

# NEWS BULLETIN

International News Bulletin of the Workers Party (Turkey) No: 17  
9 May 2014

## THE BEFITTING MAY DAY WAS CELEBRATED – WITH AND WITHOUT THE WORKING CLASS!



Several political parties and associations such as the Workers' Party (Turkey), the Turkish Youth Union (TGB), the Kemalist Thought Foundation (ADD) and the Union of Atheists have heeded the call of the largest labour union confederation of Turkey, Türk-İş, which had declared that it would celebrate May Day in Kadıköy along with the largest public workers' union, Kamu-Sen. The Chairman of the Workers' Party, Doğu Perinçek was also present at the May Day celebration in the Kadıköy District of İstanbul.

The cortege chanted as the demonstrators marched towards Kadıköy Square on the shoreline. The women at the front of the cortege were most prominent. The Workers' Party entered the square with a giant picture of Atatürk and the banner "For the Motherland, for the Proletariat - long live May Day!" The Chairman of the Workers' Party, Doğu Perinçek took his place on the stage, as well.

Another attitude was to insist to celebrate the May Day in the prohibited Taksim Square. Here demonstrators faced police violence and delivered street fighting for hours. On the following pages you will find two articles of Doğu Perinçek, Chairman of the Workers' Party (Turkey). Perinçek compares the two May Day celebrations, explains why the Workers' Party did not participate in the Taksim Events and shows the successful way to tear down barricades in Turkey.

# NEWS BULLETIN

## THE DISCUSSION OF FLAG AND NATIONAL ANTHEM ON MAY DAY

*An article by Doğu Perinçek, Chairman of the Workers' Party (Turkey). This article was published in Doğu Perinçek's column in the daily newspaper Aydinlik on 6 May 2014.*

The debates within the trade-unions in Turkey were widely reported in the national press. They concentrated around two topics: the Turkish flag and the National Anthem.

Everybody remembers what happened during the previous years' May Days. Those who do not remember should take a look at newspaper archives. They will see that, being used by global centers, the separatists were seeing it as their duty to attack the Turkish flag. Yes, a task! Because the Turkish flag and the National Anthem are targets of imperialists' program, that tries to destroy the national state.

### **Attack on the country is attack on the labour**

Those who put labour and homeland in opposing fronts, take front against both of them. Against labour and homeland. Whatever their intentions may be, attacking the national state and the homeland is in practice attacking the labour. Because, the will that defends the labour in the era of imperialism is the national state.

Controlling the entrance and the exit of capital, customs regulations, state-owned enterprises, support for agriculture, freedom of trade unions, occupational safety, social security; all of them are only established and protected by the national state.

The Özal-Çiller-Erdoğan program of "Integration with the world economy" always attacked these elements. That is why the labour struggle is given on this trench, in defence of these elements.

This assumption is valid throughout the whole world, because in the era of imperialism, the fight for the country and the fight for the labour have merged together. In order to defend labour, you must defend the country. And in order to defend your country, you must defend the labour.

### **The Flag of the labour is the flag of the oppressed people**

In the era we're living in, the flags of the oppressed nations are at the same time the flags of the labourers. Gathering for the national anthem under the Turkish flag on May Day is necessary for the struggle of labour. The national anthem, by name, is the anthem for freedom. Mustafa Kemal and Lenin have defined our epoch in the first quarter of the 20th century: Imperialism is nothing else but decaying, dying capitalism. Mehmet Akif poetized the theory of imperialism in our National Anthem, "What you call civilization is a single-toothed monster."

### **The Revolutions of 20th Century: wars of national liberation**

In the 19th century, the centre of revolution was Europe. Revolution was the result of the conflict between the working class and the bourgeoisie in the advanced capitalist countries of the West.

In the 20th century, capitalism entered the era of imperialism. Now revolution results as a solution to the conflict between imperialism and the nation. Indeed, all the revolutions of the oppressed people in the world happened in Asian, African and Latin American countries. The contradiction between imperialism and homeland is the key to revolution in our era.

### **The debate takes place between labour forces and imperialist forces**

For these reasons, the controversy about the Turkish flag and the National Anthem in fact takes place between labour and imperialist forces. Those who side against the Turkish flag and the national anthem are fighting side by side with the global capital.

It is an indication of the process we are going through that before every 1st May, the debates about the national flag arouse and the attacks against it on the squares begin.

Since 12th of September 1980, the Coup D'etat, Turkey is grappling with the attack for the "integration into the world economy". The working class and every national institution are targets within this context. The dictatorship of hot money was established during this period. The commissioners of that hot money, of that speculative capital don't like the Turkish flag and the National Anthem. You can find so-called "left wing" pawns of the global commissioners in every country. It's not strange that the ones in Turkey are more shameless though, because Turkey is the forefront of the fight against imperialism since two hundred years. Fighting on the front lines is always hand to hand.

### **Right positioning on May Day**

Having a stance against the Turkish flag and the National Anthem is treason against the May Day. That's why the Worker's Party takes the Turkish Flag and the National Anthem as the main indicator of the right stationing on May Day. Turkey's largest trade union, Türk-İş and the largest public sector worker's organization, Kamu-Sen, also share the same idea with us.

### **The conditions for uniting workers on 1st of May**

In preparation meetings prior to 1st of May, conditions for the joint struggle were presented to all the unions and professional organizations:

- Grouping under the Turkish flag.
- Beginning the rally with the Turkish National Anthem, the Istiklal March.
- No symbols of separatism will be carried.
- No negative attribute against the attendance of labour organizations; all labour groups will unite in the field.
- Announcement of these conditions to the people in a press statement.

An agreement was signed on these conditions in İzmir and 1st of May took place with the participation of everybody. However, at the end of the rally, an off the agenda demonstration of separatists and a disorderly group took place. Upon this, workers and people left the square.

In Ankara, only KESK (trade-union confederation of public employees) disagreed with these conditions at the beginning. However, the following day, DİSK (Confederation of Revolutionary Workers Trade Unions) changed their stance and joined the position of KESK. For this reason, a joint celebration didn't take place like it did in İzmir. In Tandoğan-Square, it was a May Day filled with Turkish flags. In Sıhhiye a flagless rally was held.

The issue in İstanbul wasn't solely the flag and the national anthem. The issue there was either to contribute to Tayyip Erdoğan's parade or be part in May Day celebrations of the workers.



# NEWS BULLETIN

## TO TEAR DOWN BARRICADES OR TO GET KNOCKED DOWN IN FRONT OF A BARRICADE

*An article by Doğu Perinçek, Chairman of the Workers' Party (Turkey). This article was published in Doğu Perinçek's column in the daily newspaper Aydinlik on 7 May 2014.*

Some friends ask us question: Why did you not march to Taksim-Square on May Day to tear down the barricades?

### **The secret of shattering barricades**

The movements which have knocked down barricades are still well remembered: 29th of November 2012 at Ankara Ulus Square, 13th of December 2012 and 8th of April 2013, Silivri prison sieges, 16th of September 2012, the Hatay Brotherhood with Syria Movement, 13th of February 2014 "Freedom to the people detained in Eregenekon and Balyoz cases" in Ankara.

The secret to these successes can be identified in two points:

First; to tear down a barricade, you must carry the red flag with the Star and Crescent, the national flag.

Second; soldiers of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk tear down barricades.

The flag that demolished barricades from Kırklareli to Ardahan was again the star and crescent flag. It was carried during the 2013 uprising in Taksim-Square that started in June-July. The slogan that knocked down barricades was again: "We are Mustafa Kemal's soldiers".

### **Experience of being shattered in front of the barricades**

And there are also experiences of being knocked down in front barricades. The last example was lived at the events that took place during May Day at Taksim.

The leaders of the Republican People's Party (CHP) told us "Hundreds of thousands were going to flow to Taksim-Square". Let aside the hundreds of thousand, not even the leader of the CHP who had called to participate was around the Taksim-Square that day.

Take a good look on the so called "left press" of the 30th of April: No one took the responsibility for the Taksim demonstration. Allegedly, there was also no one that had called officially for the people to attend Taksim on May Day. The DİSK (Confederation of Revolutionary Trade Unions) leaders stated that they were to only leave flowers in Taksim. The idea of a May Day in Taksim had been left aside. No one took the responsibility of tearing down barricades.

### **The right deployment**

### **The right movement plan**

Essentially: the knocking down of barricades is a leadership issue.

The right leadership is the right deployment.

The right leadership is the movement that leads to success in a timely and righteous way.

The right leadership will stand at the front line. They will accept responsibility and believe in their actions and will call the people to unite under the Turkish flag at the right position.

As the Workers' Party, these were our actions alongside patriotic institutions like the Kemalist Thought Foundation (ADD) before the 29th of November clash and the Silivri-prison siege. We called the people to tear down barricades and we were there with our Turkish flag and we have torn down the barricades.

### **To confuse billboards and barricades**

Those who don't unify the labour and the patriotic struggle, cannot deploy the labour force to act. They cannot join with the people either. They will only be able to open up areas for the disorderly. It is sorrowful for a party like the Republican People's Party to sink so low.

Kılıçdaroğlu, had condemned the people to be knocked down in front of the barricades when he contested the slogan: "We are Mustafa Kemal's soldiers". 400 people gathered in front of DİSK on May Day. The people who had come together were; Sezgin Tanrikulu who is the Vice President of the Republican People's Party who is famous by the number given to him by Stratfor, the CIA connected think tank; PKK/BDP (Kurdistan Workers Party/Peace and Democracy Party) leaders; European unionist etc. You cannot unify and knock down barricades with this separationist and Soros financed, coloured establishment.

There is no possibility to ever knock down barricades if you do not stand determined in the Kemalist Revolution. They can only take photos in front of the barricades. Thus, before the Silivri siege on the 8th of April 2013, the Republican People's Party had declared it's opposition to the Workers' Party's aim of tearing down the barricades in front of the prison. Our brother Mustafa Balbay, CHP member of Parliament and at that time imprisoned in Silivri, had called the people to "Take photos in front of barricades". At that time we had made the following statement in this column:

*"...we look to the history and we won't see any barricade that has been constructed as a background for taking photography. Billboards and barricades should not be confused with one another.*

*And even if you wish to take a photo, you should have to knocked down the barricades before. Because there is no memento value of a photo taken in front of a barricade that is still standing."* (Aydinlik, 10 April 2013)

### **Rudin of Turgenjew**

True leadership doesn't call the people to fall in front of a barricade. It doesn't call be knocked down. True leadership would not call the people to march at grounds they cannot enter. It is not the job of loudmouths to knock down barricades. The people that have fallen in front of barricades have been a subject of world literature. We recommend to read again Turgenjew's novel *Rudin*. That is the character that fails trying to tear down barricades and finally dies at the line of barricades.

### **Contact:**

**Workers' Party (Turkey)**

**Address: Toros Sokak No: 9 Sıhhiye - Ankara / Turkey**

**Phone: +90312 231 81 11 \* Fax: +90312 229 29 94**

**<http://inter.ip.org.tr> \* <http://www.ip.org.tr>**

**E-mail: [int@ip.org.tr](mailto:int@ip.org.tr)**