

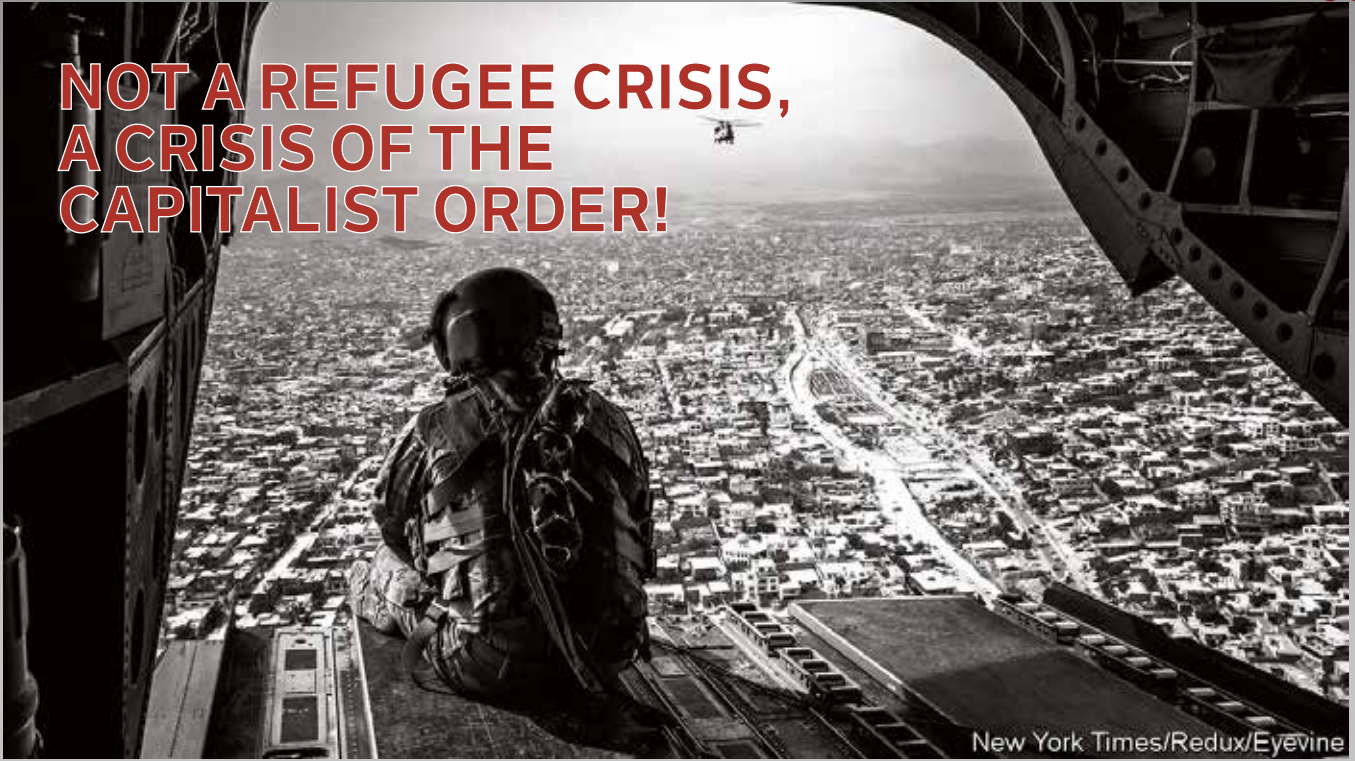
WORKERS' PARTY OF TURKEY



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The past few months' developments in Afghanistan have shifted the national attention towards a new immigration wave. Erdogan's AKP (Justice and Development Party) regime has announced its desire to fill in the void left by the withdrawal of US troops from the country. Already having faced a deadlock in the Syrian Civil War, the regime is once again trying its "chance" in Afghanistan.

In absolute numbers, Turkey is the country that is home to the highest number of refugees in the world. This situation is a product of the decisions made by the AKP regime. The regime, first through its participation in the civil war in Syria, then through arrangements made with other countries, has made Turkey into a country that "plays" irregular immigration and refugee movement. Through turning this situation into a bargaining chip in relationships of dependency set up with the EU, the US and with the Gulf states, the regime profits from the crisis. The 2016 return deal with the EU is built on such premises, and has fixed Turkey's position as a center of refugee control in international capitalism. The Workers' Party of Turkey (TIP) argues for the immediate annulment of this arrangement.

TIP advocates for the right of asylum and the designation of refugee status for foreign citizens who face discrimination and threat of life. In contrast, capitalist entities (like the US and the EU) repel refugees who press in at their borders in transgression of international law and regulate incoming workforce at will with no regard for any universality. In such an unequal conjuncture, it is not realistic to advocate for an open-door policy in Turkey. What is necessary to develop is a border and immigrations policy that stands with refugee & asylum rights as well as with public good & welfare, a policy that is not bound to the ideological decisions and aspirations of the current regime.

By forwarding no concrete plan concerning their future, the AKP regime has calcified the precarious position of a population of refugees vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, separated out from the general populace of Turkey. One of the things that has made the "management" of this population of refugees profitable for the AKP regime is the cheap & prostrate labor-power it provides for the boundless use of capital.

It is natural for our people to grow concern at such a situation. On the other hand, it is a deception to place blame on the refugees, and to provide as a solution, their deportation.

It is a fact that unemployment is worsening in Turkey; but a citizen of Turkey is not unemployed because an immigrant has stolen their job, but rather, they are unemployed because of the spread of at-will employment and the weakening of unions that would have looked out for the worker.

In the Turkey of today, public resources are not appropriated for the benefit of the people of Turkey. Neither are they used for the benefit of immigrants. Instead, the riches of our country are made available for the free plunder of a group of capitalists merged with the AKP regime.

While they do not experience it in the same manner, poverty, unemployment, precarity, unequal access to health and education are common problems for all workers. The will to live in unity is more needed than ever, the struggle for the free and equal life, a prosperous society is more urgent than ever. So as to not let this struggle lose momentum, The Workers' Party of Turkey will work to prevent fractures among workers and win a socialist republic for all those who inhabit this country.

Workers' Party of Turkey (TIP)



TURKEY SHOULD GET RID OF THE ERDOGAN REGIME !



Turkey is on fire. We are losing people, animals, nature and all our lives in an unprecedented massacre of neglect. We are faced with another disaster where the choice of the Erdogan Regime is not to extinguish the fire, but to enlarge it.

Fires have been raging in the forests of 3 provinces of southern Turkey for the past 10 days, destroying ecosystems and taking away lives including those of 8 people. Fire areas should be declared "disaster areas" immediately. AKP government fails to fight the fires stemming from the climate crisis and political neglect of the ruling party. The airplanes of Turkish Aeronautical Association that are essential in fighting the fires, were sold and the pilots were fired after the appointment of a trustee by the Erdogan regime. Now the means to fight the fires are proven to be lacking, whereas president Erdoğan himself possesses 13 airplanes. The natural resources of Turkey are handed over for the greedy ambitions of capitalism by Erdogan's regime, who is guilty in the first degree with its disastrous policies.

Our country has returned into a fireplace. We know those who instead of mobilizing all the means of the state for this disaster, make false patriotic cries while rubbing their hands and making plans to appropriate common lands and nature! We are angry and we refuse to sit and wait.

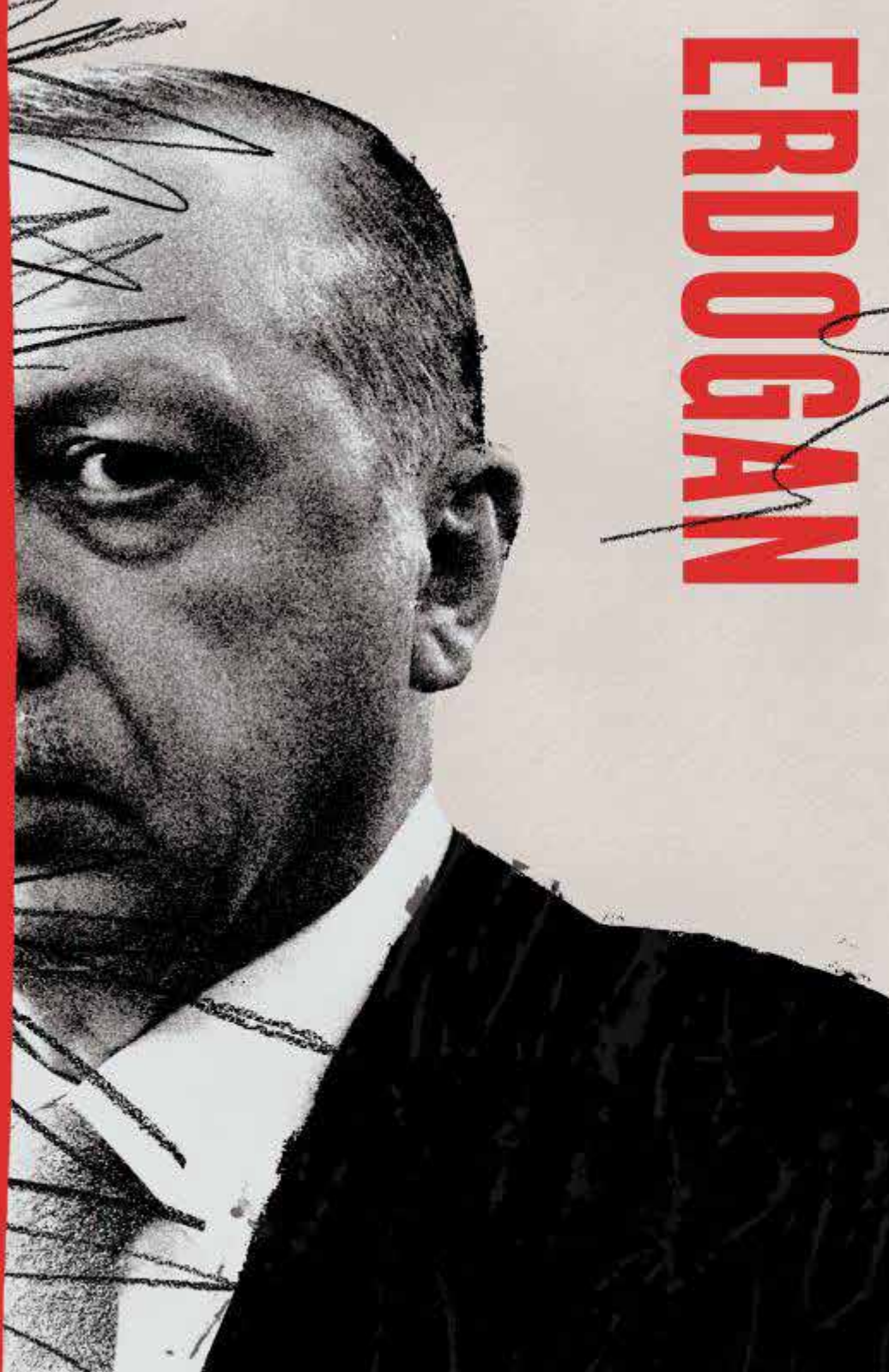
Workers' Party of Turkey do not accept the mistakes and manipulations of the government being paid with our lives and nature. We are monitoring the area and the developments closely together with our party members and MPs. We organize volunteer groups under a central coordination center in the fire regions in solidarity with the people.

We are experiencing another very sad example of the government's attempts to turn every crisis the country goes through into an opportunity for itself. We are grateful to all our citizens, fire brigades and municipalities, who fought against the fires despite the government's reluctance. We know and see that our people are fighting not only against fire but also against betrayal. We invite all our citizens to be a part of this struggle and to take part in this fight to get rid of both the fire and this mobbish ruling of Erdogan Regime.

Workers' Party of Turkey (TİP) called for an extraordinary session of the Parliament and stated that the following policies should be enacted immediately:

- The Parliament should gather and responsible ministers should be questioned,
- All mining licenses in forest areas should be revoked,
- All tourism licenses, construction and development plans should be cancelled,
- Privatisation of firefighting airplanes, helicopters or any means of firefighting works and institutions should be prohibited. All the process, planning and execution of firefighting works should belong to the public sector,
- Paris Climate Agreement should be signed,
- The rights of forest workers should be given, firefighters should be defined in a separate occupational group. Firefighters should be employed under full time guaranteed contracts.
- Firefighters workers should be legally recognized as martyrs if they lose their lives during the firefighting, and veterans if they are injured.
- Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee and Friendship Groups should contribute to solidarity actions against fires.

The president, who has exhibited grave betrayal and has completely lost his authority and legitimacy to govern, should resign immediately. Turkey must get rid of this Erdogan Regime without delay.



ERDOĞAN

WORKER'S PARTY OF TURKEY IN THE PROCESS OF WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION:



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TRANSLATOR: TİLBE AKAN

Yelda Koçak/Lawyer
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The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Fighting Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence, also known as the Istanbul Convention, was opened for signature in 2011 and Turkey signed it as the first signatory. The Agreement entered into force on 1 August 2014 with the completion of the signatures required for enforcement. The Istanbul Convention is the best international human rights convention ever prepared in the fight against violence against women and LGBTI+s, which sets the basic standards for preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, and the obligations of states in this regard.

Since the date of its entry into force, the Convention has been constantly criticized by opponents of women's and LGBTI+ rights, who develop conservative, right-wing populist rhetoric, both in Europe and in Turkey, and these criticisms have also been voiced and appreciated by the AKP in recent years.

AKP Chairperson and President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan published in the Official Gazette the Presidential Decision taken on March 20, 2021 for Turkey to withdraw from the Istanbul Convention on Combating Violence Against Women of the Council of Europe. According to the Constitution, our other domestic legislation and the regime, the legislative activity is the responsibility of the Turkish Grand National Assembly. However, the President decided to withdraw from the Istanbul Convention, which regulates the basic human rights of women, LGBTI+s, children, immigrants and the elderly, despite the Constitution's article (Article 107)

With the announcement of the decision published on March 20 at midnight, the demand for the withdrawal of the decision was raised, street protests were immediately organized, and the Workers' Party of Turkey organized and participated in protests together with women's organizations in all provinces and districts in which it was organized in order to abandon the decision to withdraw from the Istanbul Convention.

Without wasting any time on March 23, the Workers' Party of Turkey filed a lawsuit demanding that the

decision taken unilaterally by the President was unlawful and that it was annulled, and that its execution was suspended before that. In this process, approximately 200 lawsuits were filed by women's organizations, bar associations, political parties and women. Since it was known that the withdrawal decision would come into force 3 months after the notification to the Council of Europe (1 July 2021), TIP filed the case without delay and requested a stay of execution, but the 10th Chamber of the Council of State, which oversaw the case, deliberately slowed down the proceedings and oversaw the file and did not make an immediate decision. Thereupon, TIP shared the information summarizing the general situation in the file with women's organizations and the public, stating that the cases were deliberately slow and this was against the law, and the action process was initiated.

Women from the ESIK-Women for Equality Platform, of which the Workers' Party of Turkey is also a component, called on the Council of State to submit an additional petition for a stay of execution as soon as possible, to make a press statement before the Council of State, and to make a press conference to announce the demands of women. The police did not allow the press release. These demands of the women and the campaign they made on social media made a strong impression, and the Presidency had to submit a reply petition to the file for the first time in a case - the case filed by TIP. While the content of the reply petition did not include any justification for withdrawing from the Istanbul Convention, it was stated that the president had the right to take a decision in this direction and that this could not be questioned or sued. As we have said from the first day, withdrawing the Istanbul Convention with the decision of one man is a regime problem and the President's attempt to suspend the duty of the Assembly and build an autocracy.

The demands of women's organizations, including TIP, for an immediate decision in cases, were also

embraced by other political parties, associations and related parties, and this demand was voiced. Thereupon, 2 days before the withdraw from the Convention will be finalized, on 28.06.2021, the Council of State decided to reject the request for stay of execution in the case opened personally by a female political party leader (İYİ Party Chairman Meral Akşener), both the file in which the decision was made and the file in which the decision was made. showed that the decision was made by adhering to a single man, not the law, in terms of the content of the decision. Before the decision was made, a change was made in the court committee of 5 people, 2 new members were appointed, but the decision was passed with 3-2 votes.

Between 20 March and 01 July, TIP evaluated what could be done both in the street, in the Assembly and in the legal field, and struggled to take a step back from the decision to withdraw from the Istanbul Convention. A large rally was organized and attended in Istanbul on 19 June together with women's organizations, street protests were held at more than one place until 1 July, roads were cut, metrobus traffic was stopped, and on July 1, there was a rally in Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir. Actions were taken in many cities. Particularly in the Istanbul protest, despite all the pressures and prohibitions, the participation of women and LGBTI+s was intense and police barricades were opened.



Although the government was not able to take a step back in the process of withdrawing the Istanbul Convention, there was a process of action and struggle with gains. In addition to a good experience in that all means of struggle can be tried at the same time and none of them should be neglected, there has been a good process of political parties, women's and LGBTI+ organizations, that they can walk together despite the LGBTI+ opposition, and that their struggle experiences can be shared. The Workers' Party of Turkey has also been a part of this process with its cadres in every field.

NEWS FROM THE PARTY

Our women organization participated in demonstrations for “solidary with Afghan women” all around the country.



Our party committee and PMs have been to the flood zones and fire zones for solidarity.

One of our PM and our chairperson Erkan Baş is in a tour around the country and they had various speeches.




We organize a music festival as a part of our solidarity campaign. As party, we do not have sponsorships, we only have solidarity. We will have the festival at 4th of September with various progressive singers.




WORKERS' PARTY OF TURKEY

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