

NEWS BULLETIN

International News Bulletin of the Workers' Party (Turkey) No: 2-August 2011

Dear All,

This News Bulletin of Workers' Party (Turkey) that you will find below is concerned with the Syrian issue.

When the threats involving a military intervention against Syria began to sharpen in June, Workers' Party called for a mass meeting in Hatay on June 25, 2011. Below is a summary of the declaration in the call for the meeting:

“What is happening in Syria today is a rehearsal of what will happen in Turkey tomorrow. Defending Syria means defending the unity and security of Turkey. Every effort is being spent to drag Turkey to the forefront of a new Crusade against Syria. Tayyip Erdogan - the Co-President of the Greater Middle East Project in Turkey - is trying to implement a sneaky plot with the aim of bringing a CIA agent to power in Damascus, which is one of the most important centers of the 1000-year-old Islamic civilization.”

The mass demonstration Workers' Party called for was prohibited by Erdogan administration in an entirely unlawful fashion. Workers' Party yet continued with its plans to reach a friendly hand from the Turkish people to the Syrian people and held a “mass press declaration” instead of the prohibited mass meeting in the same place. In this issue of our News Bulletin, you will find an evaluation of the situation before and after this event made by Mehmet Bedri Gultekin, the Vice-Chair of Workers' Party.

The Syrian-Turkish Solidarity Symposium – organized by Workers' Party National Strategy Center – was held in Ankara on 23 July 2011, with the participation of representatives of different political parties and circles, academicians, journalists and representatives of mass organizations from Syria and Turkey. This issue of the News Bulletin includes the Symposium Participants List as well as its Final Declaration unanimously approved by all the participants.

The final item in this issue is the press statement of Workers' Party made by its Vice-Chair on 09 August 2011, which also contains an overall analysis of the most recent developments in our region.

With best regards and friendly greetings.

International Relations Bureau
Workers' Party (Turkey)

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An evaluation of the Hatay Meeting of Workers' Party (Turkey) made by Vice-Chair Mehmet Bedri Gültekin on June 27, 2011:

Workers' Party decided to organize a mass meeting in Hatay right after the general elections in Turkey, in order to reach the hand of friendship on behalf of the Turkish nation to our friend and fellow country Syria, which is presently at the target of imperialistic plots.

History will record this Hatay meeting organized by Workers' Party as a proud page for our nation in the future.

The AKP (Adalet ve Kalkınma Partisi - Justice and Development Party) government is shamelessly engaged in hostile activities against Syria as a battering ram of American imperialism.

The main opposition parties CHP (Cumhuriyet Halk Partisi - Republican People's Party) and MHP (Milliyetçi Hareket Partisi - National Movement Party) in the Assembly have not raised the least objection to those activities by now. It is as if what is going on in Syria were not lived in a neighboring country, it is as if AKP were not involved in every event lived in Syria as a battering ram of imperialism. According to them, it is as if all these developments were taking place on some other planet.

The reason for this is that CHP and also MHP very well know that all the events going on in Syria are the activities of the Western imperialism headed by the USA. When the hands of America and Europe are in, CHP and MHP stay speechless.

That is why the meeting in Hatay organized by Workers' Party is of historical importance. It is an event that our entire nation can rightly be proud of.

The Prohibition of the Meeting

The decision of Workers' Party to hold a mass meeting was met with a very positive response within the people of Hatay. It was clear that people from the city center of Antakya and other towns around would attend the meeting in masses.

The AKP government was spending every effort to shape the public opinion against Syria by using the people who were forced to migrate from Syria and settled in refugee camps that had been prepared including the infrastructure before even the first "immigrants" came. Such a mass meeting would render all those efforts vacuous.

Even the propaganda made through Angelina Jolie would turn out to be useless.

Thus, instructions were given to the governorship of Hatay. The legal demonstration and meeting of Workers' Party got forbidden.

The governorship was not content with that. It sent written instructions to the municipalities. The municipalities' loudspeakers announced several times during the day that the meeting of Workers' Party had been forbidden by the governorship.

The same prohibition decision was broadcasted by the radios in Antakya.

It was the governorship who formally forbade the meeting, but decision actually belonged to AKP administration.

Tayyip Erdoğan saw that the people of Hatay would condemn his hostile policies against Syria by participating in the meeting in masses. Thus, he did not hesitate to violate the law and decided to forbid the meeting unlawfully.

Mass Press Announcement

Thereupon, Workers' Party announced that it would declare its views with a mass press announcement on the same day and at the same hour.

On the 25th of June, about 2000 citizens came together in front of the Province branch of Workers' Party. Despite the obstacles, beside the 600 intellectuals from every part of Turkey, more than 1000 people from Hatay were there.

The very fact that 2000 people came together in front of the Workers' Party building in spite of the propaganda about the prohibition of the meeting and the rumors propagated that during the mass press announcement “undesirable things might happen”, shows that the worry of AKP was not unfounded.

Many intellectuals from Syria had announced in advance that they would come to Turkey to participate in the press announcement.

A group of nearly 200 persons from Syria were stopped at the border check-point. A group of 50 persons, who entered Turkey from a different border gate, was detained in the city centre of Antakya; they were taken to the police office and then were deported. These Syrian patriots were carrying flags of Syria and Turkey, Atatürk posters and banners stating the friendship of the two countries and peoples.

That exactly was the reason why they were deported by the AKP government.

An Historical Warning

From the very beginning of conspiracies against Syria, we have been saying that “Turkey is being undermined.”

Let us remember the following news:

- Turkish truck drivers travelling in Syria said that “the attitude of the Syrian people towards them had been changed, that children were throwing stones at them and that they could barely buy fuel for their trucks.”

- Iran announced that “Syria is a red line for them” and if an attack to Syria takes place, it would attack US targets located in Turkey.

- Russia and China had released in different ways that no UN resolution will come out on Syria, unlike the previous examples of Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya.

- And more importantly than all, accompanying the developments in Syria, with the Kurdish question being on top, the social and politic fault lines in Turkey started to move. All this shows that we are being dragged by AKP towards a position, where there is nothing good for Turkey.

Therefore, the event organized in Hatay by Workers' Party should also be regarded as a historical warning to everybody.

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SYRIAN-TURKISH SOLIDARITY SYMPOSIUM PARTICIPANTS LIST

Participants from Turkey:

- **Prof. Dr. Oya Akgönenç**
(Ufuk University - Former Parliamentarian)
- **Prof. Dr. Ümit Akkoyunlu**
(Chair of the Turkmen Advisory Council)
- **Dr. Züheyir Amber**
(Former Parliamentarian)
- **Mehmet Cengiz**
(Deputy Chair of the Workers' Party - Lawyer)
- **Bülent Esinoğlu**
(Deputy Chair of the Workers' Party - Chief of the Ankara Bureau of the National Strategy Center)
- **Mehmet Bedri Gültekin**
(Vice-Chair of the Workers' Party)
- **Erdoğan Karakuş**
(Retired General)
- **Prof. Dr. Semih Koray**
(Deputy Chair of the Workers' Party)
- **Prof. Dr. Hasan Ünal**
(Gazi University)
- **Prof. Dr. Mehmet Yuva**
(Damascus University)
- **İlker Yücel**
(Chair of the Turkish Youth Union)

Participants from Syria:

- **Dr. Bessam Abu-Abdullah**
(Damascus University - Diplomat)
- **Dr. Mikhael Awad**
(Syrian Communist Party)
- **Hamzeh Minzer**
(Kasyun Newspaper - Member of the National Dialog Council)
- **Safa Muhammed**
(ANB Television - Lebanon)
- **Miyas Yunus**
(Economist - Member of the Syria Youth Stair Movement)

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FINAL DECLARATION OF THE SYRIAN-TURKISH SOLIDARITY SYMPOSIUM

The Syrian-Turkish Solidarity Symposium organized by Workers' Party (Turkey) National Strategy Center was held at Ankara Business Park Hotel on 23 July 2011. University professors, representatives of political parties and mass organizations and journalists from Turkey and Syria participated in the symposium and discussed in their presentations issues concerning “Relations between Turkey and Syria”, “Military, Political and Regional Consequences of a Possible Military Intervention to Syria”, “What is Going on in Syria? - From the Eyes of Observers”. The participants have decided to make the following joint declaration to the public opinion.

Turkey and Syria, whose common civilization and cultural background go back into the depths of history, are presently faced with common threats. The source of these threats lies in the “Greater Middle East Project” of USA, who is trying to reshape the Middle East along its own interests, and the “Greater Israel Plan”, which comprises the core of GMEP. Today, Turkey's territorial integrity cannot be defended without defending Syria's territorial integrity, and Syria's territorial integrity cannot be defended without defending Turkey's territorial integrity.

Common threats are to be countered with common forces. US imperialism, which now is on a decline due to its military failures and the global economic crisis, has focused all its hopes on ethnic and religious separatism along with provoking hostility between our countries. Disinformation and falsified news that are being disseminated by Western-led news agencies concerning what is going on in Syria have thus reached incredible dimensions. We herewith invite all journalists, political parties, trade unions, professional chambers, administrators of mass organizations and whoever wishes, to visit Syria in order to see the naked reality with their own eyes, and we declare that we shall provide all kinds of assistance to that end. We firmly believe that our countries' peoples shall strengthen their solidarity and thereby render the plans of imperialism unsuccessful through their joint struggle.

The construction of a “West Asian Union” including Turkey, Syria and other countries in the region on the basis of “mutual respect to territorial integrity and sovereignty, non-aggression, non-interference into internal affairs, equality and mutual interest” and that will adopt the principle of “peaceful coexistence”, shall change the balance of forces in the world in favor of the Developing World and lead up the progression of humanity. For that purpose, in our symposium, it has been resolved that a “West Asia Union Congress” with an efficient and extensive participation of representatives from the other countries and peoples in the region shall be held next autumn.

We hereby declare to the public that we shall resolutely carry on our works and activities that will strengthen solidarity between our peoples for the purpose of building step by step such a union that will defuse the threats which are directed to our countries.

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Press Statement on the recent developments in our region made by Vice-Chair Mehmet Bedri Gültekin on 09 August, 2011:

THOSE WHO PROVOKE WAR AGAINST SYRIA ARE ACTUALLY FRAGMENTING TURKEY

For the last eight years, armed groups who infiltrate into Turkey from regions under the control of USA mine the roads, attack military stations, shoot unarmed public officials in the midst of cities during daytime in the Southeast.

The number of soldiers and civilians who were murdered during these attacks is above 1100. The AKP (Adalet ve Kalkınma Partisi - Justice and Development Party) did not raise its voice at all concerning these 1100 martyrs.

It has again been exactly eight years that the Turkish Armed Forces have not been allowed to carry out military operations beyond the border against these attacks, which target the territorial integrity and security of Turkey.

The only exception to this was the operation that was started in 2008, but had to be stopped half way due to the reaction of USA in collaboration with Tayyip Erdoğan.

Tayyip Erdoğan, who stayed absolutely silent in face of the attacks against his own country, is now talking loudly against Syria, saying that “our patience is coming to an end” along with the claim that civilians are being killed there.

Imperialist Activities Against Syria

Let us start by explicitly declaring that the policy of the AKP government against Syria has nothing to do with the interests of Turkey. The interests in question are the American interests. Now let us look at the facts:

- America and Europe are in the midst of a deep economic crisis. Paul Craig Roberts, a former American Deputy Treasury Minister, stated that the only way out of the crisis was to “launch a war”. A limited armed conflict as the one in Libya cannot provide a cure to this problem of imperialism. On the other hand, a war involving Turkey and Iran is to have a world-wide impact. The war machine upon which imperialist economies are based can only be revived by an armed conflict of such high dimensions.

- The ideal way of implementing such a plan is to make Turkey confront Syria and Iran. That is why internal conflicts have been organized in Syria, migration to Turkey has been urged and the imperialist lie-machinery has been mobilized against Syria. The JDP government played the main role in organizing these destructive activities.

- Countries collaborating with American imperialism as Soudi Arabia, Kuweyt, Qatar, Bahrein and United Arab Emirates have all been mobilized against Syria.

- In parallel with all this, Tayyip Erdoğan made the following statement: “Syria is an internal affair of ours. We reach the end of our patience.”

- And now, Davutoğlu – the Foreign Minister of the AKP Government- is going to Damascus today in order to convey the US Foreign Minister's message.

Turkey Belongs to the Oppressed World

Tayyip Erdoğan's statement that “Syria is an internal affair of ours” cannot be explained within the framework of international law.

Syria is an independent and sovereign country. “Non-interference with internal affairs” is the basic principle governing the relations between states. The imperialist states, however, having interests everywhere in the world, regard all countries' internal affairs as their own internal affairs and thus intervene with any country, whatsoever.

Turkey is not an imperialist country. Thus, Turkey's intervention with another country cannot originate from its own interests.

When Erdogan mentions intervention with Syria, his point of departure is not Turkish, but American interests.

The Country that is Being Targeted at is Actually Turkey

The country that is being targeted at through hostile activities against Syria is actually Turkey itself.

The main target of America's plans concerning our region is the expansion of the puppet state in Northern Iraq towards the Southeast and East of Turkey.

In case Turkey happens to start a war against Syria, it will find itself confronting Iran, the Arab World, Russia and China.

In case Turkey finds itself in conflict with all its friends, it will inevitably surrender to America's plans to fragment Turkey.

Thus, a war with Syria will pave the path Diyarbakir becoming the center of the Second Israel.

In fact, Tayyip Erdoğan had already declared in 2004 on Channel D that he would make Diyarbakir a center within the Greater Middle East Project as part of his duty of “co-chairing” the American plans concerning our region.

Tayyip Erdoğan is doing what he has been assigned under this duty.

The Consequence of the Regional Policy Followed by Erdoğan-Gül Administration is Economic Destruction

What are the economic consequences of this policy that are already being observed?

We do not even need to mention the loss of prestige of Turkey in the eyes of its neighbors and the oppressed countries of the world. This is the largest loss whose size cannot be measured in terms of material units.

Let us, however, consider the situation also in monetary terms, which we know to matter a lot for people as Tayyip Erdogan:

The volume of business of Turkish businessmen that had to be stopped in Libya amounts to 20 billion dollars. If one also takes into account that Libya is in the process of coping up with the imperialist aggression, the doors of Libya are now closed to Turkey.

Syria with a population of 23 million had recently become almost an integral part of the Turkish economy. Doubtlessly, Syria is to revise its relations with Turkey in view of the policies followed by AKP within the last few months.

It is for sure that the changes in our relations to Libya and Syria will also have a negative impact upon our relations with Iran and other countries in the region.

Under the present circumstances, where the West is going through a deep crisis, undermining Turkey's relations with other countries in the region is to end up with the largest damage to Turkey itself.

The AKP Rule is Actually Doing Enmity to Turkey Itself

Whoever lives in a house made of glass shall not throw stones to his neighbor's windows.

Turkey today is -with its Kurdish problem, social tensions, fragile economy- like a house made of glass.

The social and political fault lines of Syria have a continuation in Turkey as well.

Therefore, Syria's security is Turkey's security.

Syria's territorial integrity is Turkey's territorial integrity.

Syria's national unity is Turkey's national unity.

Therefore, hostility against Syria is hostility against Turkey. That is why Tayyip Erdoğan's enmity is actually directed against Turkey itself.

Those, who do this enmity to Turkey, shall be charged of the crimes they are committing in front of the nation and history.

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