

ITA

BÜLTEN BULLETIN

INFO-TÜRK AJANSI
INFO-TÜRK AGENCY
AGENTSCHAP INFO-TÜRK
AGENCE INFO TURK
INFO-TÜRK AGENTUR

COLLECTIF TURC D'EDITION ET DE DIFFUSION
SQUARE CH.M.WISER, 13/2 - 1040 BRUXELLES
TEL: (32-2) 230 34 72 - DEPOT LEGAL 2198
BANK ACCOUNT INFO-TORK: 310-0148714-02

Reprints of our articles authorized
with the mention of INFO-TORK

Monthly periodical
Year V - april 1981
English 54
Annual subscription:
Benelux 350 BF
Abroad 400 BF

LET'S BURST THE CHAINS OF THE 1st MAY IN TURKEY

BRUSSELS (ITA) - The Belgian Committee for Defending Human Rights in Turkey which was founded by trade-union leaders and political personalities representing main currents of Belgian public opinion, drew attention in its press release on the fact that the military junta of Turkey omitted the 1st May from the list of holidays.

The committee recalls also that the regime which Turkey underwent since the military coup d'état of 12th september 1980 has banned all political and trade-union freedoms, all fundamental rights by violating completely the European Convention of Human Rights of which Turkey is also a signatory.

On the other hand, the Europe Committee of the Union for Democracy in Turkey issued, on the same occasion, the following communiqué:

"The workers of Turkey, under the boots of the fascist military dictatorship, are forced to celebrate the 1st May in factories, in mines, at dockyards... Already forbidden to be celebrated as "Labour Day" since the beginning of the Republic and turned into "Spring Day"; the 1st May has now lost also the title of "Spring Day" with the decision of the fascist junta. So it is no more a holiday. As if it is not enough to suspend the right to collective bargaining and strike, the junta, in order to increase the profits, has started to steal the holidays of the working class and talks also of the possibility of turning Saturdays to work-day.



"But at the side of millions forced to work under the threat of bayonets, there are also the workers who will not be able to work on 1st May: The President and other leaders of the Confederation of Progressive Trade-Unions of Turkey (DISK), closed down at the first day of the military coup d'état, are still in military prisons and tortured for having celebrated the 1st May in previous years... Hundreds of thousands of workers, dismissed without any indemnity on a simple order or the martial law command, will observe a 1st May in hunger and without any social guarantee... And 20% of the labourers of Turkey who are unemployed as victims of the economic policy imposed by the IMF and the World Bank... More than 8 million labourers who are suffering from partial or covered unemployment..."

"However in spite of all these repressions, the working class of Turkey shall celebrate the 1st May everywhere it can find, in the hearts of millions if there is not any place to do it.

"The running dogs of the Junta invade everywhere, enter every place, but they cannot tear away the thoughts from the brains and the enthusiasm from the hearts of millions..."

"This is the moment to manifest our solidarity with these millions; with the workers who valiantly fight in Turkey, in Chile, in Pakistan and in El Salvador against the tyranny of the fascism."

NOTES ON THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN TURKEY

I. POLITICAL PLAN:

From the first day, the Parliament has been dissolved, the constitution suspended, the political parties' activities as well as the trade-unions and democratic mass organizations.

All parliamentarians, important figures in the political and cultural life, politicians, journalists, writers, trade-union leaders have been arrested. The major part of them were released in the following days, but hundreds of them, especially the leaders of the Confederation of Progressive Trade Unions of Turkey (DISK), are still under arrest.

The principal political leaders of the country, including Mr. Bülent Ecevit and Mr. Süleyman Demirel, respectively leaders of the Republican People's Party and the Justice Party, are deprived of their rights to to politic even in the future. Even Mr. Ecevit was forbidden by the Junta to travel abroad for participating in the meeting of the Socialist International.

Socialist parties, the Workers' Party of Turkey (TIP), Socialist Workers' Party of Turkey (TSIP), the Communist Party of Turkey (TKP), the Workers'-Peasants' Party of Turkey (TIKP) are suspended and their leaders pursued.

The pro-islamic National Salvation Party (MSP) headed by N. Erbakan is one of the main targets. Mr. Erbakan and the other leaders of the party are still under arrest and tried by the military.

Progressive mass organizations as TÖB-DER (Teachers' Association), TÜM-DER (civil servants' association), TÛTED (Technical servants' association), TÛMAS (university assistants' association), TÛS-DER (public health servants' association), POL-DER (police officers' association) are forbidden as well, leaders thrown into jail, members worried. Youth organisations and student circles are also closed.

Even professional organisation such as Bars of attorneys, chambers of doctors are ticked off through the pro-junta press, though they are not yet officially attacked.

II. LEGAL PLAN:

The colossal building of the National Assembly of Turkey, normally used by more than 600 members of Parliament elected from each part of Turkey is now used only by 5 generals holding in the same time legislative, executive and juridical powers in their hands. ./.

The puppet government of the retired admiral Bülent Ulusu is charged of deferring bills to the Parliament of 5 generals headed by General Kenan Evren, chief of the Turkish Armed Forces. The bills are adopted after debates (!) or modified if necessary. In fact, the junta, thanks to a law adopted by itself, has all constitutional (!) power; and its laws or decrees cannot be anymore disputed before the Constitutional Court.

Laws such as those which had been enacted under Hitler, Mussolini, Franco or Pinochet are common today in Turkey. Let's quote for example the Law for Extraordinary Case that gives excessive powers to the governors. Most of them have already been replaced by the retired militaries, and it is clear that even if the martial law disappears, the country will be administrated by the military... Not only the governors, but also the key posts in the state apparatus have been occupied by the retired militaries and the State is overrun by the military power.

The Penal Code is amended and the punishments fixed by the articles 141 and 142 referring to "offence of communist propaganda" borrowed from the Mussolini's Penal Code have been aggravated.

Special courts are being settled in view of helping the military courts overloaded...

All the democratic rights are reduced to nought with the new regulations and restrictions made on the use of those rights through the laws on trade-unions, associations and rallies.

III. CENSORSHIP ON THE PRESS

The press is censored while the Radio-TV has been turned into the laudspeakers of the military junta. The daily progressive newspapers have been suspended. Only the Cumhuriyet which never openly attacked the Junta was closed many times and finally re-opened but with a constant threat and dreadful auto-censorship.

All leftist periodicals have already been closed by the martial law before the military coup d'état and the only thing to do was to close the survivors and it was quickly done... Even Ecovit's newspaper Arayış was censored and its one issue was confiscated.

The intellectuals, contrary to what was believed in the European media, are constantly worried: as example the translator Ozansu condemned to 6-year prison term for having translated a book or the journalists who have been condemned or imprisoned: İlhami Soysal, Salim Bayar, Erol Türoğün, Ergin Ünal, Süheyla Taşçılar, Bülent Erandaç, Şeşkin Türresay, Emil Galip Sandalcı, Yaşar Miraç, Necmi Onur, Lütfü Oflaz, Salih Aydoğan, Tamer Kayas, Ahmet Taştan, Yusuf Hasan Çebi, Hüzafer Erdost...

The ballet based on a piece of Nazim Hikmet is banned, theaters and films censored...

The president of the Academy of Economic Sciences, in Adana, and 9 academicians (2 deans and 7 professors) have been arrested for not having expelled leftist students from the school.

With the new laws and regulations, the universities are put under the political and administrative control of the military power.

The Turkish Radio-TV Corporation was placed under the administration of a retired military.

IV. STATE TERROR

According to the data given by the military power, since the military coup d'état more than 100,000 persons have been detained.

The incoherent figures on the number of the detainees too show that arrestations are not confined to the persons involved in violence acts. According to an official statement, 29,995 arrests were made between the coup d'état and december 1980, of which 3.152 were leftists and 827 rightists. Who are the 26.016 left over?

Curfew still remains after 7 months, and except mass arrests, "new terrorist cells" are discovered every day. Under the pretext that anarchy

must be fought, hundreds of young militants and even passers-by are assassinated in the streets by police forces who are allowed to shoot at sight at suspects... Shoot first, then ask... According to the official figures, from september 12th to march 24th 1981, 377 persons were murdered...

The military authorities can still detain anybody for 90 days without any court warrant.

Under the pretext of fighting separatism, Kurdish patriots and democrats are murdered or tortured under custody... Kurdish villages are even shelled.

Once again capital punishment is applied after a 8-year interval. Four young militants were executed in the first days of the new regime. On the reaction of the democrats all over the world, this practice has been suspended. But already more than 600 activists are sentenced to death or are on the verge of it. Seven sentences to death were pronounced by the Court of Cassation and are waiting for the approval of the Junta.

V. TORTURE

Torture is wide-spread over the country. 15 cases of torture deaths are admitted for the last four months of 1980 by the junta: publisher İlhan Erdost, trade-unionist Ahmet Peyzioglu, leftist militant Ahmet Karlangaç, Rafet Demir, Zeynel Abidin Coylan, Şadan Gazeteci, Hasan Özmen, Bekir Bağ, İbrahim Ekşi, Mehmet Baydaş, Eroan Koca, Ali İnan, Mehmet Cizreli, Ali Altıok, Sirri Çopur.

Since the beginning of 1981:

Leftist activist Osman Taştekin (March 14 - Kayseri), dentist Abdullah Peksoylu (March 16 - Adıyaman), Mehmet Ali Kılıç (February 12 - Ankara), Şahin Dokuyucu (March 18 - Ankara). All were assassinated under torture.

The junta states that all these deaths are exceptionnal and could not be considered as a general practice, besides "official inquiries were opened upon a few exeoutioners".

But as specified by Mrs. Behice Boran, Chairwoman of the Workers' Party of Turkey (TIP) in a letter addressed to the Council of Europe, these inquiries reflects only the well-known cases and only for tortures resulted in death... Then, they are only the accidents of torture, because the main rule of torture is to do it without leaving any trace let alone killing the victim. And in many cases these inquiries result in a "no ground for prosecution".

VI. REPRESSION AGAINST THE OPPONENTS ABROAD

Worried by the opponents living outside Turkey and by the reaction of the European democratic circles, the junta has taken various measures against "those traitors bereft of the noble Turkish blood", as stated by General Evren himself, the chief of the Junta.

"Those who are acting against the State's security (=Junta) abroad" are summoned to come back to their country and to surrender themselves within one month to the military authorities. Otherwise they lose their nationality and their properties are seized".

This measure was applied first to Mrs. Behice Boran, Chairwoman of the Workers' Party of Turkey (TIP), sentenced to 8-year and 9-month prison term for having "propagating communism" during her electoral speech at the TV, and to Mr. Gültekin Gazioglu, Chairman of the TOB-DER (Teachers' Association). Then this practice was applied to democrat artists as Melike Demirag (star of the film "Herd" and committed singer), Sanar Yurdatapan (her husband and composer) and their 3-month old baby as well as more than 350 persons up-to-now.

This measure is applied as well against those who are researched in Turkey and supposed "to be abroad".

Consequently, as declared by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the democratic principles are not applied in Turkey and the human rights in the European Convention are not respected by the junta.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL: DEATHS UNDER TORTURE IN TURKEY

BRUSSELS (ITA) - The french speaking section of Amnesty International in Belgium issued a press release about deaths occurred under torture in Turkey.

According to this statement, Amnesty International possesses the names of 20 persons who died during their detention since the military coup d'état of September 12th, 1980.

On March 23, 1981 the Turkish newspaper Cumhuriyet reported the death of Sahin Dokuyucu, who was under arrest since March 15th. He reportedly fell from the 5th or 6th floor of the building of the Police Department of Ankara.

On March 25, 1981, the same newspaper reported another death occurred on February 12, in detention house of Ankara. The victim who passed away in hospital is Mehmet Ali Kiliç.

Amnesty International possesses also the names of 22 persons tortured in the city of Denizli, among them is also a 62-year old woman, Havva Bağışlanış, who was tortured with electricity. A 19-year old student, Bülent Acımaç was also been tortured after his arrest on March 12 or 13 in Izmir.

ICFTU ACCUSES THE TURKISH JUNTA OF VIOLATING HUMAN RIGHTS

BRUSSELS (ITA) - Turkey's military rulers may have achieved their immediate aim of ending violence in the streets, but they have done so at the cost of a wholly unacceptable suppression of human and trade union rights. That is the conclusion of the mission sent to Turkey by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions on April 6-10. The mission, headed by ICFTU General Secretary Otto Kersten, will represent a detailed report to the International Confederation's next Executive Board meeting at the beginning of July. ./.

+++++

S O L D I E R S W O R D

ANKARA, March 17 (AFP) - Mustafa Kemal Camkiran, member of the Central Committee of the Workers' and Peasants' Party of Turkey (TIKP), was arrested on tuesday at the airport of Ankara, immediately after his arrival by a plane from the German Federal Republic.

Camkiran who was a refugee in GFR since the military coup d'état of 12th september 1980, is the first of the 275 Turkish refugees who were summoned by Ankara, to return to Turkey and give themselves up to the authorities.

Camkiran explained that, by his decision to return, he wanted to underline the positive efforts being made in his country in view of returning to a parliamentary democracy.

The Turkish Prime Minister B.Ulusu declared saturday that, everyone "who did not betray the country" "could be sure of their rights" and "should not be afraid of a confrontation with the honest and independent Turkish judges."

o o o

ANKARA, March 19 (AFP) - Mustafa Kemal Camkiran, member of the Central Committee of the Workers' and Peasants' Party of Turkey (TIKP) was beaten black and blue at his arrival to the prison of Ankara. This revelation was made by his attorneys, Mm. Ugur Uzer and Nusret Senem. They claimed that there were many ecchymoses on his hands and his body.

"Collective bargaining is no longer possible in Turkey", Kersten pointed out. "Wages are fixed by a Supreme Arbitration Council on which workers are in any case inadequately represented. In fact, through its decisions, wages are lagging behind inflation in 1981 - even though inflation is decreasing. But it is not only collective bargaining that has been suspended. Legally constituted unions, including the DISK federation and its affiliates, have been suspended and the judicial authorities have sent in so-called curators to run their affairs. Virtually all the DISK leaders are in prison awaiting trial on vague, generalised accusations. No specific charges have been made against them. Relatives and defence lawyers are permitted to visit prisoners only once a fortnight, and then under disgraceful conditions that make it impossible for the lawyers to prepare a proper case. There are about sixty prisoners in each visiting room and they are separated from the visitors by two barbed wire fences across which they have to shout in order to make themselves understood.

"While torture is not practised as a matter of policy," the mission was given convincing reports of serious maltreatment that does not leave any physical marks. An example is the treatment meted out to DISK President Abdullah Bastürk, who is said to have been blindfolded and tied to a chair during five days of interrogation. Prisoners can now be remanded without charge for up to 90 days. In addition, Kersten said, new "legal gimmicks" have been introduced that make it possible to prolong this period almost indefinitely.

Some union officials have been dismissed by the 'curators', and all imprisoned officials have had their pay stopped. Thus, their families are left destitute, but any attempt at solidarity relief within the country is blocked by the authorities on the grounds that it constitutes support for illegal organisations. The ICFTU will therefore be looking for ways of bringing relief to these families.

"In the ICFTU's view", Kersten stressed, "there is no valid reason for suspending trade unions, including DISK and its affiliates. This measure, together with the imprisonment of trade unionists, is a grave violation of trade union rights." The mission recommends that the ICFTU should lodge with the ILO an official complaint against the Turkish authorities.

Among those whom the mission met in Turkey were Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit, National Security Council Secretary-General H. Saltık and Labour Minister Turhan Ercener. It impressed upon all of them the need for a rapid return to democracy and the respect of trade union liberties.

On the trade union side, the mission met officials of the ICFTU affiliate TÜRK-İŞ, as well as those of four TÜRK-İŞ affiliates and one DISK affiliate. It also had talks with the legal representatives of DISK, who stressed that the ICFTU would assist a return to democracy if it maintained its present links with Turkey. Other meetings were held with the families of imprisoned trade unionists and a released DISK trade union leader.

In discussion with the President and Management Committee of TÜRK-İŞ, the mission once again emphasised the apprehension expressed by the ICFTU Executive Board about "the holding of office, in a government installed by the military, by a serving official of TÜRK-İŞ". The mission found a general realisation that urgent action is needed on this matter, in order to dispel any suspicion that TÜRK-İŞ might be amenable to the dictates of an undemocratic government.

At the same time it is recognised that TÜRK-İŞ and its unions are also labouring under drastic restraints imposed by the present rulers.

Although it pressed at the highest level for permission to visit imprisoned trade unionists, the mission met with a legalistic attitude to this question. The government said that it felt unable to interfere with the judicial regulations.

While the Türk-İş is an affiliate to the ICFTU, the DISK (Confederation of Progressive Trade Unions of Turkey) does not have any international affiliation. Both of them had applied for affiliation to the European Confederation of Trade Unions. The demand of the Türk-İş was refused while the one of the DISK is still kept on the agenda.

NATIONAL REPRESSION IN THE KURDISTAN OF TURKEY

BRUSSELS (ITA) - This year once again the Newroz (the New Year of Kurdish People) is celebrated under rough conditions. The Kurds have to fight on three fronts; first, against the military dictatorship in Turkey, secondly against Baath's jingoism in Irak and finally against national repression in Iran increased day after day.

These repressions are in fact the result of a policy that consists in "dividing to reign", applied since years by imperialism on a large scale in the Middle-East. The monopolies, denying the right for the peoples to self-determination, dividing the Middle-East according to their own interests have carved up the Kurdistan on the political plan since the beginning of the century. Each parcel of Kurdistan has been under the control of a state that does not correspond to the voluntary union of peoples and the Kurdish people has suffered from jingoism, assimilation and repression applied by the dominant classes of those countries.

The situation of the Kurdish people in Turkey is even more suffering.

During the war of independence against imperialism, the Kurds fought within the worker and peasant masses of Turkey, but at the end of the war, they faced one of the biggest perfidies of the modern history. While the non-Muslim minorities were recognized cultural, religious and social rights, the Kurds were deprived even of the right to say "I am a Kurd", to read and write in his own mother tongue and to live according to national peculiarities.

Before the revolution, Russia was described by Lenin as "the jail of peoples". Unfortunately, it is a right description of the situation one can find in today's Turkey. The Republic of Turkey was transformed since its creation in a "jail of peoples".

The fact that in the Treaty of Lausanne non-Muslim minorities as Armenians, Greeks and Jews were recognized some limited rights, does not change this truth. As a matter of fact, the non-Muslim capitalists within the grand bourgeoisie of Turkey have had and always have some privileges... However, the toiling layers of these minorities such as workers, handicraftmen and little tradesmen have always felt the discrimination and national repression. Many of them have been obliged, especially after the events of 6-7 september 1955, to leave Turkey, the homeland where they were born and grew up. As a result of the repression, the number of the non-Muslim population in Turkey fell down to less than 100,000.

Even the Moslem minorities have been touched by the repression and discrimination. The Moslem Alevites who constitute an important part of the population of Turkey are still suffering from repressions and massacres.

But for the Kurds, for the Kurdish people, the situation is completely different.

Today, more than ten millions of people of Kurdish origin are living on the entity called Kurdistan, united through a link of language, culture and economic unity. It is the Kurdish people, the Kurdish nationality.

After the military victory against imperialism, the alliance between the young bourgeoisie and the big landowners of Turkey who seized the power by eliminating political representatives of the working class, the peasantry and the Kurdish people, has exercised two repressions along the history of the republic: class repression on the working class and national repression on the Kurdish people. While the political and trade-union organizations of the working class were forbidden, the national repression on the Kurdish people turned in certain periods into massacre on the pretext of "suppressing Kurdish riots".

The jingoist representatives of the Turkish bourgeoisie have even qualified the Turkish race as "superior race, the origin of all other races" and treated the Kurds as "highlander Turks".

During the period of enlarged liberties of the Sixties, parallel to the organization of the working class on political plan, the national

question too came to the agenda of political discussions. After an interruption of more than half a century, Kurdish intellectuals attempted, with the risk of heavy punishments, to found cultural organizations.

And for the first time in the history of the Republic, it was declared through the Resolutions of the 4th Congress of the Workers' Party of Turkey (TIP), held in 1970, that "the reason for the backwardness of the region inhabited by the Kurdish people is, along with the capitalism's rule of uneven development, the social-economic policy which is applied in this area by the dominant classes of Turkey, taking into account the fact that this region is inhabited by the Kurds."

During the semi-military repression period started on March 12, 1971, the target of imperialism and its local collaborators was once more the working class movement and the Kurdish national democratic movement. The Workers' Party of Turkey was closed for defending the democratic rights of the Kurdish people, its leaders condemned to 15-year imprisonment each for having the intention to establish the dictatorship of the working class.

Another victim of the repression was the Organization of Progressive Culture of Eastern Anatolia (DDKO), whose leaders too were condemned to heavy punishments.

Since the coup d'état of September 12, 1980, the same play has been staged. With the military exercises code-named "Flying Gendarme", the dress rehearsal of the national repression was already made even before the coup. After the proclamation of martial law, the national repression has been put into practice in the Kurdistan of Turkey. The Kurdish villages were shelled, mass arrests have reached biggest dimensions in this area and those who resist have been either assassinated or jailed.

On the military plan, with the conclusion of the Accord for Military Cooperation between Turkey and the United States and on economic plan, with the decisions of 24th January '80 imposed by the IMF, the imperialist escalation in the area has speeded up. The military coup d'état is a decisive step for institutionalizing the fascist state in Turkey.

Now the state is officially administrated within the frame of fascist ideology. The chief of the junta, General Evren has manifested his racism and jingoism by declaring that the democrats of Turkey who strive abroad for democracy to be "traitors lack of the noble blood of the Turkish race".

It was reported recently that the military junta decided to establish a buffer zone of 10 km width alongside the borders with Irak, Iran and Syria.

On the other hand, the General Staff of the Turkish Armed Forces ordered to the Martial Law Commander of Hatay Region to draw up plans to settle the Arab citizens of that area in the Black Sea's region, under the pretext of an eventual rebellion. Just ten days later the operation code-named AKKO was carried out brutally.

The generals of the junta, in their private talks with journalists, speak about the possibility of an annexion of the Kerkük and Musul regions by Turkey in case of confusion in the Middle-East. The rightist editorialists claim openly the right of Turkey on these regions, inhabited by the Kurdish population.