

NEWS BULLETIN

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MILLIONS IN DEFENCE OF ATATURK REVOLUTION

Millions of Turkish citizens protested, on the Republic Day, the reactionary policies of the Justice & Development Party (AKP) in power, its hostile policies against Syria and its initiative for a new constitution serving the needs of the Middle-East politics of the US.



The 29th of October, the Republic Day, is the anniversary of the foundation of the Republic of Turkey. On the 29th of October 1923, after the imperialists and their proxies were defeated in the Turkish War of Independence, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk declared the foundation of the Republic of Turkey.

Thus, the 29th of October has been regarded as one of the most important National Days of Turkey. Since 1923, this day has

been enthusiastically celebrated by the people of Turkey, as a symbol of anti-imperialist self-assertion of a sovereign nation. The AKP administration, a tool of US imperialism, last year made a change in the traditional way of celebrating the National Days and the celebrations were restricted only to official ceremonies.

Mass rallies to celebrate the 29th of October, even placing wreaths on the monuments of Atatürk in the centres of cities were officially forbidden.

The attempt to ban National Days is part of AKP policies to destroy the Turkish national state and in its place, to form smaller states based on religious and ethnic partitionings to serve the Greater Middle East Project of US imperialism: in other words, Divide and Rule.

On the 29th of October 2012; a mass rally in Ankara in the vicinity of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (the building which was used as the Parliament Building between 1920-24, and was the headquarters of the War of Independence, is now a museum) was organized in the leadership of the TGB (Türkiye Gençlik Birliği- Youth Union of Turkey) and ADD (Atatürkçü Düşünce Derneği - Association of the Adherents of Kemalist Thought) and 37 other mass organizations. With the participation of hundreds of thousands of people, this rally turned into a real celebration.

The rally -also attended by the Workers' Party Vice-Chairman Hasan Basri Özbey, Secretary General Osman Yılmaz, General Treasurer Mustafa Güleç and the Deputy Chairmen of the Workers' Party (Turkey) - was an oath of allegiance of the people to the Atatürk Revolution.

None of the measures taken by the government - the resolution of the Governor of Ankara to forbid this rally, stopping of the coaches carrying activists from other cities to the rally in Ankara on the way-succeeded to prevent the people from celebrating the Republic Day.

The police, trying to prevent the mass rally in the square in front of the National Assembly, set up barricades blocking the main streets leading to the rally point.

Despite these obstacles, the number of people increased with every passing minute and the police tried to intervene with tear gas and water cannons on the orders of the AKP administration. But instead of dispersing, the people pushed forward and broke the barricades down.

After that, the people coming from different directions met at the rally point and from there they marched towards the Mausoleum of Atatürk, as it had been planned. By the time the people reached the Mausoleum, their number had reached millions.

Mass rallies, to protest the AKP policies and to celebrate the Republic Day, were organized in other cities of Turkey as well. In İzmir, around 500 thousand citizens gathered in the city centre. In İstanbul, Bursa and other cities there were also rallies with the participation of hundreds of thousands of people.

The campaign of the AKP administration against this huge meetings carried out through the governorates, the pro-government media and the police was an attempt to suppress the growing anger of the people against the policies of the AKP government.

These mass gatherings, across the whole country, were organized not only to celebrate the Republic Day or to protest the banning of these celebrations. Mass activities were rather a reflection of the resistance of the people against the reactionary policies of the AKP administration, against its policies concerning Syria which have been implemented to suit the plans of the US imperialism and the initiative for a new constitution again to suit the Middle-Eastern policies of the US.



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