

WORKERS' PARTY OF TURKEY



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Agenda in Turkey

The agenda in Turkey in November have witnessed turmoil in Turkish economy and also the sharpening of the class struggle.

Games of Erdoğan in financial crisis

Turkish Lira (TRY) have experienced a new record in losing its value against foreign currencies. By November 6, one Euro equalled 10 TRY by which TRY became the global champion currency on losing its value. TRY has lost 30 per cent of its value in the last one year period.

As usual, Erdoğan regime have sought a scapegoat for this crisis and this time it was the General Director of the Central Bank. As a consequence, he was dismissed from his office by November 7. However, it was not enough. Turkey witnessed another absurdity by November 8 by resignation of Minister of Treasury and Finance, Erdoğan's daughter's husband: Berat Albayrak. Popularly recognized by his nickname "Damat" (the groom) Albayrak was seen as the future successor of Erdoğan only two years ago.

"The groom"s resignation was speculative. He announced his resignation from Instagram, claiming that he resign for health reasons and in order to spend more time with his family. His resignation did not take place in media since Erdoğan did not confirmed, which was seen as a determinant showing how media in Turkey lost its independence becoming his master's voice. The politics in Turkey seems to be no different than a soap opera. However, on the other side, in the same scene, COVID-19 and awkwardness of the government in crisis management makes the country as a film set of a horror movie.

Awkward governance of pandemic

Turkey is one of the countries which experience the considerable negative impacts of COVID-19 pandemics due to the awkward, untalented and the corrupted, but yet a very arrogant and authoritarian government. With the second peak of the pandemics, the responsibility of this scene seems to be left only to citizens. In every speech of the government high level bureaucrats, it is the citizens who are preached to be irresponsible, not taking measures, not obeying the regulations etc.

Government of Turkey does not take any responsibility in governance of the financial consequences of the pandemics, leaving citizens alone with death, unemployment and hunger. The issue of health is left to the mercy of capitalists who see the COVID-19 crisis as an opportunity for higher profits, better income.

The period of pandemic also showed how the Erdoğan government have no moral values by sharing fake information about health. For months, number of COVID positive cases were stated to be under 10.000 daily, where international organizations declared that the statistical data shared by Turkish government is unreliable. Of course, this warning is never taken serious by Erdoğan regime. However, once World Health Organization declared that the aid given to the countries will be determined by the number of COVID cases, the number suddenly increased from below 10.000 daily to more than 30.000. Yet the number of deaths per day are



unreliable as well. According to the data declared by the Directorate of Cemeteries of Metropolitan Municipality of Istanbul, number of deaths because of COVID-19 only in Istanbul exceeds the number of deaths in all over Turkey as declared by Minister of Health of Turkey. It is obvious that the Ministry of Health of Erdoğan regime systematically lies.

On the other side, we all know that if real data is not shared, pandemics cannot be controlled, resources cannot be utilized.

As declared by TIP, the struggle against COVID-19 have to be realized relying on scientific truth, by following scientific methodology, but not relying on the needs of capitalists. The measures have to be taken immediately. Working hours shall be minimized, a new production plan shall be made. Nobody shall loose his/her job because of those measures and salaries have to be paid regularly.

Turkey has the resources to cover the costs. The financial resources that are transferred to a handful capitalists by the state are more than enough to cover all those expenses.

However, instead of taking those measures, the Erdoğan regime choose to exploit the conditions of the new normal. Any democratic right is forbidden, freedom of speech is under tight oppression and workers' already existing minimum rights are even below the minimum conditions.

Class struggle in Turkey during pandemic

In an atmosphere where Erdoğan regime convict public to live under hunger conditions, working class increases the voice. With every single day, we witness resistance of working class in different cities of Turkey, from Şanlıurfa to Antalya, from Ermenek to Soma which face with aggressive assaults from police and gendarmerie while many workers, including members of TIP are taken under custody. The end of November was the scene of an increasing wave of working class struggles in all over Turkey.

Being stuck between awkwardness of management of COVID-19 and increasing voice of working class against the regime, new allies appear to be more attached to Erdoğan regime.



The usual ally of Erdoğan government: The Mafia

It has been a known fact that governments in Turkey had always warm relations with the bloody mafia leaders. However, their relationship have never been that open until Erdoğan regime. Especially just after their ally with the MHP (Nationalist Movement Party), where the ally with MHP itself was a declaration how Erdoğan regime's discourse on democratization was nothing more than a demagogy, mafia leaders began to be more on the screen declaring their support to Erdoğan regime.

Recently, Alaattin Çakıcı, who was in prison because of murdering his ex-wife and who were set free two years ago by initiation of the leader of the MHP, have not only shown his loyalty to Erdoğan regime, but he even did not hesitate to threat Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu, the leader of the opposition party CHP (Republican People's Party).



TİP's immediate reaction against this act was a statement of solidarity that we will never surrender to a regime supported by criminals.

BIDEN AND HARRIS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Democratic candidate Biden and his vice Harris won the US presidential elections. Biden and Harris raised hopes for a more pluralistic society, a more peaceful foreign policy and a just social order. Compared to Trump administration, Biden-Harris administration will bring some positive changes both in domestic and international policies of the USA. However there is no reason to expect real democratic and egalitarian changes from the Biden-Harris presidency which will rule the most powerful capitalist-imperialist country of the world in the name of the traditional American establishment.

Probably Biden will rejoin Paris Climate Agreement and World Health Organization and will not continue to support Saudi campaign over Yemen. Probably he and his vice president will have a better approach to immigrants and LGBT+ people. However, we should keep in mind that Biden is not promising free healthcare and free education for all. He even did not promised to provide basic services for the most needy part of society. Beyond the limiting Trump's

Saudi engagement, he did not promise any significant change in the US foreign policy. Biden and Harris reconciled with the Trump's "Making America Great Again" rhetoric and adopted it in "Making America Great and Respected Again" discourse.

Most probably Biden's energy policy will differ from his predecessor. Biden made his position clear during the second presidential debate, insisting that he would "transition away from the oil industry" toward renewable energy over time. He has stated on several occasions that he will rejoin the Paris Climate Agreement on his first day in office. While this may not have an immediate effect on the country's energy mix, it represents a strong intent by his administration to pursue clean energy solutions. This will effect the US's Middle East foreign policy in the mid run.

Biden's probable deviations from Trump's unbalanced Saudi support and rather moderate Russia policy will also in return effect middle east regional



balances to a certain extent. Saudi's already started to soften their anti-Turkish campaign and anti-Iran rhetoric. However Biden's comparative limitation of Saudi-US engagement does not automatically create a better environment for the regimes that have disputes with Saudi Arabia like Turkey or Qatar. Turkish administration worries about Biden's probable policies with regard to region. With Joe Biden, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will probably be unable to influence US policy with a simple phone call, as he had occasionally done with Donald Trump. But that does not mean the US president-elect will push Turkey away, instead hoping to re-engage the geographically strategic and militarily powerful NATO ally on tougher terms. President Tayyip Erdogan said he would discuss strained U.S. relations with President-elect Joe Biden when he

takes office, playing down the possibility of sanctions over Turkey's purchase of Russian S-400 missile defense systems.

Returning back to negotiations with Iran is another hot topic on probable Biden's agenda along with the reconfiguring the US policy on Palestinian question. Biden might support Kurds in Syria and Iraq more than Trump administration did in the last 4 years. However, no one expects a radical change in terms of international class alliance strategy of Washington's new president.

Instead of expecting change from imperialist reformers peoples of the middle east could and should cooperate among themselves to solve regional problems. This requires class against class policy both on domestic and international levels.



WE STAND UP against violence against women!



November 25 is designated/marked as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. The date was chosen due to the 1960's assassination of the Mirabal sisters in the Dominican Republic. The Mirabal sisters were detained on several occasions, tortured and raped by Trujillo's soldiers since they were struggling against the dictatorship.

The murder of the sisters sparked a strong sense of indignation among Dominicans and increased demonstrations of opposition and the Mirabal sisters became a symbol of struggle against the dictatorship. The Mirabal sisters are honored because they stood up against the oppression of the state.

Years after, women still have to fight against violence, not only of state but also of their partners. Today, everywhere around the world on November 25 women are marching and protesting on the streets the violence against women. As the massive women marches point out, the states bear much of responsibility for violence against women; the state is responsible for holding up male dominancy. They are responsible for the lack of domestic violence shelters and other resources for women who experience violence; they are responsible for the low wages that keep women economically dependent on men; they are responsible for enforcing and perpetuating sexist elements in society. And yet when women come forward state institutions shame and discredit their stories. In this context, thousands of women around the world are rising to demand an end to violence against women.

Turkey is no different. The government's policy of impunity against all kinds of violence and discrimination encourages the perpetrators even more. Moreover, criminal acts are trivialized by the Minister of the Interior as "shameful". Acquired rights of women are usurped, their labor becomes invisible. This system wants to suppress, silence and ignore women. This system means a system of violence, war and exploitation for women. To destroy this system that killed us, for women workers who pay the bills of the economic crisis by being unemployed, for women who are condemned to domestic labor and care work with the "holy family" mentality, for women whose labor become visible and cannot get equal pay for equal work, for women who have escaped from war in order to survive, who have been sexually and physically assaulted and forced to work below the starvation line with the informal economy, for LGBTI + s who are excluded from the society with deeply rooted prejudices and exposed to hate crimes, we need solidarity and struggle!

For our labor, our body, our life, we need socialism to live!

As the daughter of one of the murdered butterflies Mirabal sisters wrote "If they kill me, I shall reach my arms out of the grave and I shall be stronger." Today we must be thousands of arms organizing the international fight against gender violence in honor of the legacy of butterflies.



NEWS FROM THE PARTY



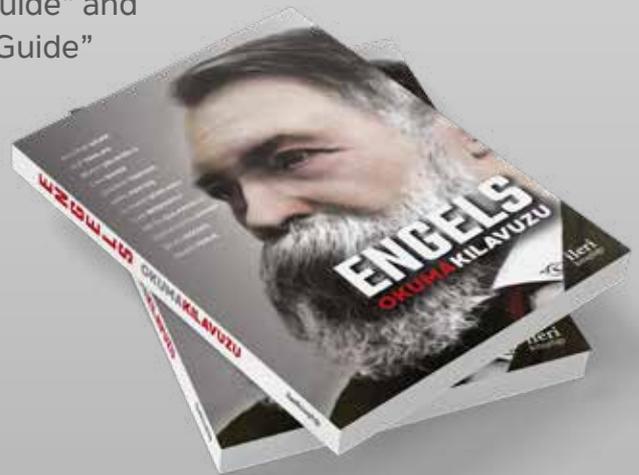
We started a campaign for a humane minimum wage.



3rd European Forum of Workers Party of Turkey has been hold with the participation of our journalist comrade Doğan Ergün.



We published our two books "Lenin Reading Guide" and "Engels Reading Guide"





NEWS FROM THE PARTY

The metal workers who were given unpaid leave, dismissed without compensation and detained while trying to march to Ankara for their rights. We were in solidarity with them.

We were in protest to be the voice of the metal workers in Istanbul. They will not be able to deter any of us with detentions. Workers who resist will definitely win.



Workers Party of Turkey Adana Office were opened with the participation of our Deputy Chairman and MP Barış Atay.

We launched a solidarity campaign after the Izmir Earthquake in November. Immediately after the earthquake, we launched a campaign that we asked the outcome of the earthquake taxes collected since the 1999 Istanbul earthquake





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