

6th April, 1976

FASCIST TERROR INCREASES IN TURKEY

Since the formation of a reactionary, fascist-type government (a coalition cabinet formed under the premiership of Mr. Suleyman Demirel which includes four right-wing parties, namely the "Justice Party", "National Salvation Party", "Republican Reliance Party", and the "Nationalist Action Party") 11 months ago, Turkey has been facing deteriorating economic conditions and increasing repression over the progressive youth and student movement.

Since then, about 50 people, mostly students have been murdered and more than 1500 were wounded during the armed raids of the fascist gangs over the workers and students. The fascist gangs have been receiving an open support from the police everywhere. Behind them lies the interests of imperialist forces, the intrigues of CIA and the big monopolies.

The industrial establishments and the universities became the targets of fascist attacks. In many parts of Turkey, buildings and offices and belonging to progressive organisations and parties have been attacked.

The progressive student movement has become one of the major targets of reaction. During the last term, almost all the universities were closed by the university administrations, because there was not any security of life and education because of daily raids of fascist gangs. Today in Turkey there is not a single day passing without a student being murdered. The irony is, it is not the murderers who are arrested but the progressive people. Many are arrested and tortured.

The basic democratic rights of the Turkish working people are at stake. Apart from the Communist Party of Turkey, which is forced to work underground, the existing legal organisations of the progressive people are also facing the danger of being outlawed.

Despite all these attacks, there is a growing unity among the progressive organisations. Joint anti-fascist rallies have been organised by the anti-fascist forces and the funerals of the fallen revolutionaries have been turned into massive anti-fascist demonstrations. Progress has been made on the organisational level as well. The "Progressive Youth Organisation" which was formed recently, indicates a positive step towards the anti-fascist, anti-imperialist organisational unity of the progressive youth and students of Turkey.

Against this background, we the progressive students of Turkey demand "democratic university", "an end to fascist laws which prohibits the activities of democratic organisations", and an "Independent and democratic Turkey".

Turkish student movement is a part of the international student movement. We wage the same struggle against fascism and imperialism as the other students from other countries have been waging. The same forces which brought fascism to power in Chile are trying to do the same in Turkey. The struggle against imperialism is waged in an international scale and the importance of international solidarity is growing.

We believe that the British student movement particularly, the NUS which has shown its solidarity with the anti-imperialist struggle waged in the other parts of the world, is also together with the Turkish student movement in our struggle for peace, democracy, national independence and social progress.

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