

WORKERS' PARTY OF TURKEY



[www.tip.org.tr](http://www.tip.org.tr)

INTERNATIONAL  
BULLETIN of  
**TİP**



## SPEECH FOR THE ANTI-WAR CONFERENCE IN MILAN TIP - WORKERS' PARTY OF TURKEY

20 November 2022

We are in the middle of multiple crises both locally, in our regions, in Europe and in Middle East, and globally. We are facing crises from economical to ecological ones, from refugee crises to military crises. We don't live anymore in a two-polar world, where the states take clear positions. Their relations, their cooperations are more like project-based, short-term ones rather than long term contracts, and that fits perfectly with the neoliberal spirit of the era. It's rather a depolarized, destabilized, and chaotic period for our planet.

Things are changing very fast, the forecast horizon is narrowing, and the international relations are getting reshaped under these uncertain circumstances.

Actually we can say that the capitalist system returned to its "system in itself" phase that it was before 1945. When USSR defeated fascism in 2nd World War, when the

communists was the savers from Nazis, the bourgeoisie remembered its class consciousness and became "class for itself" and for that they built organizations like NATO, as a useful ideological and military class tool to fight against the common enemy, to fight against the communism.

After the fall of the Soviet Union, since there is no communist threat anymore, the system returned back to its "in itself" status. The interests of the capitalists states are conflicting with each other and they are fighting with each other. This is where we are now.

Ukraine-Russia war is an example of this current status.

As TIP, we are considering this war as the fight of the capitalists states. We say that 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. However, we emphasise that 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. Without underlying the role of NATO in this issue, we cannot draw a clear picture of the situation.

NATO is the war device of imperialism, the destabilising instrument of the bourgeoisie everywhere it is interfering. In Italy it showed itself as Gladio, in Turkey as Counter-Guerilla organisations. Therefore, the primary objective of the comprehensive negotiation process should be to discuss NATO's enlargement perspective and expansionist policies.

Turkey is playing supposedly a negotiator role in this war, putting together Russia and Ukraine around the table. But Erdogan's agenda has more to do with hypocritical opportunism than a genuine effort in peace-building. On one hand Turkey has signed agreements for military-industrial cooperation with post-2014 coup Ukrainian governments and it still sells drones there. On the other hand, still the same Turkey refuses to embargo Russia, which has invaded Ukraine (even if it ends up being partial and temporary), continues cooperating with Russia, and moreover tries to bring the Russian oligarchs to Turkey. This equation is one of an immense opportunism.

We see that Erdogan desperately needs to shift focus from the crisis and high inflation in Turkey to the war in Ukraine, or wars in other places. 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 he tries to present himself as a man for peace.

However in reality our country is on the edge of wars in the region with our neighbors due to the dirty policy pursued by the AKP and the Erdoğan regime enjoying a totalitarian power over Turkey for years.

Imperialists tried to weaken Syria for the sake of oil, for the security of Israel, in order to increase the threat against Iran and Palestine. The AKP government both served these purposes and tried to strengthen its hand in the region by patronizing the jihadist forces, also to weaken the position of the Kurds in the region.



On the other side, there has been a lot of tension lately between the Mitsotakis and Erdogan governments. Main motive of Erdogan in rising the tension with Greece is again to divert people's attention to the foreign affairs instead of the worst economic crisis that we live in.

Turkey is already in an electoral atmosphere and Erdogan Regime is losing voters' support mainly because of the economic crisis. Militarism and chauvinism is always an option for the authoritarian regimes to get popular support from voters. Therefore, simultaneously he deepens the invasion of northern Syria, wage a war against Kurds in Northern Iraq, and rise the tension with Greece.



Another motive behind Erdogan's aggressive statements in relation with Mitsotakis is that the Turkish military bureaucracy believes that the military balance between Turkey and Greece changing in favor of Greece, especially in the air. So this shows us another aspect of the armament race.

Another important source of tension between Greece and Turkey is the controversy over the delimitation lines of the Exclusive Economic Zones in the Eastern Mediterranean. Both the Turkish and Greek maximalist thesis, arguments and claims about maritime delimitations are nothing to do with the interests of the two states' peoples, working classes.

Turkish and Greek people could find a way to share the fishes of the Aegean Sea and the Eastern Mediterranean but Turkish and Greek bourgeoisie wants something way more than the fishes: Energy, and control of the maritime corridors. Both governments already cooperated with the imperialist energy companies which will create ecological disasters in the Eastern Mediterranean. Working classes, not only Turkish and Greek ones, but also Syrian, Lebanese, Palestinian, Israeli, Egyptian and Cypriot working classes should come

together and stand against all those energy projects based on fossil fuels, and imperialist energy monopolies in the Eastern Mediterranean.

For Erdogan, his political islamist agenda is always active as well. For example to promote the Ikhwan forces, their muslim brothers in Libya, and to foster their expansionist policies in the Mediterranean, they gave support to NATO's intervention there. Operations in Libya means promoting islamism, and also providing opportunities to capitalists for opening new construction sites, new areas for weapon trade. So AKP and the bosses work together hand by hand and produce wars.

There are not only military wars in our regions, there is also a big war against the truth! Heavy censorship against freedom of speech and the media is applied in Turkey. For example, right after the explosion that happened last week in Istanbul, in which six people lost their lives, the government was rushing to infringe the right to receive information, and imposed a broadcast ban immediately

after the attack; they started hunting down the social media accounts.

The biggest problem for the great majority of the Turkish people is the economic crisis: Minimum monthly wages was around 450 USD in July 2020, and fell below 250 USD by the June 2022. Over 40% of the wage laborers are getting minimum wage, meaning the minimum wage became the average wage in Turkey. Unemployment problem is worsening as well. Meanwhile the inflation rate for basic goods and services rise 150%. Housing and rent prices rose over 110% just in one year. Young and educated people, especially doctors and engineers are migrating to European countries. Working people are living the worst economic conditions in the last 100 years. So we cannot say that this is also another type of war? Killing people, worsening their living conditions?

All in all, we can summarise that with every single aspect of it, there is a big war against the working class.

So, in this atmosphere what should the left do?

We need an anti-war movement but what kind of anti-war movement it should be? It is easy to say in a moral way that no one should die, we need peace. But what is more important than drawing such conclusions on war is how you make policies to prevent war.

Our peace should definitely be anti-imperialist, anti-capitalist, and anti-militarist. It shouldn't lean to any big power. We don't have to choose the better murderer in order to build the peace.

As TIP, we advocate a global reduce of armaments along with the total decommission of weapons of mass destruction. We denounce the establishing of foreign military bases in any country by any country. This applies primarily to NATO, to US, but also to Russia and of course Turkey itself. We should be out NATO, NATO should be dismissed.

The people has the power to change the society we live in, and to defeat capitalism. By raising international solidarity among the working classes, we can build a free, equal and fair world, we can build socialism.

For this, peace is the only way.

Thank you.



# A GENERAL PERSPECTIVE ON TURKEY'S 2023 ELECTIONS

**Kubilay Cenk**

It has been -unfortunately once again- a year that Turkey has gone through several political as well as economic milestone events that will affect not only today but the near future of the whole country, especially the upcoming elections that is expected to take place in June 2023. Within the limited space provided in this article, I will try to evaluate some of the most important events from our viewpoint. I believe that our perspective would be beneficial to those in the international community and socialist movement to understand Turkey in depth.

## **A snapshot of the general situation**

In 2022, Turkey faced a significant surge in inflation. The ruling class have profited while wage-earning segments of society have collapsed in the face of an economic downturn. It could be said that upcoming elections are particularly important as the Turkish

Republic will turn 100 years old. So, the general mood is determined by economic and political pillars based on upcoming elections. However, the whole situation consists of several domestic and foreign political events. Firstly, Turkey now has a bourgeois alternative to the AKP-MHP Alliance, namely Table of Six. Secondly, alongside six other left-wing and socialist parties, we have established Labour and Freedom Alliance. We aim to defeat Erdogan's regime while also establishing an independent left alternative to inter-capitalist alliances. We believe that Erdogan's regime has significantly lost its ability to gain upper hand politically, but it's still able to make some moves. In 2022, several activist figures were imprisoned on the charges of attempting to overthrow the government back in the 2013 Gezi Park Uprisings. Additionally, Turkey withdrew from Istanbul Convention, the legal barrier against femicide. It was a



big step toward smashing the women's movement. The regime uses political imprisonment as a tool to suppress political figures. In early May, the highly political judicial bodies approved Canan Kaftancıoğlu's (leader of CHP's Istanbul branch) political ban. A few weeks ago, Istanbul's mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu faced the same faith.

### **Table for Six: Forming a new bourgeois status-quo**

The first important event that occurred in 2022 was the establishment of the "Table for Six" which consists of six political parties that are the elements of the previous status quo. These parties consist of the centre-left Republican People's Party (CHP), right-wing Good Party (İYİP), Felicity Party (SP), Democratic Party (DP), Future Party (Gelecek) as well as Democracy and Progress Party (DEVA). The main alignment of the coalition is anti-Erdoganism and all of them are also opposing Erdogan's "one-man rule". The parties forming the Table for Six have no other commonalities except the above-mentioned case. Furthermore, these parties are the main elements of Turkey's capitalist class and they all support Turkey's total alignment with EU-NATO interests. Table for Six has organized several meetings among the leaders of their parties and the next one is in January 2023. The results of these meetings were a new constitution draft for the "Strengthened Parliamentary System." To cut it short, the draft constitution of Table for Six suggests returning to the parliamentary system rather than Erdogan's presidential regime. However, due to the "umbrella" nature of the table, the parties are not consistent on every issue. For instance, Turkey's withdrawal from Istanbul Convention was agitated by the AKP-MHP coalition but externally supported by the right-wing Felicity Party which is also a member of the opposition alliance. The same applies to the presidential candidate. It's still unclear whom Table for Six will nominate as their presidential candidate that will face Erdogan in the elections. Moreover, the alliance faces inter contradictions between Istanbul's highly popular mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu and CHP's leader Kemal Kilicdaroğlu's candidacy. While both figures come from CHP, İmamoğlu's candidacy is supported by the İYİP.

### **Turkey's revolutionary choice: Labour and Freedom Alliance**

Until early September, Turkey was discussing elections as if it's taking place between two capitalist blocs (one of them consisting AKP-MHP regime, the other one is Table for Six). However, the Labour and Freedom Alliance was established as the third, pro-labour and pro-democratic alternative. Workers' Party of Turkey (TIP) is a founding member of the alliance alongside the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), Labour Party (EMEP), Social Freedom Party (TÖP), Federation of Socialist Assemblies (SMF) and Labour Movement Party (EHP). The particular emphasis that we put on the Alliance is that Turkey's liberation from the AKP-MHP alliance is a question that we cannot underestimate. Yet, we believe that this liberation is not possible without a left alternative. While the first question is to get rid of Erdogan's regime, the other one is to establish a just, democratic and pro-labour Republic, namely a socialist Turkey. This requires a political alternative that can flexibly but firmly manoeuvres to gain political positions while defeating the AKP-MHP alliance. Beyond the electorate, the Alliance fights for a peaceful solution to the Kurdish question, improving the daily living standards of wage-earning people, equality and freedom for women and against the destruction of nature.

### **To win the future...**

As the Workers' Party of Turkey (TIP), we believe that it's possible to overthrow Erdogan's regime. However, it's not enough to overthrow the regime. The success of a left alternative is desperately needed to characterize the possible newly-born regime in the post-AKP era. The Table for Six has inter-contradictions and the left has a duty to organize the masses for that alternative. The Labour and Freedom Alliance plays a vital role in that sense.



# FOR OUR COUNTRY, OUR FUTURE, AND OUR CHILDREN WE WILL DEFEND LIFE AND PEACE!

14 November 2022

We mourn for our citizens who lost their lives as a result of the terrorist attack on İstiklal Street, and we wish our condolences to their relatives and a speedy recovery to the injured. We condemn the perpetrators and those responsible for this attack.

No power can design Turkey by using bombs. No power can take away our people's desire for a decent human life. The people of this country will not surrender to the politics of violence, nor will we ever.

All government officials, who have been unable to protect the lives of our citizens and the border security of the country but have used the conflict environment and internal-external tensions as a political tool for years, should resign immediately.

Those rushing to infringe the right to receive information and impose a broadcast ban immediately after the attack; those hunting down the social media posts after an explosion in which our citizens lost their

lives; the carefree people of the Palace, so dehumanized as to call our citizens who lost their lives or were wounded as "numbers", do not care about anything but their power, and threaten the peace and security environment in our country.

As the Workers' Party of Turkey, we know that we can build a bright future for our country by defending a humane life.

We are enraged at those seeking political gain from the death of civilians. We are aware that today it is necessary not to succumb to our anger and to fight harder to build a country, where we will live in equality, freedom, and solidarity.

Turkey should not be associated with regional wars and tensions or known as an operation area for all kinds of mafia-gang-terrorist organizations.

We will defend and establish a humane life for our country, our future, and our children.

Our condolences to our people.



# EARTH WON'T BE SAVED WITH YOUR APOLOGIES, BUT YOUR DISAPPEARANCE

8 November 2022

The 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27) meets in Egypt's Sharm El Sheikh on November 6-18, 2022. In truth, the states and companies attending the conference won't be discussing solutions to the climate crisis, but plans for further plundering. No state or company will give up extracting fossil fuels, building nuclear plants or increasing their carbon emissions. They will only keep saying "we've got this" to keep us amused while at the same time continuing to profit from the crisis.

COP26 of last year in Glasgow aimed to limit global warming at 1.5°C. That requires the immediate cessation of coal, gas and petroleum extraction. But COP26 didn't even mention any of these issues. It produced only declarations of intent to decrease greenhouse gases in general.

Capitalism has stopped acting like it believes in the fairytale it's been selling.

COP26 Chairperson Alok Sharma had said at the closure of the conference: "May I just say to all delegates I apologise for the way this process has unfolded and I am deeply sorry."

COP27 in Sharm El Sheikh won't even have that much.

Because in the wake of the Russo-Ukrainian war, companies and states attend the conference having fallen short on even their COP26 resolutions; increasing fossil fuel consumption, re-establishing the nuclear and thermal plants they had previously decommissioned and expanding their natural gas explorations.

One of the best descriptions of capitalist exploitation is "social murder". With the deepening of the climate crisis this has surpassed murder and turned into an extermination. Climate change, food crises, water crises, extreme weather events, even the pandemic is a consequence of this process which steals away our lives and our future.

To stop this state of affairs, we need to unify our struggles. Wars, commodification of water, increased difficulty in access to food, regional differences, deforestation, shrinking of living spaces affect more than anyone the poor, the women, the refugees, the youth and the working class.

We want climate justice for humankind and all other species!

End the exploitation of nature and labour!

**TİP International Committee on Urban and Ecological Affairs**





# FREEDOM TO IRAN

24 November 2022

The riots following the murder of Mahsa Amini by Iranian law enforcers have entered a third month and have spread across Iran. Women and youth are on the streets, workers organise strikes in multiple cities. The mullah regime can't suppress the riots despite its brutality.

The success of the uprising in Iran and the overthrow of the mullah regime will be a victory for the Iranian masses and the oppressed across the world alike.

The Workers' Party of Turkey supports Iranian women, youth and labourers' demands for democracy and freedom in this period of uprising which recorded millions in participation, over 15 thousand arrests and a death toll of over 300.

On the other hand we are aware that imperialism has its own plans to dominate the situation and that Iranian bourgeoisie can adapt to the developing circumstances and form a cooperation with imperialism.

This makes it all the more important for workers of Turkey and the world to show solidarity with millions of Iranians fighting for their freedom. Iranian people must be able to determine their own future democratically.

The Workers' Party of Turkey invites our Iranian brethren who had to abandon their homeland and now live in Turkey to our ranks and advocates the following basic principles regarding the uprising in Iran:

- Suppression of the oppressed must end! Equal citizenship!
- Rights to unionise and strike and humane pay for all labourers!
- Rights to political organisation for the workers!
- Democratic constitutional process; Rights to choice and a voice in political

matters for labourers, the impoverished, women and youth!

- Turkey must cease relations with the mullah regime. Activities of Iranian intelligence known to orchestrate assassinations in Turkey must be prevented.

We will not allow imperialists waiting to plunder Iran's national wealth!

We support the Iranian women's chant of freedom. Down with the mullahs. long live freedom!

Jin ,Jiyan,Azadi!

**WORKERS' PARTY OF TURKEY (TIP)**



## NEWS FROM THE PARTY

International Relations Committee of TİP attended the anti-war conference in #Milano.

We will build the #peace with the international solidarity of the working classes! 20/11/2022



November '22

November '22



We celebrate the 105th anniversary of The Great #OctoberRevolution, one of the most remarkable moments of humankind's equality and freedom struggle.

We march firmly to a future without exploitation and classes! Long live October, long live the workers' triumph!

We're fed up with living in a loop of economic - psychological - physical - sexual violence! We won't stand living another day in this system!

Together, we will build a country where #women can live free!

#noviolenceagainstwomen #25November



November '22

November '22



TİP CH Erkan Baş, Party Spokesperson Sera Kadıgil and Hatay MP Barış Atay Mengüllüoğlu attended the Art, Culture and Thought Workers Meeting organised by TİP Arts and Culture Committee.

Women of the Workers Party of Turkey issued a press release in a street rally against child sexual abuse offences in religious cults and sects.

We will not surrender the children to your darkness! We will not let abuse be vindicated!

#ShutDownReligiousCultsAndSects



December '22



## NEWS FROM THE PARTY

The Party came together with workers, youth and citizens of all stripes in Public Meetings in various cities across the country. The meetings which were attended by Party officials CH Erkan Baş, Spokesperson. Sera Kadıgil and Hatay MP Barış Atay Mengüllüoğlu, İstanbul MP Ahmet Şık saw large turnouts of enthusiastic citizens.

We thank our citizens who participated in the meetings across the country for sharing their valuable opinions with the Party. We will keep on moving towards the bright future of Turkey together.

December '22 ▪ KONYA



November '22 ▪ UŞAK



December '22 ▪ MANİSA



November '22 ▪ HATAY



December '22 ▪ MUĞLA



November '22 ▪ AYDIN



December '22 ▪ İZMİR



December '22 ▪ BALIKESİR



November '22 ▪ ANTALYA



November '22 ▪ HOLLAND








# WORKERS' PARTY OF TURKEY

Contact: International Relations Committee of **TIP**

[int@tip.org.tr](mailto: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](http://tip.org.tr)

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