

# NEWS BULLETIN

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Dear All,

There was recently another police raid against Workers' Party (Turkey), Aydınlık (Clarity - Daily Newspaper) and Ulusal Kanal (National Channel - TV Channel). Mehmet Bedri Gültekin - Vice-Chair of Workers' Party -, Erkan Önsel - Deputy Chair of Workers' Party -, Turhan Özlü - Deputy Chair of Workers' Party and Chief Editor of Ulusal Kanal - and our friend Mehmet Perinçek - Research Assistant at Istanbul University - were arrested.

This last operation was nothing but a new wave of systematic attacks of the AKP government (Adalet ve Kalkınma Partisi - Justice and Development Party), a close collaborator of US imperialism, against revolutionary and patriotic forces of Turkey. It is a continuation of the operations carried out under the guise of "legal trials" known as Ergenekon, Balyoz (Sledging Hammer) and so on.

To understand the political nature of these operations, it might be best to give a short history of the entire process. During the years of "globalisation", especially after the Soviet Union was dissolved, US imperialism set to establish a "new world order" in which there was no space for national states of the Oppressed World. The projection of this comprehensive plan upon Turkey was to substitute "Moderate Islam" for the "Kemalist Revolution". This political and social transformation process went hand in hand with the aim of weakening Turkey by deepening separatism and fragmentation based on ethnic and religious grounds. The construction of a Puppet State in Northern Iraq, which started with the First Gulf War and became much more visible following the invasion of Iraq by USA, was an important item underlying the entire process. The sustainability of the Puppet State, thus the aim to turn it into a permanent American base, from which the entire Middle East and Asia could be threatened, required its expansion especially towards the North (Turkey), but also preferably towards the East (Iran) and towards the West (Syria).

This process had two important consequences in the Nineties concerning Turkey. One was that the Armed Forces of Turkey, which had been a member of NATO since 1952, started to reposition themselves against the US, having observed that the source of separatism was being protected and manipulated by USA and opposing the transformation aiming at replacing Kemalism by Moderate Islam. The second important consequence was that the US authorities came to the conclusion that they cannot reach their targets via traditional rightist parties in Turkey. Thus some new party had to be manufactured if they were to have a proper instrument to reshape Turkey. This is how AKP was founded and why it is so fiercely combating the Turkish Armed Forces along with all the revolutionary and patriotic forces in Turkey.

Reshaping Turkey with an aim to turn it into an instrument of imperialism, which can do things towards the Islamic World on behalf of the US that USA itself cannot do directly, is a comprehensive job that requires getting rid of all obstacles that bloc the way. This is how and why the so-called "Ergenekon Operation" was started. Fehmi Koru, a Turkish journalist and an intimate friend of Abdullah Gül's President of Turkey wrote in a newspaper and declared on television that the crucial start of Ergenekon Operation was given by Bush's instructions to Tayyip Erdoğan in the Oval Office on November 5, 2007. The Turkish Armed Forces and Workers' Party were located at the centre of the target. Doğu Perinçek, the Chair of Workers' Party, along with some other leading members of the party, has been detained since then. The operation was expanded (and still continues to do so) to cover further politicians, university rectors, journalists, intellectuals, representatives of all circles who challenged the implementation the roadmap set by USA. It was also extended to further related operations called "Balyoz" (Sledging Hammer), "Kafes" (Cage), "Poyraz" (Northeast Wind) etc., connected to which more than 10 % of high level commanders of the Turkish Armed

Forces are under arrest now. It was also reported in the newspapers that a 35-member committee was sent from USA in February 2008 to Ankara to lead these operations directly.

The Ergenekon Case and the others are not genuinely legal trials. The fact is that the operations are being carried out under the guise of trials, or equivalently, the trials are meant to provide a basis on which the operations can be continued. The trials are being done by special courts in a special place just designed for these particular trials within the Silivri Prison Compound, which is located 100 km away from the city of Istanbul. The detention times have already exceeded three years now, and with the given pace, these trials will never end. Almost all alleged evidences were obtained in unlawful ways. Several books have already been written about inconsistencies in the evidences, indicating that they were actually manufactured. The authors of some unpublished books are put into jail under the pretext that the writing of these books were encouraged/instructed by the Ergenekon Organisation in order to influence the public opinion (!).

The pretext under which the last police raids and arrests were carried out is based on a press conference made by Mehmet Bedri Gültekin two years ago, during which he made known to the public records of certain telephone conversations by Tayyip Erdoğan (Prime Minister) and Melih Gökçek (Mayor of Ankara). These conversations were broadcast by Ulusal Kanal and published by Aydınlık. The issue was then investigated by regular (and not special) legal authorities who found the broadcast as well as the publication of these news in the public interest. The contents of these talks are detailed in the documents below. Thus, it suffices to note here that they are all associated with severe crimes against the country committed by Erdoğan and Gökçek.

The real reason for this last wave is the same as that for the entire operation in general. The documents included in this bulletin are meant to testify on this occasion the importance, strength and breadth of the struggle in Turkey against the plans of imperialism and their collaborators.

With best regards and friendly greetings.

International Relations Bureau  
Workers' Party (Turkey)

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*Below are parts from some of the supportive messages from politicians, labour unions, mass organizations, writers and journalists sent to Workers' Party (Turkey), *Aydınlık* (Clarity - Daily Newspaper) and *Ulusal Kanal* (National Channel TV Channel) after the police raid on the 19<sup>th</sup> of August.*

## SUPPORTIVE MESSAGES

**Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu, President of CHP (Cumhuriyet Halk Partisi - Republican People's Party):** AKP (Adalet ve Kalkınma Partisi Justice and Development Party) proceeds with oppressions. But it must be remembered that oppressions always increase the demand for freedom. It is not possible to regard what happened as something normal.

**Mehmet Şandır, Group Deputy Chair of MHP (Milliyetçi Hareket Partisi - Nationalist Movement Party):** The government, unfortunately, points as a target at whomever it regards as its rival.

**Emine Ülker Tarhan, Group Deputy Chair of CHP:** ... I consider all this as a total war of imperialists against Turkey. ... I call upon all democratic powers for solidarity.

**Masum Türker, President of DSP (Demokratik Sol Parti - Democratic Left Party):** The issues concerned with the ground on which the police raid against *Aydınlık* is based have been on the agenda for the last three years. The relevant information and evidences must have been collected long ago. I think *Aydınlık* was searched because of the content of the news it publishes, and this threatens freedom of press. Similarly, the search in Workers' Party is a serious violation of freedom of organization.

**Erkan Baş, Chair of Communist Party of Turkey:** We are faced with an attack of a political nature. Thus, it should be accepted as an indicator of the dark regime. If our journalist friends are taken under custody for making news or if the same happens to party members due to regular party activities, then I think that all this is an indication of the oppressive nature of the process that we are going through. It should be accepted that Turkey is living one of its darkest periods. This period, named after AKP, is administered by a reactionary, so called "Second Republican" government collaborating with imperialism. Yet they refer to this period as "democracy" and even sometimes as "advanced democracy"! They apparently aim to suppress and to silence all social strata who oppose this process. We can say that, within this context, republican and revolutionary socialist forces of Turkey are taken as the target of several operations. ... I am of the opinion that these attacks are to be assessed in their entirety, and all the sections of the society should locate themselves in a revolutionary position against such attacks.

**Alper Taş, Chair of ÖDP (Özgürlük ve Demokrasi Partisi - Freedom and Solidarity Party):** *Alper Taş together with other delegates from his party visited the hunger strike lead by the members of Workers' Party, *Aydınlık* and *Ulusal Kanal* and made a call for "unity and solidarity". He explained their reason for solidarity with Workers' Party as "...to defend the freedom of information; to struggle against lawlessness and injustice; and to support those who are treated unjustly because of their struggle against AKP mentality..."* Taş demanded that the people under custody must be left free immediately.

**Abdüllatif Şener, President of Türkiye Partisi (Party of Turkey):** ...Today, there is a reshaping process going on in Northern Africa, the Middle East and some other regions in accordance with the requests of global powers. The nature of this event makes one think that it might be related to such scenarios.

**Kamer Genç, Parliamentary of CHP:** They are trying to silence Aydınlık and Ulusal Kanal due to their opposing stance. They try to destroy them and they imprison people. Aydınlık writes the existing truth. That makes them uneasy....

**Yakup Akkaya, Chair of Basın-İş Sendikası (Press-Work Union):** I do not have any difficulty in understanding the reason of these operations. This is where we ended up with the 'advanced democracy' in our country. Free press is the eyes and ears of the people. These oppressions have branded the people's eyes and ears.

**Atilay Ayçin, Chair of Hava-İş Sendikası (Aerial-Work Union):** It is naturally not possible to approve this raid. ... AKP tries to create a model country according to its own vision. The image of a fully independent and democratic Turkey does not comply with this vision, which, however, overlaps with the roles ascribed by the imperialists to the Middle East. ...

**Musa Servi, Chair of Deri-İş Sendikası (Leather-Work Union):** AKP government does not want opponents. ... They try to silence Ulusal Kanal and Aydınlık because they share the truth with the public opinion. AKP does not want the people to learn the truth.

**Ercan İpekçi, Chair of Türkiye Gazeteciler Sendikası (Journalists' Union of Turkey):** This anti-democratic practice, which aims to get information and documents in order to reveal the news sources of journalists, is a severe violation of freedom of press and expression.

**Mustafa Köz, Chair of Türkiye Yazarlar Sendikası (Writers' Union of Turkey):** ... We keep talking about the necessity of democracy and freedom of expression. But on the other hand, what we observe is fascism without any limits. (...) Newspapers and journals are being seized. TV channels are attacked. With all this oppression, how can we talk about freedom of press? (...) I express my sorrow about what happened to Aydınlık and Ulusal Kanal.

**Tansel Çölaşan, Chair of ADD (Atatürkçü Düşünce Derneği - Atatürk Thought Association):** This is the recent image of Turkey. They do not want any opposition. All opponents are put in jail for some manufactured reason. There is no freedom of press. There is a state terror here. All this is not done by decisions of courts or attorneys. It is openly a state terror that we observe here.

**Tarık Günersel, Chair of P.E.N Turkey Office:** All of these are appearances of fierce religious fascism in Turkey. There must be consistency between the words and deeds of those who talk about democracy and peace.

**Ferit İlsever, Journalist:** We have come across with one more instance of fascist attacks that we have been witnessing for the last four years. The centre of this attack is located in Beşiktaş. For the last four years, they have been organizing systematic attacks under names like Ergenekon, Balyoz and so on, in order to discourage the vanguards and revolutionaries of Turkey. There is no law, no rights, no justice in Beşiktaş. They bring idle stories generated two years ago once more to the agenda. The aim of American imperialism is to fragment our republic. Workers' Party represents the 90-years-old revolutionary tradition in Turkey. It is the fortress of patriots. We will give the sharpest reply to them, they will see! This deceitful dictatorship will be overthrown by our people, our labourers, by the power of the workers class. Everyone will see! They will not be able to silence Ulusal Kanal and Aydınlık.

**Banu Avar, Journalist:** I believe this raid is associated with what was published the previous day. Especially, the news published in Aydınlık on the 18<sup>th</sup> of August saying that Esad had proposed a triple operation against PKK which was refused by Tayyip Gül must have made them very uneasy. This news caused trouble for the government and foreign intelligence. ...Turkey's cooperation with the other regional countries may create resistance against the USA. I think this is the reason for this raid, which I disapprove.

**Ali Sirmen, Journalist of Cumhuriyet (Republic Daily Newspaper):** This raid is a strike against the freedom of press and expression. All democrats of Turkey must be in solidarity with those who were exposed to this raid. Those, who wish to take advantage of ethnical tensions, may be in pursuit of an excuse to shelve democracy. Today, Aydınlık; tomorrow, other opponents...

**Ümit Zileli, Journalist of Cumhuriyet:** The timing is very telling. ... I believe that the government came to an agreement with the USA behind the scene. Turkey will be dragged to the forefront in attacking Syria, while operations in Turkey will be allowed against PKK. We will see in the next days. Those who oppose this must be silenced and hindered. It is very clear that this raid was done because Aydınlık opposes it.

**Sabahattin Önkibar, Journalist:** This operation against Ulusal Kanal, Aydınlık and Workers' Party, is an American operation. Ulusal Kanal and Aydınlık firmly support “single flag - single country”. This is the reason behind these operations. We will stand upright and not get demoralized.

**Ahmet Say, Music Critic:** I condemn it fiercely, I object to it, I refuse it. ... Turkey is gradually entering darker days.

**Ataol Behramoğlu, Poet:** ... Of course, they are afraid of Aydınlık, which is a significant opponent newspaper with an increasing circulation. But we will let them pay the price for all this back. We are ready to do anything that falls upon us..

**Ferhan Şensoy, Actor:** They are trying to silence Aydınlık. Aydınlık has its own stance about such matters with which I totally agree as someone who writes for it. I condemn this act to silence Aydınlık.

**Füsun Demirel, Performer:** ... I do not know what to say, Turkey is going through a terrible period. What we live today bears some resemblances to Hitler Germany. ...

**İnci Aral, Writer:** I see this as something very negative. They are trying to silence the only television channel and the only press organ that oppose their deeds and reflect the truth honestly. ...

**Levent Kırca, Actor:** ... It is nothing but an effort to stop publication of a newspaper that writes the truth honestly. It is an insult against freedom and democratic rights. ... It is not democratic, at all.

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*The police raids against Workers' Party, Ulusal Kanal (National Channel - TV Channel) and Aydınlık (Clarity - Daily Newspaper) on the 19<sup>th</sup> of August 2011 got immediately protested through demonstrations in several cities of Turkey, only two of which are referred to in this bulletin.*

*Several actions organized by Vanguard Youth, the youth branch of our Party, to protest the raids and the arrest of our comrades are also reported below.*

## WORKERS' PARTY'S RESPONSE TO POLICE RAIDS

### **The revolutionists in custody went on a hunger strike!**

Mehmet Bedri Gültekin - Vice-Chair of Workers' Party -, Erkan Önsel - Deputy Chair of Workers' Party -, Turhan Özlü - Deputy Chair of Workers' Party and Chief Editor of Ulusal Kanal - and our friend Mehmet Perinçek - Research Assistant at Istanbul University - and our comrades who were taken under custody on the 19<sup>th</sup> of August, went on a hunger strike to protest the raids and detentions.

Mehmet Bedri Gültekin said in a declaration, which he made through his lawyers, “We resist to this unlawful attitude. Me and my friends are in hunger strike since we have been taken into custody and we resist to give statement to the police, as well.”

Our executives and comrades continued the hunger strike until they were taken to the court.

### **Ankara responds with broad participation to the unlawfulness**

A joint mass press announcement was organized on August 23, 2011 in Ankara by Ulusal Kanal and Aydınlık to protest the police raids against Workers' Party and themselves with a broad participation from political parties, labour unions and mass organizations.

Emine Ülker Tarhan [Deputy Chair of the Parliamentary Group of CHP (Cumhuriyet Halk Partisi - Republican People's Party)], Kamer Genç and Levent Gök [parliament members of CHP from Tunceli and Ankara, respectively], Hasan Erçelebi [General Secretary of DSP (Demokratik Sol Parti - Democratic Left Party)], Ali Karamahmutoğlu [General Secretary of Yeni Parti - New Party], Nusret Senem [member of the Central Committee of Workers' Party] took part in the protest. Representatives and members of around 30 labour unions and mass organizations participated in the demonstration as well.

İsmet Özçelik Ankara representative of Aydınlık opened the press announcement with the following words: “In the past, being a worker in a dockyard was regarded as the most difficult job. Now, however, I would say it is being a journalist in Turkey. If you wish to be a journalist, but a genuine journalist in Turkey today, you have to take the risk of being imprisoned in Silivri. After having reported about the police raids against Workers' Party, Ulusal Kanal and Aydınlık, he closed his speech by saying “We promise you, Aydınlık cannot be silenced”.

The Deputy Chair of the Parliamentary Group of CHP - Emine Ülker Tarhan said in her speech that there is no freedom of press in Turkey, the judicial system is under pressure and the state has been converted into a party-state. She concluded by making a call to all parties and the people for solidarity against this party-state.

Kamer Genç Tunceli MP of CHP - described the point that Turkey has reached by saying "If you look for a dark regime, you do not need to turn to Syria, Libya or elsewhere, it is on top of Turkey". He also warned the judges of the Special Courts by reminding them of the shame they induce for their children who will have to go around in this society.

The President of TGB (Türkiye Gençlik Birliği - Turkish Youth Union) İlker Yücel reminded that every dictator came down when they felt most strong. He said that Tayyip Erdoğan will also come down when the opponents unite with a proper programme.

Nusret Senem member of the Central Committee of Workers' Party - , who had been under arrest in the Ergenekon Case for three years until 22 April 2011, began his speech by saying "Tayyip Erdoğan is afraid of his own voice". His speech is summarized below.

"Ulusal Kanal has been broadcasting Tayyip Erdoğan's talks in question from his own voice and Aydınlık has been publishing it for three years now. It is due to these secret talks of Erdoğan, which are in possession of the entire press, that he is afraid of his own voice.

"He has not made a single open appeal to the public prosecutors or has not sued anyone in person due to all this during this period. Tayyip Erdoğan,! Instead you unlawfully sent written instructions to the special prosecutors in Beşiktaş for Deniz Yıldırım, the editor-in-chief of Aydınlık,- and journalist Ufuk Akkaya to get arrested for having published your dialogues.

"Tayyip Erdoğan! In one of the dialogues, you instruct to 'get it done for three'. What is it that is to be done for three? What is the public act concerned with it? Is 'three' the amount of a bribe? Of a commission? Three units of what? What is the amount? Explain!

Tayyip Erdoğan! Tell us about the plot that you organised together with M. Ali Talat, who was then the Prime Minister of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), against the national hero President Rauf Denktaş. You tell Talat 'Let us not refer to TRNC as a state or something similar, let us not request its recognition'. Together with him, you are trying to destroy the TRNC. You will have to pay for this treachery of yours!

You will not be able to hide your crimes by attacking Workers' Party, Ulusal Kanal and Aydınlık. And you will have to account for all this!

I also have call to the main opposition party CHP and MHP (Milliyetçi Hareket Partisi - Nationalist Movement Party), which are represented in the parliament. You opposed the last unlawfulness against Workers' Party, Ulusal Kanal and Aydınlık. We thank you for your support. But you also talk about democracy; you announce that you will struggle against corruption.

It has been nearly four years that Workers' Party is being shamelessly attacked. The law is being harshly violated, our Party's political activities are being hindered. Our Chair Doğu Perinçek has been imprisoned for three and a half years. And now Mehmet Bedri Gültekin - our Vice-Chair - , Erkan Önsel - our Deputy Chair -, Turhan Özlü - our Deputy Chair and the Chief Editor of Ulusal Kanal - together with Mehmet Perinçek - a Research Assistant at Istanbul University, who documented to the whole world through his archive research that the Armenian Genocide is a lie - are arrested just to hide Tayyip Erdoğan's crimes. With the Ergenekon Plot, a fascist dictatorship has been established in Turkey. Now they are trying to found a legal basis for this process by a Constitution change in the Parliament. We call upon you not to support this Constitution plot. Let us struggle altogether to rise up our nation.

The Special Courts are used to destroy the Republic, to imprison patriots, Kemalists, the heroic generals and officers of Turkish Armed Forces. The time has come to accept this reality that everyone sees and join the struggle that aims to abolish the Special Courts.

The attacks against Workers' Party, Ulusal Kanal and Aydınlık newspaper, cannot frighten our friends or deter these institutions from carrying out their duties. On the contrary, they will be more determined and work harder to make known the crimes of Tayyip Erdoğan to our nation.

Workers' Party, Ulusal Kanal and Aydınlık cannot be silenced; sooner or later, Tayyip Erdoğan and those who attack them will be tried and sentenced by the Supreme Court.

### **Mass Press Announcement in Izmir**

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of August 2011, the Izmir branch of Workers' Party organized a mass press announcement in Izmir to protest the raids and the detention of our party executives and comrades. Deputy Chair of the Workers' Party and Chair of the Izmir branch lawyer Tugay Şen, made the press announcement in front of the Izmir Municipality.

The Izmir Parliamentarians of CHP (Cumhuriyet Halk Partisi - Republican People's Party) Mustafa Moroğlu and Musa Çam, Mayor K. Sıtkı Kürüm, representatives of CHP and TKP (Türkiye Komünist Partisi - Communist Party of Turkey), representatives of several labour unions, mass organizations, as well as writers and artists together with nearly 700 people attended the press announcement.

### **The Actions of the Vanguard Youth**

#### **The Vanguard Youth occupied the Kadıköy boat to protest the police raids and arrests**

Members of the Vanguard Youth occupied the Kadıköy boat on the 21<sup>st</sup> of August 2011 to protest the detention of the leaders of Workers' Party, Ulusal Kanal and Aydınlık within the context of the Ergenekon Plot.

Three members of the Vanguard Youth entered the wheelhouse and they prevented the boat from docking to the Kadıköy wharf for a while. The members of the Vanguard Youth put up banners to the boat where “the dictatorship of AKP attacks the Workers' Party, Ulusal Kanal and Aydınlık” and “Commanders are in Hasdal Prison, intellectuals are in Silivri Prison. We are revolting!” were written on. The passengers on the boat attended the slogans shout, as well.

Utku Faik Yılmaz, Chair of the Vanguard Youth Istanbul branch, declared that the purpose of the action was to protest the detentions within the context of the Ergenekon Plot. He said that they want to give support to their friends who are on hunger strike.

Three leaders of the Vanguard Youth were taken under custody after the action. They have been enlarged a few hours later.

#### **The Vanguard Youth occupied the EU Office to protest the lawlessness**

Two days after the occupation of the Kadıköy boat members of the Istanbul branch of the Vanguard Youth occupied the EU Office on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August 2011 to protest the police raids and arrests.

Fifteen members of the Vanguard Youth have been taken under custody after the action. Cosh and pepper spray have been used by the police.



## **Vanguard Youth protested the USA, the head of the Ergenekon Plot**

The Ankara branch of the Vanguard Youth also organized an action to protest the raids and arrests. Members of Vanguard Youth protested the USA in front of the US Embassy in Ankara on the 24<sup>th</sup> of August 2011. The reason of making the action in front of the US Embassy was to remind the people of Turkey that the USA is the head of Ergenekon Plot. The police raids and arrests were made within the context of this Plot.

Members of Vanguard Youth wrote “Workers' Party cannot be silenced!” to the wall of the US Embassy. They also wanted to make a press announcement, as well. But the police didn't allow the Vanguard Youth and took them under custody.

The members of Vanguard Youth declared that the operation against the Workers' Party was lawlessness and they shout the slogan: “This is the democracy of AKP.”

Utku Reyhan, the General Secretary of the Vanguard Youth was also one of the detained.

## **Izmir Vanguard Youth occupied the AKP branch office in Izmir!**

Another action of the Vanguard Youth to protest the police raids and arrests was occupying the AKP branch office in Izmir on the 25<sup>th</sup> of August 2011.

Seventeen members of the Vanguard Youth have been taken under custody after the action.

The Vanguard Youth Head office declared that they will continue the actions until the lawlessness ends.

## **Announcement**

**The English pages of our Party's  
web site are active now.  
You can visit our web site at  
<http://inter.ip.org.tr/>**

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