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THREE PARTIES FOR A RUBBER-STAMP PARLIAMENT !

Turkey is now resigned to face a rubber-stamp election in November as only three parties set up with the army's backing are being allowed to register for the poll. They are the *Nationalist Democracy Party* (MDP) headed by the retired army general Turgut Sunalp, the *Motherland Party* (Ana-P) headed by the former Deputy Premier of the ruling military government and the *Populist Party* (HP) headed by the former undersecretary of the same government.

Out of 14 political parties set up since May 1983, 11 have been effectively barred from participating in elections; one of them, the *Great Turkey Party* (BTP) was officially dissolved by the military junta while the ten others did not succeed in obtaining the Junta's approval for most of their founders.

The latest victims of this operation of barring from poll have been the *Social Democracy Party* (Sodep) and the *True Path Party* (DYP) who claim to be respectively inheritors of the CHP of Bülent Ecevit and the AP of Süleyman Demirel, both closed down after the military coup.

The National Security Council vetoed 51 out of 79 founders of the Sodep and 54 out of 79 founders of the DYP. Since they have not been able to complete the compulsory list of 30 founders until August 25, they were denied the right to take part in the poll.

Although the three parties have been allowed to register for the poll, the military junta favours the MDP for forming the "parliamentary government" after the elections and considers the Ana-P and the HP "opposition" parties. In order to reinforce the chance of the MDP, Prime Minister Admiral Bülent Ulusu announced on August 15 that he will stand as an independent candidate on the slate of this party.

The elections to be held under these circumstances have been denounced as a fraud in a memorandum drawn up by 16 former political leaders of both right and left, a copy of which was published by *The Times* of August 9. The 16 signatories, who include Mr Demirel, six times prime minister of Turkey, Mr Ihsan Sabri Caglayangil, acting head of state at the time of the coup, and Mr Deniz Baykal, a former finance minister in the social-democrat government, have been interned in a camp at an old radar station on the Dardanelles since June 2. In their memorandum, they warn European nations and the United States not to stay neutral in Turkey's "war between militarism and democracy".

Besides, Professor Erdal İnönü, founder of the Sodep and the son of a former president of the Republic, declared that "a return to real democracy will not happen at the announced date." Thereupon, he was prosecuted on August 21, by the military.

With the purpose of cracking down on opinion-makers who accuse their rulers of breaking their "soldier's promise" to restore civilian rule and democracy, the military has recently closed down two high circulation daily newspapers, *Tercüman* and *Milliyet*, and an influential weekly, *Nokta*.

On the other hand, the military junta announced on August 17 exceptions to the election bans. While the press and all democratic organizations are being condemned to silence, according to the new military decree, the addresses and tours of General Evren and NSC members will not be subject to these bans.

Under these circumstances, the coming legislative elections will be a repetition of the constitutional referendum which took place in November 1982 and resulted in a 92 percent vote in favour of the new anti-democratic constitution which attributes the title of "President of the Republic" to General Evren. Now it is the time of setting up a rubber-stamp parliament, so as to serve the despotic power of the military.

HUNGER STRIKE IN THE PRISONS OF TURKEY

Protesting against inhuman conditions of detention, some 2,500 prisoners went on a hunger strike on July 4th, 1983 in the prisons of Metris, Sultanahmet, Kabakoz and Sagsmalcilar in Istanbul. This resistance action spread later on to other military prisons in the cities of Ankara, Diyarbakir, Corum, Adana, Erzurum and Elazig. Although the action was stopped in some prisons due to the harsher practices of the military authorities, the total number of political prisoners who started hunger strikes of various durations at different times amounted in the middle of August to some 6,000.

In a common appeal to the world opinion, over 2,000 political prisoners who are being tried in the trials of Dev-Yol, Dev-Sol, Partizan, TDKP, Devrimci Kurtulus, Halkin Devrimci Onculeri, GKK, Devrimci Halkin Birligi, Halkin Birligi, Cayan Sempatizanlari, Dev-Savas, Birlik Yolu, Acil, Rızgari, Kawa, TDY, Kurtulus, THKP-C Savascilar, Partizan Yolu, TIKB, Halkin Yolu and Eylem Birligi explained the reasons of the hunger strike and their demands as follows:

"TORTURE, MASSACRES AND EXECUTIONS

"Since the fascist junta seized power, thousands of progressistes and patriots were tortured in police stations, in the political police department, in buildings of MIT (the National Intelligence Service), in military barracks and headquarters. Torture has become a widespread and systematical method of inquiry. Hundreds of people were killed under torture. The proceedings allegedly instituted against torturers are solely designed for deceiving world opinion. In addition to people murdered under torture, hundreds of progressive and of democrat people were shot dead in the streets and on the mountains by police and army units. And over 20 progressive were executed following trials, which were a mere mockery."

"THE COURTS

"In his speeches, Evren claims that he did not set up extraordinary courts. Simply, because he had no need of this. For the existing military courts are themselves extraordinary. The bills of indictment are based on confessions obtained under torture. In mass trials, the prisoners are not brought all together to court; only groups of 10 or 15 are allowed. In court proceedings take place without previously proving the defendants' identity, without previous judicial inquiry; in some cases the defendants never appear in court. The witnesses are conditioned before being brought to court; defendants are given no possibility to defend themselves; they are not even allowed to read their petitions; the time allowed for the defence is very short and sometimes the defendant is not allowed to speak. In short, the trials are just designed for deceiving public opinion."

"DETENTION

"The period of detention which lasted 90 days during the first year of military rule, was reduced to 45 days when the law allowing police to take any prisoner from prison for examination, was passed. Consequently the period of detention is unlimited. Prisoners face at any moment the threat of being kept in detention, but they are resisting as much as possible to the enforcement of this fascist law. In the Istanbul-Alemdag Military prison, during such an operation two revolutionaries, Hakan Mermeroluk and Serif Akkaya were killed by gas-bombs."

"THE PRISONS

"The military prisons of the fascist junta are centers of torture. Since September 12th, 1980, military training and torture have been prevalent in Turkish prisons. With this military training, they want the prisoners to be subordinate to the officers as well as soldiers, to salute the symbols of the junta, to be subjected to the junta's education, to have their hair shaved completely; in short they want to deprive a prisoner of all the human rights and make him lose his dignity. To resist against these coercive measures means to be tortured, to be beaten, to be subjected to all kinds of repression, not to be allowed to meet lawyers or relatives, to be deprived of the right to go out for fresh air, to get newspapers and books. In Diyarbakir, Ankara/Mamak prisons, many revolutionaries and progressive people were killed because they had resisted to the enforcement of those military rules. Due to torture in the prisons, many people became insane or disabled; even there are people who committed suicide as a result of depression. For instance, in the summer of 1982 in Istanbul/Metris Military Prison, Haki Hocaoglu was not hospitalized although he was in depression; and consequently they let them commit suicide. In prisons, interview with lawyers is forbidden; or 15-20 prisoners are given only 20 minutes to have interview with their lawyers and these interviews are heard by the soldiers. Besides in prisons there is no opportunity to prepare defense; and recently martial law command has forbidden the prisoners to get paper and pens. Petitions are seized by the prison administration, while the prisoners are being brought to court. The relatives cannot give them any clothes or food during the interviews which last only a few minutes. Progressive, revolutionary prisoners have been resisting against these tortures for years; many times they started hunger strikes. Countless hunger strikes which lasted 10 to 30 or more than 40 days and in which all the prisoners took part, were organized. At the end of each hunger strike, the representatives of the junta said 'we will end the tortures, we will recognize your rights'; but tortures, beatings and prohibitions are still continuing."

"THE POLICY OF REPRESSION IN ISTANBUL

"Today, the fascist junta is applying more and more intensively the methods of torture and repression in the prisons of Istanbul. According a new regulation, the prisons will be subordinate to the Ministry of Interior and will be ruled by the Commissioners of Police. Besides, new prisons of one or two-men cells, are being built; the revolutionaries who resist these repressions and who are in the position of being leaders of certain groupings, will be put in these prisons. The aim is to torture and put under pressure the revolutionaries, who are selected from various prisons. One these cells-type prisons was opened in Istanbul/Sagsmalcilar on July 4th, 1983. Revolutionary prisoners, selected from various prisons in Istanbul, were brought to this new prison. As the prisoners were entering the prison building, they were beaten up until they fell in a faint; all prisoners have their hairs completely shaved, their civilian clothes are seized and they are forced to put on the prison uniforms. Afterwards, torture, beatings and all kinds of prohibitions are continuing to ensure that the prisoners obey to the military rules and wear the prison uniforms. The attempt to make the revolutionary prisoners wear the prison uniforms is a new step in the enforcement of military rules. And this method is now applied in Istanbul; and de-
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again. This policy is already being applied in many prisons of Turkey. Torture and repression to make the prisoners wear these uniforms are prevalent in the prisons of Mamak, Diyarbakır, Antakya, Bartın, Canakkale and Malatya. In the cells-type prison of Sıgırcılar, the political prisoners refused to wear prison uniforms despite torture and beatings, and replied with anti-fascist slogans."

"TO THE WORLD OPINION

"The revolutionary prisoners will never surrender in the face of torture and repression. The revolutionaries, who are put into one-man cells in Sıgırcılar Prison and are facing torture and bloody intrigues, and over 2,000 political prisoners in various prisons in Istanbul, have started an unlimited hunger strike against torture, oppression and various prohibitions. Their demands are:

"- Withdrawal of prison uniforms and return of civilian clothes,"

"- An end to torture, oppression and all kinds of prohibitions (regarding interviews with lawyers, families, going out to fresh air, books and writing letters,)"

"- The one-man cell system should be suppressed and the system of wards reestablished,"

"- Recognition of all rights to political prisoners."

After the hunger strike started, hundreds of political prisoners were heavily tortured and at least 150 of them were hospitalized as a result of this torture.

The relatives of prisoners who protested in front of the prison buildings against the enforcement of these measures, were also beaten up. One of the parents who could not bear this situation, attempted to burn himself but was rescued.

According to the latest news published in the European press, the political prisoners are now facing even harsher prison regulations designed for breaking their determination. The European Committee for the Defence of Refugees and Immigrants has reported that a number of prisoners in isolation cells in Istanbul's Metris Prison have been tortured and their screams have been broadcast to the prison blocks.

The health of Dr Yalçın Küçük, a leading economist and a faculty member of Birmingham University, who is being held because of his book *Towards a new Republic* published some years ago, deteriorated in the course of hunger strike.

Mr Abdullah Bastürk, chairman of DISK, revealed the inhuman conditions of confinement prevailing in the prisons and the irregularities relating to the trials at the hearing of August 3rd; thereupon he was condemned to a 7-day isolation in prison. Bastürk who is facing a death sentence together with other DISK officials has reportedly participated in the hunger strike.

SOLIDARITY IN EUROPE

With the purpose of informing the world opinion and expressing their solidarity with the political prisoners in Turkey, Turkish and Kurdish democrats have gone on hunger strike in many cities of Western Europe. The protest actions against the repression in the military prisons of Turkey were continuing at the moment of printing our Bulletin, in Belgium, the FRG, France, Austria, Denmark, Sweden and Holland.

The strikers demand that:

- a medical team be sent to the Turkish prisons by the Red Cross,

- a mission be sent by European Parliament to make inquiries on the conditions of detention,

- all European governments support the complaint lodged with the European Commission on Human Rights against the violation of human rights in Turkey,

- all economic and military aid to Turkey be stopped.

- all political prisoners in Turkey be released and the demands of those who made hunger strike in Turkey be met.

In Greece, a demonstration organized on August 12 by a group of Turkish and Kurdish political refugees towards the Turkish Embassy was prevented by the security forces. According to the dailies *Eleftherotypia* and *I Avyi*, "police trucks were filled with the Turks and Kurds apprehended by the security forces. Later on, they were sent to the ghetto of Lavrio."

On the other hand, twenty Turkish and Kurdish journalists, writers, artists and trade union officials who are at present in exile held a press conference in Bonn on August 10 and launched an appeal to their European colleagues to manifest their solidarity with the hunger strikers in Turkey.

At the conference, they announced that three hunger strikers in the prison of Metris died while many others were being in coma.

NUMBER OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN TURKEY

In the course of the protest campaign against the prison conditions in Turkey a dispute has appeared on the number of the political prisoners which ranges, according to different sources of information, from 20 thousand to 100 thousand.

With the purpose of clearing up this matter, we have carried out a research based on both the official figures issued by Turkish authorities and the fact-finding reports of some international human right organizations.

First of all, it should be made a distinction between the civil prisons and the military prisons.

CIVIL PRISONS

According to a statement of the Justice Minister Zahir Akdoğan, on June 20, 1983, there are 641 civil prisons in varying conditions in Turkey. Out of these, 344 are of the new type and 176 are rented buildings. 64 are converted government buildings.

There are also 27 usable old prisons, 7 open type and 18 partially open prisons. 5 special prisons are used only for keeping those who were convicted of "political violence acts".

At the end of 1982, there were 47,567 sentenced convicts plus 30,519 suspects in civil prisons forming the 78,886 prison population. The Ministry refused to quote the number of persons who are being held in the 5 special prisons.

According to the procedure, those who were condemned by military tribunals are transferred from military prisons to the civil prisons after ratification of the verdict by the Military Court of Cassation.

MILITARY PRISONS

The Coordination Office of martial law commands at the General Staff Headquarters announced on August 5, 1983 that from the proclamation of martial law regime at the end of 1978 up to June 30,

1983, Martial Law prosecutors dealt with 62,639 cases. 7,276 case files are still being studied by the military prosecutors. 43,618 cases arrived at the martial law courts. The martial law judges acquitted 11,350 suspects and gave prison terms to 15,127. As for the remaining suspects, they received various other verdicts such as fine. 4,370 case files are still being dealt with.

According to the military, at present there are 21,046 persons in military prisons, out of which 7,183 are condemned, 13,432 arrested and 431 under custody. In 15,127 cases 33,891 persons were condemned, out of which 18,764 have already served their terms.

Below are the figures of those in the military prisons on June 30, 1983.

Groups	In Custody	Arrested	Imprisoned	Total
Rightist Activists	27	1.162	1.158	2.347
Leftist Activists	207	6.974	4.208	11.386
Separatistes	88	3.968	158	4.214
Unspecified political affiliation	112	1.328	1.659	3.099
Total	431	13.432	7.183	21.046

The distribution of the prison terms and the political views of those condemned are indicated in the table below:

Prison terms	Rightists	Leftists	Separatists	Unspecified	Total
Up until 5 years	3.769	14.518	732	9.817	28.836
5 - 10 years	390	1.895	268	514	2.917
10 - 20 years	272	591	115	267	1.245
Over 20 years	101	309	46	71	527
Life sentence	25	128	23	12	188
Death sentence	30	96	49	3	178
Total	4.497	17.537	1.173	10.684	33.891

25 of those who received death sentences have been hanged. Procedures are still continuing for the remaining 153. Examining these official figures, one should take into consideration that under the present circumstances it is not possible to verify the exactness of these numbers. But it is a fact that, especially after the coup d'état, tens of thousands of people had been kept under surveillance for 90 days without any warrant of arrest and their number is not included in the above mentioned figures. Besides, the number of "suspects" kept for certain time in connection with the 62,639 cases dealt with by martial law prosecutors has never been made public. It is common knowledge that for each case concerning any political organization or any political act, tens or hundreds of people are taken into custody. For this reason, the number of those who were kept for a certain time in military prisons is at least three or four times more as 62,639.

According to a press release of the International League for Human Rights of February 19, 1982, within

the first 17-month period of military rule, 170,958 persons were taken into custody, more than 100,000 of them were released following a 3-month detention.

The Turkish Prime Ministry announced on July 31, 1983 that 5,854 persons are still being wanted by martial law authorities. 2,187 of them are accused of being involved in left-wing organizations, 238 in right-wing and 623 in the Kurdish movements.

Considering the figures concerning the prisoners in the military and civil prisons, the total number of those who are still behind iron bars reaches 99,932. Since the numbers of political detainees or condemned people in civil prisons were not announced, it is not possible to find out the official number of political prisoners within this prison population. If the international human rights organizations can succeed in sending a fact-finding mission to Turkey, one of its main tasks should be to check the official figures and to ask for the number of those who are imprisoned in civil prisons for political reasons.

STATE TERROR

NEW REPRESSIVE LAWS

Just on the eve of the so-called legislative elections, the present "legislative" bodies, the National Security Council and its rubber-stamp Consultative Assembly pass in hot haste all the laws aiming at keeping law and order in case martial law should be lifted.

On June 17, the NSC ratified the State Security Courts draft bill. The new courts, composed of military and civil judges, will be responsible for dealing with crimes committed against the State and its internal

and external security. The courts will be located in the following cities: Ankara, Diyarbakır, Erzincan, İstanbul, İzmir, Kayseri, Konya and Malatya.

According to another law project on the agenda of the Consultative Assembly, the territory of the Turkish State will be divided in nine regions and each of them will be administered by a supreme governor. The governors of Turkey's 67 provinces will be placed under the authority of these nine supreme governors. Army generals or colonels too can be appointed to these posts even after the lifting of martial law.

MASS TRIALS

During the past summer days, the military prosecutors did not miss the opportunity to take proceedings against the officials of both DISK affiliated trade unions and of democratic organizations.

The trials of the 27 officials of the Electricity and Gas Workers' Union (Tek-Ges-Is), 28 officials of the Building Workers' Union (Yapi-Is) and 64 officials of the Metal Workers' Union (Maden-Is) started respectively on June 4, June 19 and July 30. Prison terms up to 20 years were demanded for the accused. On the other hand, as a result of an additional bill on indictment, the number of defendants of the Pctkim-Is trial rose from 48 to 72.

On June 7, the President of the Istanbul Bar Association Orhan Apaydın and three other members of its board, Rasim Öz, Raif Ertem and Kemal Kumkumoglu were questioned by the military prosecutor of Istanbul on the charge of transforming the association into a clandestine organization and collaborating with outlawed organizations. All those who were members since 1974 of the executive board of the Bar are subjected to the same proceedings.

Other trials which started recently:

8.6: In Istanbul, 9 persons accused of being members of the Revolutionary Union of the People (TKP-ML/DHB). Prison terms up to 20 years claimed.

19.6: In Istanbul, against 21 right-wing activists. Capital punishment demanded for 12 persons.

22.6: In Diyarbakır, 32 presumed members of the Communist Labour Party of Turkey (TKEP).

25.6: In Istanbul, a new mass trial against 254 presumed members of the Revolutionary Left (Dev-Sol), 61 facing death sentences.

28.6: In Adana, 21 persons accused of being members of the Revolutionary Way (Dev-Yol). Capital punishment demanded for 41 defendants. On the same day, again in Ankara, 22 presumed members of the TKP-ML/DHB were brought before a military tribunal. 4 of them risk death sentence.

7.7: In Ankara, 16 presumed members of the People's Liberation Army of Turkey (THKO). Capital punishment demanded for 6 defendants.

29.7: In Istanbul, 7 members of the Socialist Workers' Party of Turkey (TSIP). Thus, the total number of defendants at the TSIP trial reach 54.

CONDEMNATIONS

In the months of June and July, the trials of hundreds of political detainees resulted in a number of condemnations:

1.6: In Ankara, after their earlier condemnations were overruled by the Court of Cassation, the officials of the Teachers' Association (Töb-Der) were tried again at the military tribunal of Ankara. This time 30 of them were condemned to prison terms up to 8 years.

In Adana, two members of the TKP-ML were condemned to life-term. In the same city, 11 members of the National Liberators of Kurdistan (KUK) were condemned to prison terms up to 13 years.

2.6: In Erzurum 13 persons and 2 presumed members of Dev-Yol were condemned to prison terms respectively up to 36 years and 8 years.

4.6: In Ankara, 3 employees of the Mineral Research Institute (MİTA) were condemned up to 30 years for being involved in an underground organization. In Izmir, 6 persons were condemned to one year prison for being members of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Turkey (TDKP).

7.6: It was announced that within a one-month period the military tribunals in Ankara condemned 202 persons to prison terms in 28 different cases.

9.6: In Ankara, a Palestinian militant, Abau Maruss, was condemned to 16-month prison term for insulting the Turkish nation.

12.6: In Ankara, 6 presumed members of TDKP were condemned up to 10 years.

14.6: In Izmir, at the end of a trial of the TKP-ML, three persons were condemned to life-prison and 15 others to various prison terms.

16.6: In Adana, 3 presumed members of the Communist Party of Turkey (TKP) were condemned to imprisonment up to 16 years.

17.6: In Izmir, 18 presumed members of the Idealist Youth Association (UGD) were condemned up to 6 years.

18.6: A member of the Dev-Yol was condemned in Usak to 4-year prison.

23.6: It was announced that the military tribunals of Istanbul condemned between May 20 and June 20, 19 persons to prison terms up to 31 years.

25.6: 7 persons accused of working for the Emergency Group of the Popular Liberation Front/Party of Turkey (THKP/C) were condemned in Adana to prison terms up to 36 years. A member of Dev-Yol was sentenced to life-prison in the same city.

28.6: In Diyarbakır, a trial of the Workers' Party of Kurdistan (PKK) ended in five death sentences. Four defendants were condemned to life-prison and 114 persons to prison terms up to 24 years. In Ankara, 13 persons accused of working for Dev-Yol and the TDKP were condemned up to 8 years.

29.6: In Ankara, three members of the Socialist Youth Union (SGB) were condemned to 18-month prison each for distributing clandestine leaflets.

5.7: In Erzurum, two rightists condemned to life-prison.

9.7: In Diyarbakır, another trial of PKK ended in 5 capital punishments, one life-prison and 41 imprisonments up to 24 years. On the same day, in Gölcük 10 members of Dev-Yol were condemned up to 12 years.

10.7: In Erzurum, a left-wing militant was condemned to death and one person to 10-year imprisonment. On the same day, in Adana, 14 left-wing militants were condemned up to 19 years for having used the trade union funds for underground activities.

11.7: In Istanbul, three members of the board of the Pharmacists Chamber were put in prison for serving a 3-month imprisonment.

20.7: In Ankara, three activists of the Emergency Group were condemned to life-prison. In Izmir, at the end of the trial of UGD, 2 activists were condemned to life-prison and 21 others to prison terms up to 36 years.

21.7: In Izmir, 9 members of Dev-Yol were condemned to 7 years and 9 months each.

22.7: In Izmir, 20 presumed members of the Revolutionary Vanguards of the People were condemned to prison terms up to 15 years. In Istanbul, 11 activists of the Emergency Group up to 26 years and in Erzincan, 11 members of the TDKP up to 10 years. On the same day, in Adana, 6 members of Dev-Sol to life-prison and 3 others up to 5 years.

25.7: In Adana, the trial of the Fighting Group of the THKO ended in 7 condemnations up to 25 years. In the same city one member of the Progressive Youth Association (IGD) was condemned to life-prison and four others up to 10 years. In Gölcük, 8 persons were condemned to prison terms up to 10 years and 8 months.

29.7: In Istanbul a member of Dev-Yol was condemned to 13-year prison term.

30.7: In Gölcük, 10 members of the TKP/ML were condemned to 16 years and 8 members of Dev-Sol up to 10 years.

NEW EXECUTIONS

On June 6, 1983, two right-wing activists, Selçuk Duracık and Halil Esengög were executed in the city prison by hanging. Thus, the total number of those who have been executed during the period of military rule rose to 37.

On the other hand, the Military Court of Cassation ratified on July 12, the death sentences for 13 persons who had been condemned for the Kahramanmaraş Massacre in 1979. The death sentences for 9 other accused were overruled by the higher court.

ARRESTS

2.6: 46 presumed members of the Revolutionary Communists' Union of Turkey (TEKB) were arrested in Istanbul. On the same day, in Adana, 22 persons were detained on the charge of taking part in a religious ritual of the sect of Nakshibendis.

5.6: It was announced that the security forces arrested 30 persons in the provinces of Agra and Kars.

8.6: 12 presumed members of the PKK were arrested in the provinces of Hatay and Gaziantep.

10.6: 10 presumed members of TIKB were arrested in Istanbul.

11.6: It was announced that 35 persons were detained in Izmir on the charge of taking part in terrorist acts.

12.6: Two British ornithologists, S. Abrecht and Dr. Euisson, were taken into custody in the district of Enez, on the charge of shooting photographs in a forbidden military area.

16.6: In Ankara, 42 persons were arrested for taking part in the activities of Dev-Yol and the Liberation.

17.6: In Adana, 5 presumed members of THKP/C were arrested.

29.6: In Mugla, four presumed members of Dev-Yol were detained.

6.7: In Aydin, five persons were detained during a religious ritual of the sect of Nur.

9.7: In Corum, 68 persons were arrested on the charge of working for the TDKP.

13.7: In Istanbul, 39 presumed members of the Liberation were detained.

24.7: A 13-person cell of THKP/C was reportedly captured in Ankara.

 INTELLECTUAL LIFE

NEW PRESS LAW

Last June, the Council of Ministers of Turkey has approved the new press law, which comprises many provisions raising serious fears in Turkish press circles. These are a few of them:

- prison terms for press offences which may be imposed to journalists and chief editors are much heavier than before.

- chief editors and journalists may be prosecuted because of non-published documents;

- the indefinite concept of "secret information" is abundantly used;

- the prosecutor may call for the ban or the seizure of any publication which has allegedly infringed any of the 23 articles of the Turkish Penal code, dealing with opinion offences and interference in State security and integrity. He is also authorized to confiscate and seize all the facilities owned by an editor. In both cases, the prosecutor's decisions are liable to reconsideration, but the editors fear that this provision may enable to stop and search lorries transporting newspapers, and may make owners of printing houses feel forced to resort to censorship;

- the collective Press Court will be suppressed and replaced by only one judge;

- the responsible editor, i.e. the staff member of responsible for the newspaper, will be entrusted with more important responsibilities. "As far as information, photographs or cartoons are concerned, whose author is not clearly indicated, the responsibility is incumbent upon the responsible editor". Prison terms will penalize numerous offences and the possibility of changing them into fines is restricted;

- in order to become a newspaper's responsible editor, one has to meet the same conditions as those required for being a deputy in Parliament: one should be older than 30 years, one must not have been sentenced to a prison term of more than one year, one must never have been sentenced for offences relating to the disclosure of State secrets, to the involvement

in ideological or anarchic activities, and to the incitement or encouragement to similar activities..., even if the offence has been forgiven.

On 29 June, the International Federation of Journalists addressed itself to general Evren, expressing its deep concern on the violation of both trade unions and press freedom in Turkey, as well as on the new press law.

UPI CORRESPONDENT BEATEN UP

According to the International Journalists' Federation, Turkish citizens working for Western papers or news agencies are put under growing pressure by the Turkish authorities. Some of them received warnings relating to their articles, others were beaten up by police and threatened.

Since 1979, Ismet Inset has been working as a reporter at the UPI desk in Ankara. In February 1983, UPI headquarters in New York proposed to him to go and work at the UPI desk in London, but he had not a passport. It should be pointed out that he had been writing many detailed and revealing articles on the current military regime and, in particular, on human rights in Turkey. Just as some other journalists, he had been warned in connection with his articles.

When he asked for his passport last March, he was asked to go to his birth-place, Istanbul, "in order to comply with certain formalities". When he reported himself to the Gayrettepe police station in Istanbul on 16 March, he was arrested on the spot. Blindfolded, he was beaten up as he was questioned. He was released after an important personality had intervened in his favour, but he is forbidden to leave the country and lives currently in permanent dread of the political police.

In a letter of July 1st to general Evren, the International Journalists' Federation expressed its indignation on the incomprehensible harassment imposed to colleague Inset and urged that effective orders should be given as to make sure that his passport will be returned to him.

-REPRESSION ABROAD-

TWO EDITORS OF INFO-TURK DEPRIVED OF TURKISH NATIONALITY

On July 8, 1983, the Turkish government decreed to deprive 26 persons of Turkish nationality. Among them are also two editors of Info-Türk, Mr Dogan Ozguden and Mrs Inci Tugsavul and two famous Turkish musicians, Mrs Melike Demirag and Mr Sanar Yurdatapan.

At the end of 1982, the Turkish Government announced that Mr Ozguden and Mrs Tugsavul would have to return to Turkey until December 31 and to surrender to military authorities. This appeal accused two journalists of carrying out activities against the Turkish State abroad. They refused to return and give up themselves.

The new decree announced also that the properties of those who were deprived of nationality would be confiscated by the State.

According to information given by the Turkish authorities, since the military coup of September 12, 1980, 1,229 Turkish citizens abroad have been ordered to return to Turkey, but only 58 of them have given up themselves. 15 persons have been apprehended by the security forces as they were trying to flee from Turkey. The proceedings against 113 persons were stopped on the ground that their "innocence" was noticed later on.

Among the accused, 33 persons have been stripped of Turkish nationality. The proceedings against 1,005 persons are still being carried on by the authorities.

Among those who lost Turkish nationality, only Mrs Behice Boran, Chairwoman of the Workers' Party of Turkey (TIP), appealed to the Council of State for the annulment of the decision, but the court refused the appeal.

Another governmental decree dated June 11 announced that all writings or other artistic works of those who have been deprived of nationality were declared "banned". Whosoever keeps or distributes these writings or works will be subjected to legal proceedings. So, all works of the prize-winner Turkish film director Yilmaz Guney have been banned in Turkey.

PRESS CASES

16.6: Responsible editor of the review Partizan, closed down after the military coup, was condemned to a 9-month prison term by a military court of Istanbul.

30.6: For five different articles appeared in the review Halkın Eirligi prior to the military coup, the responsible editor Güzel Aslaner was condemned a 31-year prison term in total by a military court.

30.6: The military prosecutor of Istanbul opened a legal proceeding against Hayati Asilyazıcı, responsible editor of the Weekly Sonut for insulting the government in an article. He risks a 10-year prison term.

28.7: The military prosecutor of Istanbul launched an investigation against editorialist Metin Tokar and responsible editor Dogan Neper for having infringed a decree of the military junta in an article appeared in the daily Milliyet.

BANS AND CONFISCATIONS

9.6: The publication of the weekly Yankı was forbidden by the Martial Law Command of Istanbul.

11.6: The latest issue of the weekly Hayat was confiscated on the order of the military for having published on cover photos of the former premier Demirel.

19.6: The Ministerial Council announced that the introduction into Turkey of 27 periodicals edited abroad was forbidden.

25.6: The National Education Ministry banned the introduction of the periodical Kemalist Atılım into the schools.

26.7: Distribution and selling of the collected poems by the poet Osman Niyemak was forbidden in Izmir by the martial law command.

LIQUIDATION IN UNIVERSITIES

Martial law authorities continue to liquidate or progressive university professors. Dr Nurkut Inan of the Law Faculty and Dr Mersin Cran of the Political

Sciences Faculty of Ankara University were dismissed from their posts respectively on June 17 and July 26.

Besides, 258 lecturers charged in the universities of Marmara in Istanbul and Uludag in Bursa were dismissed and transferred to lower education institutions.

CASE OF CEMAL ALTUN

According to the West-German newspaper Die Tageszeitung of 21 June, the Court of Appeal of West-Berlin has decided that Cemal Kemal Altun is to be held in jail for extradition, although a few days before the right to political asylum had been recognized to him.

Kemal Cemal Altun, whose extradition has been demanded by the Turkish authorities for the reason that he allegedly took part in the murder in 1980 of a former far-rightist minister, lives for two years in the FRG. Out of these two years, Altun has already spent one year in prison. For what reason is Altun shortly to keep his first "anniversary" in prison? Legally it is inconceivable, since, as a result of thousands of protest telegrams and solidarity statements by well-known personalities and organizations, his extradition was cancelled in march, at the very moment when the plane bound for Turkey was taking off. Among those who intervened in favour of Altun, was e.g. the chairman of the European Parliament, the SPD deputies in the West-German Parliament, many CSU deputies, as well as the chairman of the Peasants' Union. The Altun case was publicized through the Press, the West-German government which as late as a few months before approved of the demand of extradition made by its Turkish partner, backed out of this awkward situation and postponed its decision.

The Berlin Court of Appeal however did not consider it a sound reason for terminating Altun's detention aiming at extraditing him. "Extraditing the accused to the Republic of Turkey for criminal prosecution is allowable. The defendant's confinement ending in his extradition is to be continued". This pithy phrase is in the Court's judgment relating to the examination of the grounds of his confinement. According to the Court of Appeal, "there are not sufficient

reasons to presume that the defendant could suffer any political repression whatsoever in Turkey".

And yet, early in June, the highest authority for the recognition of political refugees, the Federal Office at Zirndorf, has finally reached a quite different decision: after a 2-years' examination of the file, it took for granted that in Turkey Altun would quite probably be exposed to political repression, and therefore recognized to him the right to political asylum.

In spite of this decision, by reason of the position taken by the Court of Appeal, Altun's release depends on the West-German government who is undergoing pressure from the Turkish government, on the one hand, and from the European democratic circles, on the other hand. With regard to this awkward situation, the federal government decided to postpone any action. In answer to criticism by those who assert that it is not possible to hold anybody indefinitely in jail without trial, the official who is charged with this case at the Federal Ministry of Justice, merely observes: "Why would this not be possible?"

IMMIGRATION

1.6: The Conservative-led Bonn Government has at last made public its plan forcing Turkish workers to go back to homeland. According to the new plan, forcing workers from non-EEC countries who lose their jobs through bankruptcies or firm closures, or who have been on short time for more than six months, can apply for a "return premium" of DM 10,500 plus DM 1,500 for each child which arrived in Germany before June of this year.

2.6: In Altona, FRG, a Turkish shop was set on fire by unidentified persons.

7.6: In Hüttenheim, FRG, a 19-year old Turkish girl, has committed suicide by hanging herself as a result of depression.

12.6: In Hannover, the local of a Turkish football club was set on fire by a Neo-Nazi group. Leaving the local, they also painted swastika on the walls.

19.6: In Schwäbisch-Gmünd, FRG, a 14-year old Turkish boy, Hülseyin Yılmaz was found hanged.

21.6: A pro-Turkish demonstration in West Berlin ended with scores of people injured and 203 arrested. The demonstrators were protesting against an earlier rally by right-wingers opposed to Turkish migrant workers and squatters occupying abandoned buildings.

22.6: In Copenhagen, a 32-year old Turkish worker, Osman Polat was beaten to death by the police during his detention. Polat, father of five children, had been in Denmark for thirteen years as a chemical worker. Thereupon, the Turkish community held a demonstration for protesting against police violence.

22.6: In Rotterdam, a Turkish group was attacked by a racist gang when they were leaving a Turkish mosque. Two Turks, Yasar Kaygisiz and Mehmet Zor were seriously wounded.

26.6: In Hannover, it was reported that a Turkish worker named Ahmet Emin Oztürk disappeared for three months.

OTHER CASES

11.7: An application for political asylum made by four Turkish citizens, was rejected by the Canadian authorities.

23.7: During the visit to Turkey of the Federal Home Office Minister, Mr Zimmermann, the Turkish government gave him a list with 150 names of persons whose extradition is being asked for.

27.7: According to the Greek daily Eleftherotypia, thirteen Turkish refugees were arrested by police in Krya Vrysa Pellas, after leaving the refugees camp at Lavrio in order to get a job. Among them there is also a young woman. Most of them are students, members of Revolutionary Way (Dev-Yol). After their arrest they stated: "We have come here to work. We are bored with being held in the Lavrio camp. We ask for a permit, but they will not give it to us. Twice a day we get food and the Red-Cross gives us clothes. But no job, nothing at all... For us, a job is something quite vital..."

2.7: In Gueret, France, a dwelling habited by Turkish workers was attacked by a racist group. It was reported that one of the assailants was in the service of gendarmerie. They fired a volley when the inhabitants were inside.

4.7: In Frankfurt, the German police raided a Turkish mosque on the complaints of the neighbours.

8.7: In Kempten, FRG, a Turkish shop was set on fire by unidentified persons.

9.7: In Gütersloh, FRG, a Turkish worker, Aziz Oktay, coming home from his work, found his wife stabbed dead in their sleeping room. On the same day, in Berlin, a Turkish football player, Ahmet Avar was attacked by a group of German youngsters and gravely wounded.

11.7: In Aachen, FRG, a Turkish worker named Izzet Baykal was killed by the explosion of a parcel that he received by post.

22.7: In Istanbul, a Turkish citizen, Abdullah Altunbas committed suicide in front of the Consulate of the FRG for protesting against the discriminating policy of the German authorities. After having worked for twelve years in the FRG, Altunbas had returned a year ago to Turkey while his family remained there. Recently, he applied to the German Consulate for joining his family, but the authorities denied him an entrance visa.

28.7: In Rhydt, FRG, a house inhabited by eight Turkish families was set on fire by unknown persons. On the next day, in Ahlen, the house of a Turkish family was set on fire while the inhabitants were in Turkey for holiday.

29.7: In Offenbach, FRG, a 43-year old Turkish worker, Asım Ates who had attempted to commit suicide six months ago died in a hospital. He had burned himself for protesting against racist pressure on the Turkish community.