

Support Political Prisoners Resistance in Turkey

Fascist Turkish state orders police operation on 20 prisons in Turkey adding new page to its bloody history. On December 19th 2000 at 5 am, police attacked 20 prisons murdering 28 political prisoners and injuring hundreds more. Early in the morning, police entered the prisons by demolishing all the walls with work machines and dropping gas bombs from the roof. The police did not let anyone within a 2km radius of the prisons, not even the press or prisoners' families. The prisons were filled with smoke fumes and gunshots reverberated in all directions. All the solicitors who came to defend the prisoners plus many prisoners' families and members of the press have been arrested. Only ambulances, work machines, and the fire brigade have been allowed inside. During the operation police also raided prisoners' homes and threatened their families. The Turkish Government has forbidden the media from revealing what happened during the police operation and in what state the prisoners are now.

This is not the first attack against political prisoners by the Turkish State and it will not be the last. In order to improve conditions in Turkish prisons political prisoners have been protesting since the early 80s. The first 4 prisoners to take the drastic action of fasting to the death died in Diyarbakir in 1982. Another 4 prisoners died on a Death Fast in 1984 and in 1986 a further 12 prisoners died on indefinite Hunger Strike and on a Death Fast. In the same year, 10 prisoners were murdered in Diyarbakir prison by forces of the State. There were massacres in Buca and Umraniye prisons in 1999 and in Ankara Ulucanlar Prison, 10 prisoners were tortured and killed. In addition, attacks to Bergama and Burdur Prison led to scores of injured prisoners. Today 32 people have been murdered and hundreds injured.

The aim of the Turkish State is to transfer all political prisoners to death cells called "F-Type Prisons." F-Type Prisons were built to isolate prisoners from each other and from the outside world, making it easier to torture and murder them. After this latest attack, hundreds of injured prisoners were taken to the cells where they are being beaten, tortured, raped, and left to die. At present, in the isolation cells of the newly constructed "F" Type prisons where they have been moved, the prisoners have continued their struggle. More than 200 prisoners are on hunger strike and Death Fast. 28 Hunger Strikers died since 19th December 2000 in the resistance in order the isolation in prisons. 80 Hunger Strikers became paralyzed as a result of the intervention of the Fascist Turkish State.

The Turkish Bar Association, Medical Association, Human Rights Associations, Trade Unions and Organizations of the prisoners' families and friends have demanded that the Ministry of Justice to meet the prisoners' demands and end the isolation. However, the government has refused to positively.

This latest massacre of political prisoners reveals once again the real face of the fascist Turkish State which is applying for membership of the EU. Can you stand by and let the Turkish State commit these atrocities?

The resistance of the political prisoners continues and your support will be a significant part of the struggle against solitary confinement in Turkey's "F" Type prisons.

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