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A RESPITE BREAK IN THE TAKSIM RESISTANCE

In the anti-government protest, continuing for nearly three weeks in several cities throughout Turkey despite the police attacks, a respite break is being given. But this break is not being given because of fear. This is only a temporary calmness. Because the AKP government knows that this calmness is only temporarily, it continues threatening and trying to suppress the people.

However, in the last days, the protests continued in several cities of Turkey as well as in the neighbourhoods of many cities, Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir being in the first place.

Yesterday, entire Turkey witnessed the general strike of KESK (Confederation of Public Sector Trade Unions), DISK (Confederation of Progressive Trade Unions of Turkey), TMMOB (Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects), TBB (Turkish Medical Association) and TDB (Turkish Dental Association). These trade unions and associations, with 800 thousand members in total, went on strike for one day, on the 17th of June, in order to protest the police attack on Gezi Park at the weekend.



These trade unions and associations also made protest demonstrations in several cities. The police attacked some of these.

“Standing Man” in Taksim Square



In the evening of the 17th of June, Taksim Square witnessed a new resistance. One man began to stand in Taksim Square, staring at the Mustafa Kemal Atatürk portrait hanged on the Atatürk Culture Center. This man, called by the social media as “standing man”, stood in Taksim for hours without moving or talking. In a short while, many people joined the “standing man” and supported the protest. In respond to this protest, the police detained 17 of them.

In the custody record it is written that “it has been seen that they continued their action by standing firm without assault or verbal attacks”. Those who were detained during the protest, were released in the morning.

However, this passive resistance spread in a short time. On the 18th of June, people began to stand in Taksim Square-



Istanbul, in Kizilay Square-Ankara (at the point where Ethem Sarisuluk was killed) and in Izmir. There were people “standing” in front of the buildings of the holding media like NTV, ATV and Sabah newspaper, protesting the attitude of them towards the protests. There was also a “standing man” protest in Caglayan Judiciary, where several lawyers were detained brutally a few days ago.

Army threat of the government

The government is carrying on with its threats and oppressions towards the anti-government protests that are still going on as banging pots and pans in the neighbourhoods and passive resistances in squares like Taksim Square.

The most important of these threats was that of Deputy Prime Minister Bulent Arınc. He stated on the 17th of June on a state-run TV “Our police, our security forces are doing their jobs. If it's not enough then the gendarmes will do their jobs. If that's not enough ... we could even use elements of the Turkish Armed Forces”.

In addition to this, Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan stated in the group meeting of AKP that the police passed the exam of democracy and emphasized that the deployment force of the police will be strengthened further.

“Gezi Hunt” raids

While the threats went on, the police conducted raids against the homes of those who were accused of being “provocateurs” in the protests. Within this scope the police conducted 26 raids in Ankara and 94 raids in Istanbul and detained hundreds of people.

Criminal Fine against opposition TV channel

The oppositional TV channel Ulusal Kanal (National TV) - which broadcasted the resistance from the beginning, was fined again and again by RTUK (Turkish state agency for monitoring media). The channel is due to pay a total penalty of 320 thousand TL.

The channel was broadcasting the hostile policies of the AKP government against the public before the popular uprising as well.

Syrian support for the resistance in Turkey

Crowd of people on Tuesday staged a sit-in outside the Turkish Embassy in Damascus to express solidarity with the Turkish protesters in the face of the suppression practiced against them by Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his government.

In the protest, Turkish and Syrian flags and placards denouncing Erdogan and the AKP government were carried side by side.



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