



CONFEDERATION OF TURKISH TRADE UNIONS TÜRK-İŞ INTERNATIONAL

Bayındır Sokak No: 10 • 06410 Yenışehir-Ankara/Turkey
Tel: +90 433 31 25 • Fax: +90 433 68 09
www.turkis.org.tr • e-mail: intdept@turkis.org.tr



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TÜRK-İŞ CELEBRATED MAYDAY ALL AROUND THE COUNTRY

TÜRK-İŞ CELEBRATION AT KADIKÖY SQUARE



President Ergün ATALAY

TÜRK-İŞ Executive Board and the Presidents of the affiliated trade unions gathered in front of the TÜRK-İŞ Regional Office on the morning of 1 May. TÜRK-İŞ Executive Board left a carnation to the Kazancı Hill to commemorate the victims of May Day 1977. The Executive Board also laid a wreath to the Atatürk Memorial at the Taksim Square. Here, the President

of TÜRK-İŞ Ergün ATALAY answered the questions of the press.

TÜRK-İŞ President Ergün ATALAY delivered a speech following the opening speech of TÜRK-İŞ General Secretary Pevrul KAVLAK. In his speech President ATALAY focused on workplace accidents, difficulties confronting trade union organizing, the



At 10.00 the unions gathered in front of the Kadıköy Haydarpaşa Numune Hospital and at 11.00 the march towards Kadıköy İskele Square began.



At 12.00 the unions filled the Kadıköy İskele Square.

ongoing strike at the Punto Leather Factory, the resistance against the privatization of Muğla, Yatağan, Yeniköy and Kemerköy thermal power plants and mines, subcontract labor, and violence against women

and children.

The President of Public Workers Trade Unions Confederation (KAMU-SEN) İsmail KONCUK also delivered a speech.



At 12.30 General Secretary Pevrul KAVLAK delivered the opening speech of MAYDAY celebrations.

TÜRK-İŞ CELEBRATION IN ANKARA TANDOĞAN SQUARE...

TÜRK-İŞ celebrated MayDay in Ankara with a mass participation. The workers gathered in Demirtepe at 10:30 and marched towards Tandoğan shouting slogans. The program started at 12:00 with a minute of silence to commemorate the victims of Mayday 1977 followed by the national anthem. Political party representatives and mass democratic organizations also participated to the celebrations. The first speech was delivered by Ayhan ÖZTÜRK, the workplace representative of Turkish Electricity, Water and Natural Gas Workers Union (TES-İŞ). ÖZTÜRK focused on their ongoing struggle against the privatization of Yatağan Thermal Power Plant.

TÜRK-İŞ Ankara Provincial Representative Mesut YILDIRIM took the floor following the speech of ÖZTÜRK. ÖZTÜRK highlighted the problems related with subcontract work, difficulties in organizing, workplace accidents and the





FROM THE PRESIDENT

TÜRK-İŞ history is a history of struggle. TÜRK-İŞ stands for social dialogue, work peace and stability. Our confederation seeks justice in the fields and on legitimate and legal grounds. Our country has witnessed many demonstrations and actions organized by TÜRK-İŞ.

“Meeting to protest exploitation, subcontract, irregular and unorganized labor” held on the 15th of February in Ankara Sıhhiye Square became an important milestone in the history of TÜRK-İŞ and the trade union movement of our country.

Subcontract workers employed at the General Directorate of Highways and tens of thousands of workers from all regions of the country participated to the demonstration. We have not witnessed a single event that would jeopardize our unity and our peaceful action. TÜRK-İŞ filled the meeting square and once again proved its power and influence despite the low participation of other labor confederations, political parties and professional organizations.

We are proud of our achievement. “Meeting to Protest Exploitation” will be a milestone in the history of Turkish Trade Union Movement.

I express my gratitude on behalf of the TÜRK-İŞ Executive Board to all our members, regional and provincial representatives, and our affiliated unions for their contributions.

The main theme of our meeting was to protest subcontract labor which has become increasingly prevalent and literally turned in to a slavery system in our country. Our aim was to warn the Government. The main demand was to stop all legal arrangements that would lead to the expansion of subcontract labor and to make sure that the workers performing the essential work are granted with permanent contracts. The final jurisdictions in this regard must be implemented.

Our struggle against subcontracting will not be limited to this meeting. A regulation related with the subcontracting system prepared by the Ministry of Labor and Social Security will be submitted to the Parliament following the local elections to be held on April. TÜRK-İŞ will closely monitor the process in order to protect the rights of the subcontract workers and to solve the problem related with the permanent contracts.

The other item in our agenda is the initiatives to privatize the thermal power plants and coal mines in Yatağan, Kemerköy and Yeniköy. As you are aware the struggles of our affiliated Turkish Mine Workers Union and the Energy Workers Union in this regard are continuing. Our members are resisting and they are fighting so that their voices can be heard

We have never left our friends alone in their legitimate struggle. The security forces did not allow the workers of Yatağan to participate to the mass press declaration held in front of the Privatization Administration on the 24th of January in Ankara. On that day we promised them that we would meet in Ankara very soon. We have kept our promise. Energy and mine workers participated to our meeting held on the 15th of February. This is not the struggle of energy and mine workers only. This is the struggle of TÜRK-İŞ. We will continue to stand behind our commitments.

We are concerned of the recent development in our country. These developments lead to economic and social crises and harm peace and stability of the country. Allegations of corruption on one hand and claims of an alternate (parallel) state on the other do not seem to end. Unfortunately the burdens of economic crises are not shouldered by the bosses. It is always the workers who shoulder the burden. We don't want to do this anymore. We want to live in peace and have a confident look at the future.

76 million people in this country are living together. We have people from all faiths, ethnic origins and political views. We managed to live like brothers and sisters on this land throughout history and we must continue to do so. We advocate the interests of the ones we represent. The interest of our people and workers are above everything. We have to protect our unity and ride out bad times. We have to stand against those who see their personal and political interests above the interest of our country and of our people. We must fight with those who cooperate with the forces seeking instability in the country.

“Once the ship sinks, everybody sinks