

WORKERS' PARTY OF TURKEY



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LARGE SCALE MOBILIZATION FOR IDA MOUNTAINS (KAZ DAĞLARI): AGAINST CAPITALIST-IMPERIALIST DESTRUCTION OF NATURE!

Turkish environmentalists and anti-capitalists were outraged when government opened up a gold-mining operation in Ida Mountains (Kaz Dağları), one of Turkey's most outstanding areas of natural beauty, destroying nearly 200,000 trees with other disastrous environmental impacts.

Progressive movements and labor unions also supported them. Tens of thousands of protesters staged the event called "Watch for Water and Conscience", near the town of Kirazlı, against the gold mine project owned by Dogu Biga Mining, the Turkish subsidiary of Canada-based Alamos Gold Inc.

Çanakkale Mayor Ülgür Gökhan has said, "In addition to Kirazlı, there are 26 other mining licenses granted in the region so far. When these are eventually converted to operating licences one day, they will also destroy the forests."

What is the background?

In early 2000s, the General Directorate of Mineral Research and Exploration (MTA) and the Ministry of Energy explored and mapped the mineral deposits in the region. The Law on Mines was amended after 2002 and mine exploration licenses were granted to companies.

When the calendars hit 2010s, the mine exploration licenses were converted to operating licenses. Enterprises started to be established after 2017. People raised their concerns over the destruction of trees in that period as well and organized protest demonstrations.



Worker's Party of Turkey: 'We can only win by uniting'

Worker's Party of Turkey (TIP) members and supporters were active part of the movement from the very early stages of the mobilization. Leader of party (TIP) and MP Erkan Baş has visited the "Water and Conscience Watch" against the destruction of trees in Ida Mountains.

Speaking to audience about his visit, Baş said the following:

"Our primary aim is, of course, to be in solidarity with the friends protesting here and to support a rightful resistance that has been continuing for a long time and whose voice has now reached everywhere...The resistance here has to become the resistance of not only Ida Mountains and Çanakkale, but also the resistance of all peoples of Turkey...We want to see our primary duty as such: Only when the rightful resistance here is united with other struggles for environmental rights all around Turkey will it be possible to win."

International Solidarity: Canadian Communist Party and Progressive Movements

The ongoing environmental destruction in the Kaz Dağları (Ida Mountains) and the resistance against the plunder continue attracting the attention of international solidarity groups, as the Canadian company Alamos Gold's actions bring together the citizens living in Canada who want to show their reactions against the destruction.

Canadian solidarity groups decided to organize rallies simultaneously in 3 different cities of Canada (Montreal, Toronto, and Vancouver), to protest the collaboration between Turkey's ruling party AKP and the Canadian mining company. Underlining the transfer of the national resources to the monopolies and the crucial damage to the environment done by Canadian monopolies in Latin America, Eastern Europe, and Turkey, the meeting also decided to have an informative panel on the matter for the following weeks.



TURKEY STUCK IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

“Palace regime” in Turkey is stuck in both internal and international politics. While the end of the civil war in Syria is coming to end, current situation brings two important aspects in Turkey’s foreign policy agenda:

- The future of İdlib and the Jihadists in İdlib.
- Existence of a regional Kurdish quasi state in Northern Syria

İdlib: Last stronghold of Jihadists to fall

Turkey shares an 800 kilometres long border with Syria and currently more than half of the border is controlled by SDF (Syrian Democratic Forces). Partly it is controlled by Turkey after occupation of entity including Afrin, Azez and Al Bab. Thirdly there is the İdlib province, the last stronghold of Jihadist terrorists and the last entity is Lattakia

region through coastal line controlled by Syrian government.

Astana Agreement, which was signed in August 2017 between Russia, Turkey and Iran proposes a safe zone in İdlib region. According to Turkey-Russia summit in Sochi in September 2018, Turkey took responsibility to establish 12 watch posts in the safe zone surrounding İdlib. “Watch post number 9” already became obsolete since Syrian army liberated Khan Sheikhoun and the area around the post. Reason behind Syria’s operation is that, Turkey could not stop terrorist attacks stemming from the region that he is responsible for. Terrorist attacks from İdlib caused many civilians to be killed especially in Lattakia region of Syria.

Since liberation of Aleppo in December 2016, Syria’s victory became obvious and most of the actors supporting terrorist groups in Syria retreated from the field and only a few governments and NGO’s continued to give support to “moderate opposition” and Turkey is one of them.



Syria not in hurry to liberate Idlib

It is obvious that Syrian government is not in hurry to liberate Idlib for several reasons. The most important one is that, regional Islamic autocratic governance with horrifying practices over men, women and youngsters in Idlib offers Syrian citizens what would be the alternative to secular, republican life in Syria, which is an efficient tool for consolidation for Syrian government. Secondly, Syria does her best to not to trouble itself with what is called "international community" which is very eager to be manipulated by disinformation of Jihadists.

Where will Jihadists leave after liberation of Idlib

Slow or fast, it is known that Idlib will be liberated by Syrian army soon and the question is; "Where will all of those Jihadists will move?" Already some of them are re-located to Libya, but tens of thousands of them in Idlib, residing with their families is an important concern. No doubt; first option is Turkey. However, since the normalization of diplomacy with Russia, Turkey obviously distanced herself with Jihadists in Idlib and Jihadist groups already began to call Turkey as "traitor". It would not be surprising that Jihadists who took Turkey as "safe haven" might reconsider there as "operation area".

Russian-Turkish "improving" relations

However, it is very probable that Turkey and Syria will soon meet at the agreement table. Of course led by Russia, where Putin nicely domesticated Palace Regime since the shot down of Russian jet fighter by Turkey and murder of Russian ambassador in Ankara. Turkey is currently second most important customer of Russian natural gas and new pipeline projects are under construction. In addition to that the first and disputed nuclear plant is started to be constructed by Russian. Turkey's purchase of S-400 air defence systems is the most spectacular deal between two countries making Turkey to be the first NATO country to attach an "alien" defence structure to NATO which causes reaction from US. US already halted Turkey's partnership in F-35 jet fighters, but a more serious problem is on the agenda as well: Turkey's will to establish a buffer zone in northern Syria between SDF controlled cantons and Turkey. SDF, which is the only ally of USA in the region, apart from its eternal ally Israel, strongly opposes removing SDF forces from the proposed buffer zone. "Buffer zone" is a complicated agenda where many actors involve in internal and external politics and will likely to be one of the many issues that Turkey will be trapped again.

Collapse of neo-Ottomanism

Turkey's latest attempts may be regarded as a shift from an Atlantic perspective to a multi-polar defence diplomacy. However, those theories often disregard the fact that, by implying neo-liberal financial politics with its harshest forms, Turkey is already one of the most fragile capitalist economies in the world and finance in Turkey is already in the hands of US imperialism. Getting closer to Russia might not be regarded as a move to a multi-polar strategy, but a sign of Turkey's miserable diplomacy stemming from neo-Ottomanist dreams that does not only lead Turkey into fire, but the whole region.

NEWS FROM THE PARTY



Chairperson Erkan Baş spoke in the #srebrenica genocide memorial service: “If the imperialist forces want to divide us, then we have to unite even more in fellowship. If we start seeing each other in different perspectives as Sunni, Alawite, Kurdish or Turkish, then we would suffer the same pain.”

Our Sakarca Provincial Organisation, Chairperson Erkan Bas and the accompanying party delegation visited the Saica Park workers who were sacked for being union members and have been in resistance against that for 100 days, KESK (Confederation of Public Employees Trade Union) and Eğitim-Sen (Union of Educators) branches and the newspaper Bizim Sakarya.



Workers Party of Turkey (TIP) published a statement concerning the cutting of thousands of trees by a Canadian company in Ida Mountains, known as one of the few oxygen deposits of the world, for gold prospecting purposes.

Speaking in the ongoing Water and Conscience Watch on Ida Mountains, Chairperson Erkan Baş said; “We stand together to protect our trees, our wild geese, our eagles and our people against the national and international monopolies, and a government which has vowed to pillage the above and under of the land, our lives and our future. As we have said during the Gezi Park riot; this is the beginning, the fight continues!”



Our Çanakkale Provincial Organisation called on Çanakkale residents to protect the Ida Mts. together. #KazdağlarıHepimizin



NEWS FROM THE PARTY



TİP made a statement on the unseating of elected officials in Diyarbakır, Van and Mardin, declaring that “appointment of government trustees is an active usurpation of the will of the people. We call on all of our citizens for the fellowship of the Turks and Kurds, to band together against the Palace fascism which sees fundamental freedoms and democracy as its enemy.”

Barış Atay Mengüllüoğlu, Workers' Party of Turkey MP for Hatay and the TIP delegation consisting of members from our CEC and PC were in Diyarbakır to meet and express our solidarity with the unseated Municipal Co-Mayors and the HDP executives and to participate in the ongoing protests.



TİP MP Barış Atay Mengüllüoğlu met with representatives from friendly organisations in breakfast. The past year was reviewed and opportunities for a cooperative fight in the upcoming period were discussed.



NEWS FROM THE PARTY



Workers Party of Turkey Mersin Province Organisation office was opened by Chairperson Erkan Baş in Yenişehir, and the new members had their badges pinned.

Protesting the violence against women in their press statement, The women of Worker's party of Turkey declared ;“As the most comprehensive and up-to-date law preventing the violence against women, the İstanbul Convention is the guarantee of women's right to live. Turkey must fulfill its responsibility to develop and practise monolithic policies for the struggle to prevent violence against women.” #İstanbulSözleşmesiYaşatır



Our party (TIP) and our youth organization have actively took part in the resistance which have taken place in the campus of Middle East Technical University in Ankara, where Erdoğan regime has an attempt to construct a "student dormitory" as a tool of repressive politics of his regime by killing thousands of trees which were planted by leftist students almost half century ago.

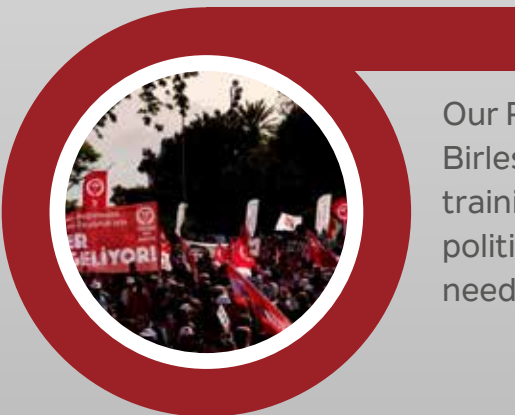


NEWS FROM THE PARTY



The HDP delegation making contacts as part of the Democracy Alliance made a visit to our party. In the meeting wherein com-mutual opinions were exchanged, our message of solidarity against the coup of conservatorship was delivered. The visit ended with a joint press conference.

Workers Party of Turkey Tekirdağ Province Organisation met with the workers who were sacked and have been in a trade union struggle in Lang Yuzer firm. They have delivered their salutations to the workers in resistance in every corner of the country.



Our Party Camp has been organised between July 20-26 in DİSK Birlesik Metal İş Union facilities in Gönen/Balıkesir. During the trainings in which a large number of members had participated, political and organisational conditions were evaluated and the needs and goals of the party were determined.



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