

October 28, 1987

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Dear friends,

We want to inform you about a very important step of ours in regard with the workers' and trade-union movement of Turkey. As you know, on October 7, 1987, at an international press conference in Brussels, it was declared that our parties, the Workers' Party of Turkey and the Communist Party of Turkey who are forces to work illegally, are going to unite and to found the United Communist Party of Turkey (UCPT). Now, as the general secretaries of these parties, we are going to return to Turkey from abroad where we live as political refugees in order to start the work of the UCPT in Turkey legally.

We regard this step as a historical task under the conditions where efforts are made in order to institutionalize an anti-democratic, authoritarian regime in Turkey which restricts the rights of the working class and its trade unions extremely and where the ban on the communist movement continues through the paragraphs 141 and 142 of the Turkish Penal Code. Indeed, as long as the legality of the communist movement is not guaranteed, Turkey can not free itself from the spiral of restricted democracy-political crisis-military coup d'etat-again restricted democracy. The legality of the communist movement is a very important chain in order to break this vicious circle which works against the working class and the trade unions. Secondly, the ban on the communist movement creates continuously a situation which is convenient for attacks on the rights of the working class and trade unions, prevents the free work of the trade unions and makes it for the front of the big and monopoly capital possible to weaken and split the workers' organisations and trade unions.

Therefore, we are returning to Turkey in order to make the legal applications for the legal work of the UCPT. We take also into account that the Özal government could force a political party who wants to work legally again to illegality with methods of the period of the cold war and use any kind of repression, including arrests.

In all cases, we shall not move back and wage the struggle until the full achievement of legal work for the UCPT.

Considering your sensitivity for the rights of the working class and trade unions in Turkey and your solidarity with DİSK we are sure that you will also support this struggle of ours.

The UCPT pays a great attention to the struggle waged for thwarting the policy of the big and monopoly capital to interfere

into the internal affairs of the trade unions, to attack them continuously, to weaken and split the trade union movement. According to the UCPT this aim can be achieved only by the unity of workers with different political views, concrete steps on the basis of free trade unionism, trade union unity and democracy in the trade unions, and by preventing the trade union movement from being a sphere where various political forces clash against each other for hegemony.

Every support to us, each action of solidarity with us means at the same time strengthening of this struggle.

We wish you great success in your work.

Nihat Sargin

General Secretary
Workers' Party of Turkey

Haydar Kutlu

General Secretary
Communist Party of Turkey



PS: For any kind of information, please contact:

Dr. Ali Söylemezoğlu

Information Centre: Moltkestr. 45-4100 Duisburg, W. Germany.

Telex: 855367 inmed d- Tel: 0203/ 340395 1 338948