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Sir,

I had the pleasure of recently sending you a series of documents concerning different items on the agenda of the 41st session of the UN Human Rights Commission.

Following the consultations held with our permanent representative in Geneva, we have duly taken note of your suggestions. Consequently, I kindly request you to present our allegations relating to Turkey in conformity with Resolution 1503 (XLVIII) of the Economic and Social Council.

In the hope that you will soon take the steps necessary to provide a follow-up to our request and thanking you in advance for your friendly co-operation,

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

Ibrahim Z a k a r i a
General Secretary

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

Department for Relations with the United Nations

Some recent facts on violation of the fundamental human rights in
Turkey

(For the 41st session of the UN Human Rights Commission)

Prague, January 1985





16 December: in Ankara, two former Republican People's Party (CHP) deputies, Temel Ates and Ertugrul Günay were condemned to 3 years' imprisonment, each by a military court. They will also be kept during one year under house arrest.

On the same day, the trial of 64 officials of the Metal Workers' Union (Maden-İs), affiliated to DISK, started before the military court in Istanbul.

On the other hand, the trial of 54 officials of the Printers' Union (Basin-İs), affiliated to DISK, was merged with the DISK trial. Thus, the total number of defendants at the DISK trial rose to 139, 74 of whom risk the death penalty. 40 out of 85 DISK defendants are being tried under arrest, whereas 44 others are without restraint and one accused is still at large.

15 December: in Istanbul, a new suit was filed against four officials of the Popular House of Bakirköy on the charge of communist propaganda.

16 December: in Izmir, nine persons were brought before a court on the charge of communist activities.

29 December: in Ankara, the former secretary general of SODEP, Oktay Eksi, was questioned by the military prosecutor for declaring prior to the elections that he would not vote.

2 December: the 2nd Army Command announced that 795 persons were still tracked by the military forces in the South-eastern area and that 76 persons had been arrested over the past three months in the region of Malatya.

24 December: in Istanbul, Hayati Asilyazici, responsible editor of the art review Sonut, and Erol Toy, publisher of the same periodical, were condemned to 16 months' imprisonment, each for an article proposing a general amnesty on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic.

27 December : the famous poet and translator Can Yücel was included in the trial of the 18 leading members of the Turkish Writers' Union (TYS). The military prosecutor demanded prison terms up to 15 years for each of the defendants who are accused of having turned the Union into a clandestine organisation.

30 December: poet Ahmet Telli was jailed in Ankara for serving a 35-day prison term.

Seven famous actors of the Istanbul Municipal Theater were fired on December 24 by the theater's administration by order of the Istanbul Martial

Law Command. Aliye Uzunatagan, Avni Yalçın, Oben Güney, Cetin Ipekkaya, Taner Barlas, Savas Dinçel and Aslan Kaçar who took a leading part in seven different plays staged by the municipal theaters, are considered "dangerous" for cultural life by the military.



After all books and periodicals considered "dangerous" by the military had been seized and destroyed, for the first time in Turkey's cultural life a TV-film was burnt up by order of the General Director of the Turkish Radio-TV Corporation. In fact, this film entitled "Tired Fighter" had been shot by movie director Halit Refig on a novel of the famous author Kemal Tahir, who interpreted the National Liberation War in a different way from the official interpretation. The shooting of this film had been ordered by the former general director of the Radio-TV Corporation. The present general director who ordered that the film be burnt up, is a retired army general, who had been appointed to this post following the military coup.

The detainees of Diyarbakir military prison (south east of Turkey), most of whom are Kurdish militants, went in early January on a hunger-strike to protest against their conditions of confinement as well as torture. This action of resistance, marked by incidents which ended with several people dying.

On January 25, the military court of the Istanbul Martial Law Command condemned 102 defendants of the trial of the Workers' Party of Turkey (TIP) to prison terms up to 12 years. Four members of the Central Committee of the party were given 12-years imprisonment each, while 10 others were condemned to 8 years and the remaining 88 to 5 years.

While the trials of the trade union officials affiliated to DISK were being merged with the principal trial of DISK, the military prosecutor of Istanbul continued to file new suits against others.

The trials of 16 officials of the Progressive Metal Workers' Union (Dev-Maden-Sen) and of 13 officials of the Movie industry Employees' Union (Sine-Sen) started respectively on January 3 and 5 before military tribunals. The defendants risk prison terms up to 20 years.

On the other hand, the number of defendants at the trial of the Petro-Chemical Workers' Union (Pet-kim-Is) rose to 87 with 10 additional ones.

3 January: in Istanbul, 6 persons accused of making propaganda for boycotting the general election of November 6.

On January 4, during a combing operation in Istanbul, special teams shot dead a Dev-Yol militant, Gökalp Ciftcioglu, and arrested 35 others.

Nazim Hikmet, the most distinguished Turkish poet in the world who died 20 years ago in exile, is wanted by the Turkish authorities.

By order of the public prosecutor, a police court in Ankara decided the confiscation of a collection of Nazim Hikmet's poems, entitled "Greeting to the Working Class of Turkey", and issued a warrant for summoning the author before the court. The poet is accused of having made propaganda to destroy the nation's unity and integrity.

The Istanbul Martial Law Command ordered on January 30 a ban on the publication and distribution of the monthly review Somut. The review, published by the Cooperative of Turkish Writers, is accused of not complying with the martial law orders.

The daily Cumhuriyet of January 22 reported that 118,000 books published between 1972 and 1979 by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs were still kept in bond since the military coup. They were reportedly confiscated by order of martial law commanders claiming that they contained harmful propaganda. For three years the military prosecutor has been holding an inquiry into this with the view of filing a suit against the authors of these books.

The Istanbul Martial Law Command announced on February 4 that, in the course of January, seven persons had been condemned by military tribunals on the charge of "making communist propaganda through publications": Remzi Küçükarslan to 23 years, Muhittin Göktas to 7.5 years, Mehmet Sahin Ozkök to 5.5 years, Mustafa Tütüncübasi to 15 years, Osman Tas to 21 years, Abdullah Bulut to 6 years and Nevzat Acan to 11 years.

After two months of hunger-strikes in Turkish prisons, in protest against ill treatment, two political detainees have died, while three others are in a coma. This information given by relatives of the prisoners, has reached the foreign press, despite intimidation attempts by the military junta; but General Evren ordered the Turkish press not to refer to it.

Abdullah Meral, a former militant of Dev-Sol (revolutionary Left) whose death was reported on June 15, had been brought to a hospital in early June, along with 14 other hunger-strikers.

And on June 17, it was Mehmet Fatih Oktulmus's friends who announced that the latter had just died. Oktulmus was a militant of a left-wing





organisation, TIKB. Both died at Istanbul military hospital.

Early this year, similar hunger-strikes which occurred in the prisons of Ankara and Diyarbakir, resulted in the death of eleven detainees.

The military prosecutors of Istanbul Martial Law Command have taken new legal action against trade union leaders. Meanwhile, the number of defendants at the main DISK trial who are liable to the death sentence, has risen to 76. Those who have been included in the DISK trial and who are under threat of the death sentence are well known Turkish painter Orhan Taylan and Chairman of the Public Works Union (Baysen) Cevat Ozhasirci.

Besides, of the trade union trials which are being held before military tribunals, three were extended with the addition of new defendants: 5 persons to the Yeni Haber-Is, 6 to the Sine-Sen and 14 to the Baysen trial. All defendants risk prison terms up to 20 years.

23 May: in Istanbul, 10 former members of the Board of Istanbul Bar Association were charged with breaking the law on Bar Association. They are accused of failing to deny former Chairman of the Bar Association Mr. Orhan Apaydin the right to exercise the profession of attorney, following his arrest in connection with the Turkish Peace Committee trial.

On May 8, Turkish singer Rahmi Saltuk, after performing at a concert more songs than scheduled in the programme previously submitted to the military authorities, was sentenced to 3 months imprisonment, commuted into a fine.

Three days later, Ahmet Tastan, responsible editor of the monthly review Urün, banned by the military, was condemned to 18 months in prison for having praised communism.

At the end of May, the military prosecutor in Istanbul filed a new suit against ex-ambassador Mahmut Dikerdem for a press release of the Turkish Peace Committee in 1980. He is accused of having involved the committee in politics by the publication. Dikerdem, Chairman of the Turkish Peace Committee has already been condemned to a 8-year prison term and is under treatment in a hospital.

On May 29, in Ankara, 45 primary school teachers were condemned to a 2-month prison term and a 1,500 TL fine each for having participated in a boycott action in protest against the Massacre of Kahramanmaraş in 1978.

In Izmir, Professor Oguz Makal was dismissed from his academic post at the Fine Arts Faculty by the Rector of the 9th September University without any reason put forward.



The Association of Contemporary Journalists (CGD), in Ankara, has recently published a bulky document concerning the state of press freedom in Turkey between March 12 , 1980 and March 12, 1984. According to this report, in the course of the past 4-year period, Turkish journalists have been condemned to prison terms totaling 316 years, four months and 20 days. This number does not include sentences passed on journalists who are accused of being involved in political actions. Over the same period, martial law commanders have ordered 41 times the banning of newspapers for a definite or indefinite time.

The responsible editor of the daily Cumhuriyet, Okay Gönensin, and correspondent Yalçın Doğan were both condemned on July 12 by a press court in Ankara to one month in prison for having published the bill of indictment against the Nationalist Action Party (MHP) before the opening of the trial of this neo-fascist organisation.

On the other hand, on July 18, Okay Gönensin and Müserref Hekimoğlu, respectively responsible editor and columnist of the daily Cumhuriyet were brought before a military tribunal of Ankara region for having published an article concerning "Memed, My Hawk", a film recently made by Peter Ustinov adapted from Turkish author Yashar Kemal's renowned novel. The shooting of this film in Turkey had been banned by the military government and Ustinov had been forced to make it in Yugoslavia.

According to the daily Milliyet of July 8, the Interior Ministry has recently banned the showing of 937 films shot in Turkey or abroad. This measure has been extended to video-cassettes of the same films as well. Among them are also the films directed by Cannes prize winner Yılmaz Güney and played by the renowned singers Melike Demirağ and Cem Karaca, all of them stripped of Turkish nationality.

The Military Court of Martial Law Command in Istanbul decided to combine four other union cases with the DISK Trial, bringing the total number of defendants to 474,76 of whom are facing the death sentence. The court, after turning down once more the request of release submitted by DISK Chairman Abdullah Bastürk and seven other executive members, adjourned the trial until August.

The trade unions of which the cases have been combined with the DISK Trial are Tmka-Is (Door-keepers' Union), Banksen (Bank Employees' Union), Tekstil (Textil Workers' Union) and Maden-Is (Metal Workers' Union).

11 June: in Istanbul, against 140 presumed members of Dev-Sol, 47 of whom are facing death sentence. So, the number of Dev-Sol defendants being tried by the same court rose to 1,254 and the number of those who are liable to the death sentence to 404.

28 June: in Istanbul, against 63 presumed members of Dev-Yol. The military prosecutor demanded the death sentence for 10 defendants.

9 June: in Denizli, 23 people were taken into custody by security forces on the charge of having attempted to reorganise Dev-Yol in that area. One of them, Mehmet Ali Sagit was shot dead.

10 June: in Tokat, two presumed militants of Dev-Yol, Ali Gms and Ayhan Gkvelioglu were shot to death by the security forces.

24 June, security forces killed three persons and wounded one in a shoot-out in the Black Sea coastal village Unye, the state radio reported. Two other persons were arrested in the operation on June 21. The victims of this bloody operation were identified as Habil Irgl, Necmettin Karaglle and Ibrahim Levent.

24 July, the military authorities announced that during a police operation in Ankara, 3,819 suspects had been rounded up. 7 of them had been tracked for a long time for their political activities.

27 July, in Diyarbakir, two women, Sidika Can and Saliha Sener, were arrested for having requested Premier Ozal, during his visit to this city, to amnesty their sons who are in prison for a political case.

According to the daily Milliyet of September 21, since the military coup, with the aim of "enforcing law and order":

- The security forces have taken into custody 178,565 persons for preliminary investigation.

- Among them 64,505 persons who have been arrested as a result of a court warrant and kept in prison for their trial, the others being released after a 90-day detention.

- Out of this number, 41,727 have already been condemned for political reasons.



- The military courts have also sentenced 326 persons to death for their political actions, 25 of whom have already been executed.

As for the death sentences demanded in political trials, their number has increased by 231 in the course of the 4th year of repression, reaching 6,584. The distribution by organisation of the fresh demands for death sentences is as follows:

DEV-YOL (Revolutionary Path):85, DEV-SOL (Revolutionary Left): 47, Liberation (Kurtulus): 20, DISK:8, KUK: 5, TKP-ML: 1, Others: 65.

According to the daily Hürriyet of April 24, 1984, by that time 233,645 people were still wanted by the security forces, 18,695 out of whom are indicted for their political actions or opinions.

At the trial of the 56 intellectuals, one of the defendants, Aziz Nesin, told the Court that he was delighted that this trial will enable the intellectuals to defend their action. At the opening session of this trial, foreign journalists have been barred, although Ankara Martial Law Command had before pledged to allow them.

As the 23 members of the Turkish Peace Committee, who were already condemned to heavy prison terms, are being tried again by a military court in Istanbul following a decision of the Military Court of Cassation, 48 other members of the same organisation have been indicted by a military prosecutor on charges of attempting to stage a communist revolution in Turkey. It is reported that they also face prison terms ranging from five to fifteen years if convicted. Among those who have been indicated are also Aziz Nesin, renowned Turkish humorist and chairman of the Turkish Writers' Union (TYS), movie actors Tarik Akan and Genco Erkal, former Members of Parliament Metin Tüzün and Ertugrul Günay, university professor Sadun Aren as well as several journalists, lawyers and doctors.

After the release of the main DISK leaders, the military prosecutor of Istanbul Martial Law Command began to join all trade union cases to the trial of DISK. Thus, the total number of defendants rose to 896. Among the new defendants are also two members of the Administrative Board of DISK, Hüseyin Fuat Pinarbasi and Mülayin Güdücü, who face capital punishment. So, the number of DISK leaders facing the death sentence rose to 78.

In Istanbul, famous popular singer Erol Büyükburç was indicated on September 19 by the military prosecutor on the charge of slandering the



Armed Forces. He faces one year in jail.

In Zonguldak, on September 22, Mrs. Ayse Uzundurukan, columnist of the newspaper Inanis, was condemned to 3 months and 18 days imprisonment for insulting a public prosecutor in her article.

Over the first ten months of this year, Turkish military authorities have arrested 26,295 people for alleged "terrorist activities". These figures were issued by Interior Minister Yildirim Akbulut on November 24.

As a result of the Istanbul Military Prosecutor's decision to join all the trials of DISK-affiliated trade unions to the main DISK trial (Confederation of Progressive Trade Unions of Turkey), the total number of defendants was brought to 1,565. Notwithstanding that the main DISK leaders have been conditionally released, 78 of them still face the death penalty.

On October 22, the bimonthly review Yeni Gündem was prohibited from publishing and circulating on account of an interview with humorist Aziz Nesin, the main figure in the trial of the intellectuals.

On October 26, the Military Prosecutor instituted proceedings against the three-member editorial board of Video-Sinema, Onat Kutlar, Mahmut Tali Ongören and Jülide Ergüder, for publishing articles about Yilmaz Güney, the famous filmmaker who recently died in Paris.

