Council. The Socialist and Communist candidates gained the absolute majority at the Council.