

WORKERS' PARTY OF TURKEY



www.tip.org.tr

INTERNATIONAL
BULLETIN of
TİP

April-May 2021 / Issue #: 21



WORKERS' PARTY OF TURKEY SALUTES MAY 1st AND CALLS FOR ORGANIZED STRUGGLE AGAINST CAPITALISM

May Day is the historical moment (that) working class take a stand against capitalism.

The day laborers manifest their demands.

The day workers chant their dreams for future.

The day they demonstrate their unity and solidarity.

Today we take the streets,

We march with our slogans for a peaceful, equal and free world.

Hand in hand with all brothers and sisters in the world, we refuse the old world's chains and walk through a borderless, classless society.

Socialism is our joy of living.

Socialism is our bread.

Socialism is our roses.

May Day is the day we reclaim our destiny from the hands of bourgeoisie.

We salute May Day from every corner of the world: from Denmark, France, from the United States, from Cuba, each and every corner of the Asia, America, Africa and Europe.

Women of Argentina, Farmers of India, Students of Greece,

Miners of Albania, Black Lives of the USA, natives of Bolivia,

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world standing up for the very same demand: Equality and Freedom.

Greetings to our unwavering resilience, greetings to our joy.

On May Day 2021, Workers' Party of Turkey calls for organized struggle against capitalism. Long live international solidarity of the working class.

MEASURES AGAINST CORONAVIRUS CLEARLY EXPOSES THE BRUTALITY OF CAPITALISM IN TURKEY UNDER ERDOĞAN REGIME

Özgür Dirim Özkan

The third wave of the pandemic have proved once again that the authoritarian Erdoğan regime is not capable of managing any crisis and in addition to that, the Erdoğan regime seeks to exploit any crisis for surviving and prolonging its authoritarian management.

By May 2021, with more than 5 million cases, following USA, India, Brazil and France, Turkey stands as the fifth country with the highest number of the COVID-19 cases, where more than 44,000 people are officially recorded as deaths caused by COVID-19. However, Turkey's records on COVID-19 cases and deaths stemming from the virus is known to be under-reported. Last Spring, at the beginning of the pandemics, Turkey was accused by WHO of dissembling the COVID-19 cases. Since the aid that countries may get from WHO is determined according to the number of cases in countries, Turkey finally decided to give more realistic statistics. However, the death toll is still not reliable. Since the beginning of pandemics, Turkish Medical Associa-

tion (TTB) urges that most of the death cases related to COVID are not registered according to WHO's international codes.¹ Authorities tend to hide COVID-19 related deaths in order to disguise their lack of proficiency in managing a crisis. However, records gathered from municipalities confirm that, when compared with previous years' statistics, the increase in number of deaths in localities exceed the number of reported deaths caused by COVID-19. For example, Ekrem İmamoğlu, the mayor of Istanbul informed the public that number of deaths in Istanbul in 2020 was 30-35% higher than the last year.²

Mendacity of Erdoğan regime is not only limited to the statistical data. In every occasion, Erdoğan regime and his masters' voices in media claim that Turkey's crisis management is one of the best in the world, while the facts and the realities prove exactly the opposite. IMF have declared that with only 1.9% of her budget, Turkey is one of the countries reserving least amount of resources for struggle against pandemics.³ It also has to be kept in mind that a very



considerable amount of the resources that Turkey allocates for struggle against negative impacts of pandemics are met from Fund for Unemployment Insurance, which is a fund established by payments made by working class to be paid back when they are unemployed. In other words, resources for struggle against pandemics is taken from pockets of working class.

Working class is not only the sponsor of Erdoğan regime's awkward crisis management, but also subject to increased exploitation. Another report prepared by the World Bank shows that inequalities has been increasing since the beginning of the COVID-19 and the crisis is expected to have severely negative consequences for Turkey, further weakening economic and social gains.⁴

The already existing repressive rule in Turkey is almost transformed into an apartheid regime: An apartheid between rich and poor, government supporters and opposition...

Working class is either subject to hunger or has to work under insecure conditions with fatal threat of COVID-19, while the measures for COVID-19 are utilized by bosses to increase the exploitation of labor. The policy for the "new normal" is: "Less workers, more work". While many lost their jobs without appropriate basic aid for survival, those who are "lucky" to keep their jobs work under heavier conditions with unpaid excessive labor, lessened break times, systematical mobbing, and being forced to work without taking any measures against pandemics in the workplaces.

According to EuroStat, workers in Turkey had the longest working duration in a week in 2020 with 42.45 hours.⁵

Although dismissing employees during COVID-19 is officially forbidden in Turkey by a decree dated April 17, 2020, dismissal according to what is called Code-29 is exempted from this decree. Code-29 briefly allows employers to dismiss an employee in case the employee shows immoral behavior in the workplace. According

to a research conducted by DİSK (Confederation of Revolutionary Trade Unions) 176.662 employers are dismissed by Code-29. Code-29 is not the only way to dismiss the workers, but it disallow workers to claim for any right. Moreover, once a worker is dismissed by Code-29, he/she has difficulties in finding a new job. Under "worker enemy" regime, it is no surprise that workers have almost no mean to oppose the verdict of the boss and thus it is also not surprising that instead of being dismissed with Code-29, many work under hardening working conditions, where some especially in retail trade sector, workers work up to 12 hours a day.

Without doubt, pandemics is like a life-buoy for Erdoğan regime not only in terms of creating better conditions for the bosses, but also to imply his own agenda. Erdoğan regime uses the pandemics as an opportunity to tighten the security measures prohibiting any opposition action. Although the congresses of governing party AKP are done in provinces without any COVID-19 measures, when it comes to opposition activities, COVID-19 measures are shown as reason to ban all of those actions, despite the fact that measures are carefully implemented in those actions.

Moreover, Erdoğan regime utilizes benefits of pandemics by putting the Islamic agenda in practice. Because of abnormal taxes on alcoholic beverages, pubs and restaurants were already in financial crisis where many workers lost their jobs due to bankruptcy of many pubs and restaurants. They were the first ones to be subject to pandemics measures and for almost 15 months there is not a single place where you can order an alcoholic beverages in all over Turkey. During lockdowns, where the last one was for 17 days during the first two weeks of May, selling alcoholic beverages in the markets were also forbidden which resembles like a state under Sharia law (Islamic codes).

Despite the increasing repression and the fatal impacts of pandemics harshened by an authoritarian regime, workers do not postpone class struggle and seek and find new strategies and tools for the struggle.



WE ARE WITH THE PEOPLE OF COLOMBIA AGAINST THE DICTATOR AND NEOLIBERALISM!



Tilbe Akan

In Colombia, the fourth largest economy of Latin America, the government enacted a heavy tax law on April 15 instead of solving the unemployment problem of more than 20% through social support and employment policy. In the country where half of the population lives below the poverty line, the people took to the streets saying that enough is enough. Hundreds of thousands took their objections to the streets. In the country where 75,000 people died during the pandemic, neoliberal president Duque had to step back and withdraw the law, but the people continued to protest to see concrete progress in pensions, health, and education services and to end police violence.

The US-backed Duque government has increased the horrific violence against the people by using pandemic conditions as an excuse. Especially in the last two years, combined with the land grabbing, the killing of indigenous peoples, peasants and opponents through paramilitary organizations, the pandemic and increasing unemployment, the people showed a determination not to return to their homes without seeing concrete change.

Approximately 30 activists have been killed by police bullets in front of the cameras so far. Nearly 1000 people were injured. All over Colombia, the activists who filled the streets faced violent pressure from the US-trained riot police called ESMAD. In order to legitimize this extreme violence, the Department of Defense claimed that the actions contained a "terrorism threat and Vandalism". However, despite these statements full of lies, which were given to the international press and supported by Washington, the anger of the people does not stop. Colombians continue to fight against police violence, poverty and the chaos created by the pandemic.

As Workers' Party of Turkey, we stand by the struggle of the workers, the youth, women and all the oppressed, wherever they are in the world. We are not silent that no dictator bears the burden of the pandemic to the laborers and shows violence to people who take to the streets for their democratic rights.

We stand by the Colombian people.

Long live international solidarity!



Stop Occupation, Annexation and Displacements in Palestine!

Established on the basis of dispossession and displacement of Palestinians, the State of Israel has been trying to escalate its annexation of the settlements in West Bank and make East Jerusalem a part of the occupation-annexation process. The past months have seen the Zionist regime once again show its true colours, as Palestinians rose in protest against state-sponsored Zionist settlers who forcibly occupied the homes of Palestinians especially in East Jerusalem's Sheikh Jarrah district. The regime did not hesitate to fire plastic and real bullets on tens of thousands of civilians who gathered in Jerusalem, in Israel and the West Bank, and in besieged Gaza in front of TV cameras.

Disregarding nearly 300 resolutions passed by the UN Security Council and its affiliated organizations in the last 72 years, the Israeli State continues to resort to military force that will render the peaceful resolution of the problem impossible. Indeed so, what allows these oppressive policies to persist is the hypocrisy of states: states who made declarations affirming the righteousness of Palestinians, states who refuse to follow up on these declarations with sanctions.

The AKP regime is also guilty of this hypocritical policy. AKP, which feigns pro-Palestinianism, is one of the biggest trade partners of the occupation. It is no surprise that the companies facilitating imports from and exports to Israel are supporters and beneficiaries of the AKP-MHP alliance. This policy can be pursued

no longer, and all economic relations with the Israeli state must be terminated.

The AKP and the reactionary governments of other countries in the region, using Palestine as a trump card for their political Islamist policies and as a means of consolidation in domestic politics, cannot be the defenders of the just cause of the Palestine. These are essentially the enemies of the Palestinian people as they are hiding their true face.

The exploited and oppressed peoples of Turkey, workers and anti-imperialists of these lands, unconditionally stand by the struggle of the Palestinian people against occupation and displacements, as they have been doing so since 1948.

As the Workers' Party of Turkey, we recognize that in all countries, autocratic regimes like that of Erdoğan's, which are hostile to labour, freedom and justice are partners to each other.

We express our unwavering solidarity with the Palestinian people who are exiled, displaced, dispossessed, and discriminated against and we stand up for their just cause.

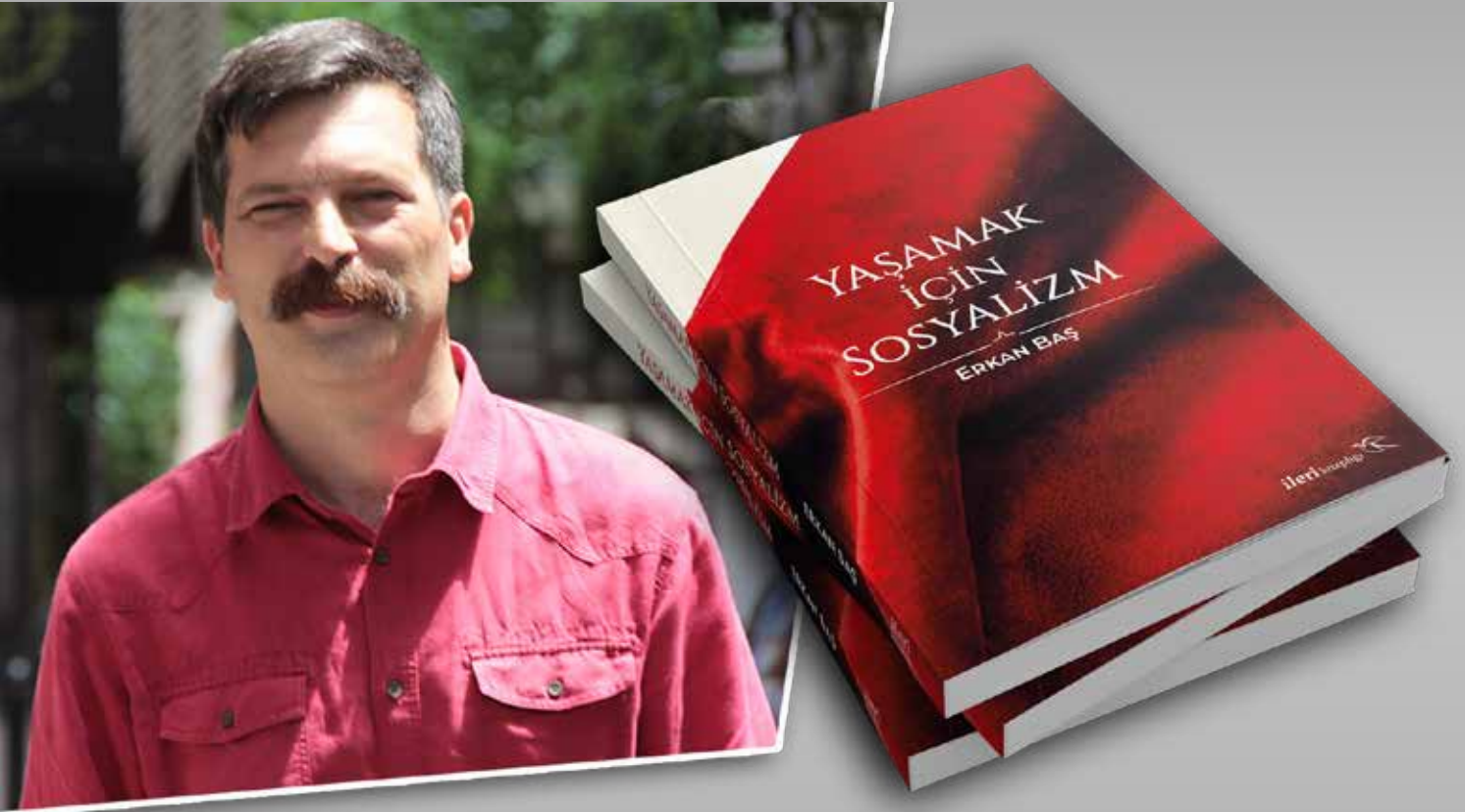
Stop evictions in Sheikh Jarrah, stop the annexation of East Jerusalem!

Down with the Apartheid regime and the Zionist project!

Long live the Palestinian resistance, long live international solidarity!

Workers' Party of Turkey

Socialism to Live



Translator: **DEVİRİM UMUT ÇELİK**

“Socialism to Live”, authored by TİP Chairperson Erkan Baş, was recently published by İleri Kitap in Turkey. In his book, Chairperson Erkan Baş takes an in-depth look at the contemporary world analysing the demands of capitalism forced upon the individual and the society, and explaining the need for the struggle for socialism along with the necessities for its success.

The five-chapter book examines the capitalist ideal of the individual as one that has no other drive or option than to seek profit. Throughout the book, Baş points out the problems created and amplified by capitalism such as the climate crisis, gender inequality and exploitation of the masses. Baş states the need for a unified struggle, organised as a party of the labouring masses, through which they can advance their political struggle as one against an increasingly authoritarian capitalist system.



NEWS FROM THE PARTY

In the recent days, the Erdoğan Regime and its connection to mafia is on the agenda of Turkey. We, as party started a campaign called "Enough! Government Resign!"



We organized protests against the brutal attack of Israel to Palestine all around the country.

Istanbul Convention has been withdrawn by the government. Our woman organization has been participating all the demonstrations all around the country by saying "we earn it by struggling, we won't give up!"



TİP members took the streets in three metropolitan cities, declaring "We do not obey to Erdoğan's regime and the bans".

We visited our comrades' graveyard: Utkan Adıyaman who was our Central Committee member and Hüseyin Duman who has been attacked and killed by the fascists.




We started a campaign called "Join TIP, persistence wins". TİP members took the streets in three metropolitan cities, declaring "We do not obey to Erdoğan's regime and the bans".




WORKERS' PARTY OF TURKEY

Contact: International Relations Committee of **TİP**

int@tip.org.tr

 [tipinternational](https://www.facebook.com/tipinternational)

 [tipinternationalRC](https://twitter.com/tipinternationalRC)

 [tipinternational](https://www.instagram.com/tipinternational)

Head Office

Caferağa Mah. General Asım Gündüz Cad. No: 17 D: 4 Kadıköy/İstanbul/Türkiye

T: (+90) 216 418 00 32 F: (+90) 216 418 00 42

tip.org.tr

   [tipgenelmerkez](https://www.facebook.com/tipgenelmerkez)