

WORKERS' PARTY OF TURKEY



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TURKISH GOVERNMENT AND THE WAR IN UKRAINE

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Istanbul hosted the important peace talks between Russia and Ukraine in the fifth week of the war in Ukraine, which had began with the Russian attack. The talks between Russian and Ukrainian delegations did not produce a ceasefire but fueled the hope for peace. The AKP government has been presenting this as its own great accomplishment for days now. But their agenda has more to do with hypocritical opportunism than a genuine effort in peace-building.

Turkey is a member of the NATO. It still is a member of a military pact responsible for countless coups, invasions and civil wars. Turkey has signed agreements for military-industrial cooperation with post-2014 coup Ukrainian governments and it still sells drones there. Still the same Turkey refuses to embargo Russia, which has invaded Ukraine (even if it ends up being partial and temporary), and instead tries to bring the Russian oligarchs to Turkey. This equation is one of immense opportunism.

Had a genuine peace policy was followed Turkey would have had to leave its military pact, recall its overseas military bases and shut down US bases in its territory. Erdogan brags about Bayraktar drones

whereas Turkey's forests burned down last year due to the lack of firefighter planes. The government that turned the oldest center of grain production in the world into one of the top five importers of it tries to attract foreign capital to solve the bread crisis expected to unfold in the next months. And it must be kept in mind that all of this is during its last period in power prior to the presidential and parliamentary elections next year.

Erdogan desperately needs to shift focus from the crisis and inflation to the war in Ukraine. Erdogan desperately needs to make everyone forget his complicity in the civil wars and interventions in Syria and Libya, which had also caused the refugee crises, and present himself as a man for peace.

TIP had strongly denounced the Russian assault while emphasizing NATO expansionism as an underlying cause to it. But what is more important than drawing conclusions on war is how you make policies to prevent war. TIP advocates a global reduce of armaments along with the total decommission of weapons of mass destruction. TIP denounces the establishing of foreign military bases in any country by any country. This applies primarily to NATO, but also to Russia and of course Turkey itself.

The only possible outcome of militarisation is war. Erdogan fails to give bread and jobs to the people of Turkey but simultaneously brags about selling drones to world markets while refusing to lose to anyone the role of the architect of peace in the war in Ukraine.

The real world is more than mere propaganda. The deceitful acts of 'disciples of peace' by leading champions of militarism like Biden, Putin, Erdogan and Zelensky can achieve no more than make for social media trend topics for a day or two.

Unless an international movement for peace and against militarism and armament is founded, there will be no world left for future generations to live in.

Translator: **Devrim Umut Çelik & Özge Güzel Özççek**



PEACE IS THE ONLY WAY!

We oppose both NATO's Eastward expansion and Russia's attack

Russia's military action against Ukraine has begun. Moscow Government's justification for its expansionist attempts on some historical references is unacceptable. The welfare of the peoples of the world will be ensured not by glorifying the bloody colonial and nationalist legacy, but by the steps towards peace. The military action of the Russian Army must end immediately, and the comprehensive negotiation process that will bring stability and peace to the region must begin as soon as possible.

On the other hand, the main factor destabilizing not only the Russia-Ukraine line but also many regions of the world is the NATO itself and its expansion goals. Led by the USA and functioning as a war device of imperialism, NATO means the most important threat to the peoples of the world. The primary objective of the comprehensive negotiation process should be to discuss NATO's enlargement perspective and expansionist policies.

The global arms race is another major threat to the people of the world. NATO member states including Turkey, and countries like India, China and Russia have entered into an arms race that is rare in the

world history. The retreat in recent years from the agreements between Washington and Moscow which were aimed at limiting weapons of mass destruction dating back to the days of the Soviet Union is worrisome, as it shows that a constructive and compromise-based understanding has been abandoned. Another pillar of the comprehensive solution is to create a basis for controlling and the arms race.

This war, which is also very closely related to our country, means a great threat to all the peoples of the region. Military tensions and conflicts, wars and occupations bring death, destruction, poverty, mass migration and instability.

The Workers' Party of Turkey is against the pursuit of military solutions, aggression, imperialist and expansionist initiatives. It is clear that in our country, there are those who want to pour fuel on the fire, those who aim to be a part of the arms race, and those who hope to take advantage of a conflict. However, the solution lies in comprehensive negotiations and peace.

We warn the ruling AKP Government. All requests from any party that would constitute a violation of the Montreux Straits Convention should be rejected. It is not in our people's interest to support war and arming in an unstable and firing-line region. Turkey should be a party to peace and take the necessary initiatives for this.

Workers' Party of Turkey

TO THE STREETS, ON MARCH 8!

Under the AKP/ Erdogan Regime in Turkey poverty is growing, the crisis is deepening. The government, instead of taking the responsibility, is trying to make working class and women pay the price of the economic, political, and social crises.

Women carry the load of housework and care work on their shoulders. They struggle with the high prices in the market in order to make the house run, to afford the hygiene products and the very basic needs, and with the inequalities at work, schools, and in every aspects of life. Unemployment is increasing, more women are forced to stay home, and violence against women is also rising.

Let's shout "women will not get used to poverty"!

Let's fight against being cheap labor!

Let's bring our demand for alimony, kindergarten, equal pay for equal work to the streets!

Let's organize against violence against women, harassment, rape, and male justice!

Let's fight to re-sign the Istanbul Convention and enforce all its articles!

Let's bring the voices of women to the squares on March 8!

Long live March 8!

Long Live Our Struggle!

Women from the Workers' Party of Turkey





NEWS FROM THE PARTY

The Preparatory Conference of the Intervention Congress of the Workers' Party of Turkey was held in Istanbul on January 29-30, 2022 with the participation of our delegation.

We are ready to get rid of the Erdogan Regime and establish the country of labour and freedom!



Intervention Congress of the Workers' Party of Turkey was held in Istanbul on February 13, 2022; 61st anniversary for our party's founding event.

The congress was attended by thousands of party members, along with numerous trade and labour unions and representatives from different political parties.



NEWS FROM THE PARTY



Women of the Workers' Party of Turkey took to the streets across Turkey on International Working Women's Day with demands for equality and freedom.

Deputy Chairperson Barış Atay Mengüllüoğlu, Party Assembly members and Istanbul Provincial Organisation visited the Migros Depo, Oztas Corap and Aushra Corap workers on strike.



Party Spokesperson Sera Kadıgil and party delegation visited the workers on strike at Yemeksepeti HQ. Kadıgil: "We know that those who resist win, that the bosses will come down here and give us what we want! On with the resistance!"

Chairperson Erkan Baş, Party Spokesperson Sera Kadıgil and Istanbul MP Ahmet Şık joined journalists at a breakfast event. Party's reviews on current events and the problems faced by press labourers were discussed.



NEWS FROM THE PARTY

Istanbul MP Ahmet Şık, Party Assembly members and local party members visited the Farplas workers on strike at the company factory.



Istanbul MP and journalist Ahmet Şık joined BBC labourers in their strike after their negotiations on collective labour agreements broke down.

The Academics for Peace visited Chairperson Erkan Baş as part of their National Assembly visit on January 12, 2022.




TİP members marched on Wednesday, March 23 from the north and south of the country and met with environmental activists in various cities along their path to protest the destruction of some 190 million olive trees for mining purposes. The five-day-long march concluded with a vigorous rally in the city of Mugla.





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