

HALK CEPHESİ



PEOPLE'S FRONT





**WE ARE FIGHTING:
FOR INDEPENDENCE
AGAINST IMPERIALISM
FOR DEMOCRACY
AGAINST FASCISM
FOR SOCIALISM
AGAINST CAPITALISM**

The **PEOPLE'S FRONT** is the pioneer of the democracy fight in Turkey. It has characteristics of being a revolutionary front and fights on a legitimate basis. With this point of view, People's front, as a representative of a tradition, has the honour of being the only maintainer of the anti-imperialist, anti-oligarchic struggle since the 1970's in Turkey.

The kind of tradition we come from and the kind of history we have.

Independently of the 1968 mass movements arising in Europe which affected the whole world, the movement appeared in consequence of a revolutionary separation that was a rejection of a 50-year-long revisionist tradition. Its first representatives were **Mahir Cayan** and his comrades who initia-

ted and led the youth movement which developed as a result of the circumstances of the particular era. This tradition developed in the struggle against imperialism and its collaborators in all conditions, with all kinds of legitimate means, which do not restrict themselves to legal limits. Yet, on 30 March 1972, it achieved its final form. Although the creators of this tradition, Mahir Cayan and his comrades were massacred, they left a fighting manifesto behind them. The struggle taken over from Mahir Cayan and his comrades is carried on today. Although it emerged as "**Dev-Genc**" (Revolutionary Youth) in the first phase of the 70's, it did not limit itself to the struggle of the youth.

While organising meetings among tobacco workers in the Aegean Region, Manisa province, it organised worker actions in the 15-16 June Worker Resistance, which was a turning point for the workers of Turkey. It has been the representative of "Revolutionary May Days" in the public squares of the country.

Especially, on the May Days of 2007-2008, it was the architect of the street resistance to fascist terror. While it was pioneering the aca-



democratic struggle of the youth in **IYOKD** (Istanbul Higher Education Association), it also agitated among workers with the Revolutionary Workers' Movement, civil servants with the Revolutionary Civil Servants' Movement and women together with the Women's Movement. It resisted the demolitions of shantytowns, in order to find solutions to the housing problem of the people. It built houses and shantytowns together with the people.

Before 12 September 1980, in order to defend the lives of the people against fascist terror, it led that struggle by integrating the people into it and in practice demonstrated how people should form their own organisations. Fascist occupations at schools, factories and hometowns were broken down one by one.

This tradition takes its strength from Abdullah Meral, Haydar Basbag and Hasan Telci who defended their revolutionary identities without surrendering. They took part in the Death Fast (permanent hunger strike) against the 12 September 1980 fascist junta's attack on revolutionary prisoners.

This strength comes from the voice of the prisoners, **TAYAD** (Families of Prisoners Solidarity Association). TAYAD's action in which they laid a protest wreath in Taksim Square, Istanbul was the first democratic action against the fascist junta after 12 September 1980.

It takes its strength from the 1987 April resistances which Dev-Genc initiated for the academic and democratic rights of youth undergoing higher education; from the "1989 Spring Actions" which was the first mass resistance of workers' after 12 September; from the associations which were formed in 36 different suburbs to solve the housing, road, electricity, water, and economic problems of the peoples; from the Migros Workers' first strike in 1987. Migros Strike was the strongest action of the workers' movement after the junta. After two years of resistance, May Day was accepted as the "workers' and labourers' festival" at the agreement drawn up with the bosses. Peddling goods in the street is an occupation developed as a remedy to unemployment among the people, and it is again this political tradition which pioneered organising in this field.





Ispor-Der (Peddlers' Solidarity Association), was founded by the leadership of Yemliha Kaya and his comrades who died in the 1996 Death Fasts in the prisons.

Saglik-Sen (Health Workers' Union) and **Bem-Sen** (Municipality Workers' Union), the first organisations of civil servants whose organisations were banned after 12 September 1980, were founded by this of this same tradition.

The **PEOPLE'S FRONT** created over 20 mass organisations like **Ozgur-Der, Demkad, Bakad** and **Geyad**, to organise the struggle in all areas of life.

Also today the People's Front continues the tradition of mass organisation with its **Associations For Fundamental Rights and Freedoms**, which are currently struggling for uniting and mobilising people around their common rights and liberties. They are established in 17 different cities and towns of Turkey.

The **Youth Federation** gives the struggle for the academic and

democratic rights of the youth and students. It consists of Youth Associations which are currently established in 7 different cities and towns of Turkey and are under construction in 11 cities.

Grup Yorum ("Commentary") and the **Idil Cultural Centre** render the voice of the peoples of Turkey and the world, in the field of culture and arts.

The **Peoples' Law Bureau** is an organisation which not only leads a struggle in the field of law within the borders of courtrooms, but also in the democratic mobilisation of lawyers. Lawyer Behic Asci is one of the members of this bureau (he is a lawyer who began a Death Fast [permanent hunger strike] on World Lawyers' Day - April 5th 2006- with the demand for the "Abolition of Isolation in the F-Type Prisons". This action showed that the struggle in the field of law does not have to be limited to the borders of the courtrooms. It can also be one which could involve the same type of action as the lawyers' clients in prison clients, ie, the Death Fast).

TAYAD, the Families of Prisoners



Solidarity Association, is an organisation which was founded by the relatives of prisoners. It gave dozens of martyrs in the struggle for the rights of political prisoners.

The **Yuruyus Magazine** (“March”) is a revolutionary alternative in the media. Its weekly publications represents the revolutionary-socialist ideology against the bourgeois **ideology**.

The **Revolutionary Workers’ Movement** is an organisation in the workers’ front and the **Revolutionary Civil Servants’ Movement** is the organised strength in the public servants’ front. ...

They are all part of the People’s Front.

The People’s Front struggles against the oppressive politics of the system by producing alternative politics, actions, projects and activities in all fields of life. The government’s “Urban Transformation Project” is one which has been developed to leave the people homeless. Associations which were formed in the suburbs developed a campaign called “Solution Together with the People” against this project and led the bar-

ricade resistance against demolition of shantytown (poor) suburbs. The AKP (Justice and Development Party) government was responsible for the death of many people because of the Bird Flu outbreak for not undertaking the necessary measures. This government was exposed and the actions and mass rallies managed to show an alternative with the slogan of “It is not Bird Flu that kills, it is the AKP government”.

By taking the daily problems of the people as a starting point, it organised a struggle against the issues such as drug trafficking and use, prostitution, and theft which play a significant role in the degeneration of the people. As an alternative it began projects such as “Peoples’ Libraries” and ‘Suburban Workshops for Women’ for unemployed women.

By announcing that “SEKA belongs to the people, and it cannot be shut down” it was shoulder to shoulder with the resisting workers of the SEKA (Cellulose Paper Factory). Its members were attacked by the police many times for organising actions together with the workers. It organised press releases in front





of the AKP building and actions in Taksim Square against the contra-guerrilla bombings at Semdinli and Yuksekova (South-eastern Turkey) which targeted the Kurdish people. It organised committee visits to the towns in order to observe the attack and show to the people of Yuksekova and Semdinli that they were not alone. It participated in the march to the Sirnak border together with many democratic mass organisations during the state's preparation to invade Northern Iraq . The march aimed at stopping the state's illegitimate attack which sought to use the so-called "struggle against terrorism" as an excuse. Imperialism is massacring people in the Middle East as it does in the whole world. It is invading countries and is trying desperately to turn the people against each other. The People's Front organised a campaign called "Our Common Enemy is America" against American imperialism that has been exploiting our homeland by forcing us into the swamp of dependency over the last 50 years. During the campaign, together with panels and press releases all thro-

ughout Turkey, with the attendance of responsible artists, it organised theatre performances and concerts. The People's Front continues its duty to raise the anti-imperialist struggle with determination.

(TAYAD) Families of Prisoners Solidarity Association:

TAYAD is the first prisoners' families organisation. It has been struggling uninterruptedly since its foundation in 1986. TAYAD was started as the organisation of the fathers and mothers of political prisoners who were imprisoned during the years of the 12 September Fascist Coup. The mothers, fathers and families in TAYAD were the breath and voice of the their sons and daughters who were waging a struggle to protect their political identity and honour in the prisons. They were mothers who had never seen the world outside their homes. They were fathers who did not know much about the struggle of their sons and daughters. Despite all this they were always the first ones to react and oppose all state-applied politics involving prohibitions, pressures and massacres in prisons, aimed at dissuading the political prisoners from their tho-



ughts and beliefs. They have pursued their struggle despite all the bans, threats and tortures they faced under police custody. Their actions went beyond the status quos which exist in the struggle for democracy. In 1996, 12 prisoners died in Death Fasts (permanent hunger strikes) which lasted 69 days, as a result of the states' policy of stripping the prisoners of all their rights and forcing them to submit by transferring them to cell-type solitary confinement prisons. In this resistance TAYAD was once again the voice of the prisoners outside the prison walls. In the prisons also, there was another Death Fast resistance against isolation (solitary confinement), which lasted 6.5 years and in which 122 people lost their lives. The sit-in action that they had started in Ankara in Abdi İpekçi Park on 16 September 2003 lasted 1231 days despite harsh summer and winter conditions. The families of TAYAD ended their Abdi İpekçi Resistance with the victory of the Death Fast. TAYAD in this case did not only carry the voice of the prisoners outside the walls, they too sacrificed their lives on the Death Fast. The mother of two children Senay HANOGLU and the mother of one child Gulsuman

DONMEZ sacrificed their lives in the Death Fast resistance in Kucukarmutlu/Istanbul. TAYAD today continues to display a decisive attitude in the struggle primarily for the rights and freedoms of political prisoners, and also in the developing struggle for democracy in the country.

Youth Federation:

Youth Federation has ceaselessly pioneered the struggle of the student youth from the period beginning with İYOKD to the current Youth Associations. It organised many campaigns. In these campaigns many of its members were attacked, tortured and taken into prison. Youth Federation defends the view that education should be free. Together with the slogan of "science for the people, education for the people" it stresses that education must meet the needs and interests of the people and also its contents must be of a democratic nature. The campaign named "We want our student rights", which was launched by high-school students, is the only example of its kind.

Police and gendarmerie terror in universities continues. Fascist





gangs supported by the university administration and the police are used to attack revolutionary-democrat students. Drug trade and use in universities have become public. The youth are being distanced by force from their cultural values and are under the attack of degeneration through all sorts of means. In the struggle for independence, democracy and socialism, the youth throughout its history have been an example and a leader. They have been the model in overcoming fascist occupations in schools. They have always been aware of the peoples' problems and anti-imperialist struggle throughout history. This is due to its anti-imperialist identity, dynamic stand, initiative, steadfastness, and sensitivity towards the problems of the people. The Youth Federation is the consistent pursuer of this tradition.

Idil Cultural Centre:

Idil Cultural Centre continues to pursue the tradition taken over from Ortakoy Cultural Centre since 1987 in the field of arts and culture. Ayce Idil Erkmen

was a revolutionary artist who worked in Ortakoy Cultural Centre before being imprisoned. She later sacrificed her life in the Death Fast resistance of 1996. The name of the centre was changed to IDIL Cultural Centre out of respect for her memory.

Grup Yorum ("Commentary"):

It is the only example of its kind in the field of music, it has a 22-year experience and history which began in 1986. It has released 19 albums up to today. It is a political music group which together with music, has been touching on issues involving the struggles of workers and oppressed peoples. It has nourished itself with the struggle. Grup Yorum has always been shoulder to shoulder with the fight of the people for rights and freedoms. Their albums and concerts have been banned many times, they have been taken into police custody many times and some of their members were arrested for many years and tortured on numerous occasions. Despite all of these pressures Grup Yorum has been able to defend and protect its revolutionary-artist identity. It continues to be a model music group.



Besides Grup Yorum, TAVIR (Attitude) in Culture and Art, a periodical which has been published since 1990, FOSEM (Photography and Cinema Labourers), performances by the Idil Theatre Workshop and choir groups maintain their activities since the foundation of OKM. Its workers continue to join the struggle of the people with their cultural and artistic activities.

People's Law Bureau:

People's Law Bureau was formed in the defence process of the Devrimci Sol (Revolutionary Left) Trial. At the time, lawyers claiming responsibility for the defence were acting within the boundaries of the regime and the government. In particular, they were trying to conserve their own status and privileges. Because of this reality, the need for an active and organised lawyers' tradition could not be created. It was especially this need which led to the formation of the People's Law Bureau. It was established not only to examine and defend political cases in a militant manner; but also with the principle of being active in the struggle for rights and freedoms. It is this basic principle which determines the existence of the bureau.

It is this principle that drives them to be on the side of the poor; fight against the demolition of their houses, defend the farmers who are fighting to protect their products, defend the workers fighting for conditions worthy of human beings and political prisoners under attack in jails.

The bureau has dealt with thousands of political cases. And in tens of cases, they carried out the defence duty for the families whose children had been massacred and subjected to extra-judicial execution. Because of this, the bureau staff has been subjected to all kinds of suppression by the political rulers. Almost all of them have been tortured or arrested. One of the lawyers of The Peoples' Law Bureau, Lawyer Fuat Erdogan, was killed in 1994 by policemen who knew him very well. Workers of the bureau are organised. Furthermore, one of the lawyers of the bureau attended the Death Fast resistance which continued until 2007. Member of People's Law Bureau, Behic Asci paused his 293-day-long Death Fast action together with the prisoners in F-Type prisons after the Justice Ministry's concrete steps and promise to solve the isolation





problem in F-Type prisons.

The People's Front attaches great importance to organising within the working class. The practice during the 38-year-long tradition reveals the particular importance given to the working class struggle.

The **Revolutionary Workers' Movement** is the organised name of this practice. It is the organisation which has pioneered and led the working class, from the well-known MIGROS strikes, to street actions. There has been a constant struggle with revisionists, reformists and bureaucrats within the trade unions. It has never restricted the struggle of the working class to the unions. Everywhere where there is a contradiction between labour and capital, from factories to workshops, from heavy industries to small businesses, this is of concern to the Revolutionary Workers' Movement. All practices are carried out with the perspective of coming to power. It doesn't restrict its horizons to merely economic and democratic demands; it shows to the working class that real libera-

tion and salvation is only possible with socialism.

The People's Front has practiced and organised within civil servants, as it has been in every section of the working class and the people. **Revolutionary Civil Servants Movement** pioneered the struggle of public servants before and after the 12 September fascist junta. After the 12 September fascist junta, during a period in which nearly all rights, especially the right to organise, were abolished, public servants founded Saglik-Sen (Health Union) and BEM-SEN (Council Workers Union) based on the legitimacy of active struggle. These two unions carry the feature of being the first civil servants' unions in Turkey.

Towards the end of the 80's and the beginnings of the 90's, civil servants, under the leadership of the Revolutionary Civil Servants Movement initiated massive actions for their rights and became prominent in the struggles of the people. Revolutionary Civil Servants Movement has pioneered the civil servants' in their struggle for the right of union, economic- democratic actions; struggle against fascist recruitments in public offices, deportati-



ons, and organised resistance. It is an organisation which did not yield to state pressure despite the price it had to pay.

On 28 September, 1994, a member of the Revolutionary Civil Servants' Movement, Elmas Yalcin, was assassinated. The Revolutionary Civil Servants' Movement has been pursuing to develop the organisation within civil servants; despite the fact that its members have been assassinated, disappeared while in custody, imprisoned and tortured. It publishes a periodical magazine named "Public Workers' Front".

Yuruyus Dergisi ("March" Magazine):

Clarity in struggle has also reflected on the People's Front's perspective of publication. It has maintained its publication activities ceaselessly since December 1986 and has created many firsts in this area. The publications have always exposed the massacres and invasions of imperialism and its collaborators. In its 22-year-long publication life it has always faced penalties, closures, bannings because of its character of being a front in the ideological war against the oligarchy.

"Cozum" (Solution) began its pub-

lication life in December 1986. From August 1990 the magazine **"Mucadele"** (Struggle) was published, in July 1995 **"Kurtulus"** (Liberation) started its publication life, on 23 October 2000 **"Yasadigimiz Vatan"** (The Homeland We Live in), on 25 March 2002 **"Ekmek ve Adalet"** (Bread and Justice), and since 22 May 2005 **"Bagimsizlik Demokrasi Sosyalizm Icin Yuruyus"** (March for Independence, Democracy and Socialism) is being published.

The State Security Court decided to confiscate the first printing of "Cozum" on 15 December 1986. The compulsions which began at the first printing has continued on for 22 years, with many confiscating decisions, storms and raids on bureaus, torture and arrested on its workers, imprisonment for tens of years and cash fines of hundred of thousands to the owners and editors. All this pressure could not obstruct its publication, its clarity in ideology provided the motivation to confront the oligarchy in a stronger way.

The 17 year old Irfan Agdas was assassinated by police who shot him 17 times on 13 May 1996 in





Alibeykoy, Istanbul while he was distributing Kurtulus magazine. Once more on 28 January 1998 a worker of Kurtulus magazine Mehmet Topaloglu, was killed together with his Besat Ayyildiz and Bulent Dil, also in the house. Later, on 7 October 2007, a 17 year old distributor of Yuruyus magazine Ferhat Gercek was shot by police from behind and as a result became paralysed. At the lawsuit brought forward, 9 years of imprisonment has been demanded for the police who shot Ferhat, and 15 years 4 months for Ferhat himself. Ferhat's "crime" is; distributing a legal magazine. Engin CEBER and his three friends who attended a press release to protest this event, and whilst distributing Yuruyus in solidarity with Ferhat Gercek, were detained, tortured at the police station and arrested and put into Metris Prison. The torture went on in the prison. On 8 October 2008, Engin Ceber was beaten to death.

Its editor and many of its workers are still in prison. Despite all this they have gone on to defend socialism and exposed the enemies of the people.

From Cozum to Yuruyus, Revolutionary media have always been and always will be the voice of the people and the ones who resist. In their pages, they speak out on the problems and demands of all peoples, presents the developments in the world, illustrates alternative culture and morality, and produce solutions to problems of the people.

The Peoples' Front did not only limit itself to the struggle in Turkey. It has defended all sorts of solidarity and united struggle with the peoples who are under the attack of imperialism throughout the world. It has organised and continues to organise against imperialism. In the past it organised a mass action against the American 6th Fleet and the Yankee sailors who ascended the wharf at Dolmabahce/Istanbul. Together with the slogan of "6th Fleet get out of our country!" it threw the Yankee sailors into the sea.

Again, it has been in solidarity with resistance of the Palestinian people and has struggled against Israeli Zionism. It has organised actions and campaigns against the imperialist attacks on Iraq since 1990. It has managed to integrate all the anti-imperialist organisations in



Turkey by launching a campaign called “No to imperialist War” prior to the attack in 1990. After the invasion it continued the decisive campaign by shouting out the slogan “War against Imperialist War!”

Whilst imperialism was announcing that the ‘end of history’ has come, after the dissolving of socialist states in the world, People’s Front decisively continued to defend socialism by raising the flag of socialism higher.

In the recent invasion of Iraq, it has participated in all organised actions in Turkey . It is one of the creators of the “No to Invasion of Iraq Coordination” which was responsible for many actions against the occupation. “Human Shield” was an action which was organised globally to stop the invasion of Iraq in 2003. People’s Front sent two of its members, Cihan Keskek (also a member of Grup Yorum) and Eylul Iscan (also a member of TAYAD) as “human shields” to Iraq .

Despite the state’s banning, pressures and massacres aimed at the People’s Front, together with its 100 institutions which it maintains all over Turkey, it continues to wage a determined struggle for rights and liberties in all fields.

CAMPAIGNS OF THE PEOPLE'S FRONT



HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS AT GRUP YORUM- CONCERT IN SUPPORT OF AN INDEPENDENT TURKEY

A Sunday morning in Istanbul... the year 2011... the day April 17... It is the great day in which we experienced our dream, our enthusiasm... Already in the early morning hours, visitors streamed into the square in a steady flow, people came from all over Anatolia...

The members of the People's Front had hung banners in all corners of the square. People were met by red banners with inscriptions in yellow: "Long live socialism", "Murderer NATO, get out of Libya", "the workers for the magazine Yuruyus must be released from custody". And of course Grup Yorum's songs, sung in front of an enormous banner with the legend: "LONG LIVE COMPLETELY INDEPENDENT TURKEY!"

There were more than 100,000 people on the square, and even more were streaming into the area where the concert was taking place. Yorum had marked its 25th anniversary in Inonu stadium with a concert attended by 55,000 people, and here there were 150,000... It can be said that this was the result of the 26-year revolutionary music tradition of Grup Yorum.

CAMPAIGN FOR THE OPENING OF THE MASS GRAVES



With the demand for the return of the body of Ali Yildiz, a guerrilla fighter of the DHKC (Revolutionary People's Liberation Front) murdered in 1997 and buried in a mass grave, a demand put forward by his brother Husnu Yildiz, combined with a call for the opening of the mass graves, Husnu Yildiz started an unlimited hunger strike on June 10, 2011. It was carried out

in a resistance tent in Cemisgezek in the Kurdish city of Dersim. On the 45th day the protest was turned into a death fast. On the 62nd day of the resistance the state prosecutor of Malatya called Husnu Yildiz's lawyer Taylan Tanay and told him that the excavation of the graves would start on Friday August 12.

The excavation did start on August 12 at Cemisgezek. As a result of the digging, which went on for two days under the supervision of forensic experts, archaeologists, family members and democratic mass organisations, a total of 15 sets of human remains were found. The remains were transferred to the Forensic Medical Institute in Istanbul. Institutions connected to the People's Front supported the resistance from the start with regular actions and hunger strikes in many cities of Turkey, as well as abroad.

The People's Front evaluated the success of this resistance with the following words: "This victory is not our victory. It is the victory of all peoples who worldwide fall victim to massacres, tyranny, hunger and poverty inflicted by imperialism". In particular it is a victory because for the first time in Turkey mass graves were opened without mechanical diggers and in a way that respected human dignity, so it will be easier to fight for the opening of further mass graves.



CAMPAIGN FOR FREE EDUCATION



For over a year the Youth Federation has been carrying out numerous actions in support of free education. In the past year Berna Yilmaz and Ferhat Tuzer were arrested while working for the campaign of the Federation, because they opened a banner with the demand for free education at a workshop in which

Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan was taking part.

The Youth Federation continues its campaign for their release and for free education throughout the country, despite police repression. Protest tents they set up in different cities of Turkey are targets of police attack, and they are frequently detentions and imprisonment. But the revolutionary youth do not let themselves be intimidated and continue their actions.

ACTIONS FOR THE RELEASE OF YURUYUS WORKERS



The central office of the weekly magazine Yuruyus ("March") was stormed in the middle of the night on Dec. 24, 2010 by hundreds of police accompanied by armed special units and helicopters. Doors and walls were broken down with hammers. The office was completely laid waste. Numerous magazine workers were detained by the police. Kaan Unsal, Halit Gudenoglu, Naciye Yavuz, Musa Kurt, Cihan Gun, Remzi Ucucu, Mehmet Ali Ugurlu, Necla Can and Gulsum Yildiz are still in prison.

The People's Front and its associated mass organisations continue to campaign for the release of magazine workers and revolutionaries imprisoned as a result of this operation.



MAY 1, 2011 - TAKSIM/ISTANBUL

A 35-year dream, a 35-year passion... to celebrate May Day in Taksim Square... How many martyrs were sacrificed for this square. Dozens of us fell on May 1, 1977, 1989, 1993 and 1996. But we do not let ourselves be intimidated. On the contrary, our consciousness and our anger only grow even more intense... This square is the scene of struggle for the workers.

The oligarchy knew this, and for years banned May Day in the square. But we did not give up. Wherever we were, we remembered Taksim and our promise to our martyrs.

For some, Taksim was a dream. It was impossible to open up the square. Provocations were prepared, we were detained, beaten and some of us even imprisoned. We said, no. We believe in the people and we promised it to our martyrs.

And in 2007, we set ourselves this goal again. In 2010 May Day was made an official holiday and we conquered the square. This year we were there again. We stood in the ranks of the People's Front, behind the organised force of the people who conquered this square.

Tens of thousands were in the People's Front cortege, behind 30 banners. Grup Yorum entertained hundreds of thousands with their revolutionary songs on May Day in Taksim.

STRUGGLE AGAINST IMPERIALISM

The People's Front has always been on the side of the oppressed peoples against imperialism and announced its solidarity in numerous campaigns and actions. It has always had among its foremost aims a united front against imperialist aggression and bringing together progressive, anti-imperialist forces.



With this aim the People's Front organised in February 2011 the "2nd Symposium for the unity of the peoples against imperialist aggression" in Istanbul. Those who took part came from Tunisia, Palestine, Syria, Bulgaria, Lebanon, Honduras, Venezuela, Iraq, Great Britain, Germany, Greece, the Philippines, India, Bangladesh and Egypt.

The annual Symposium is a modest and hopeful step towards building an international anti-imperialist front. For imperialism organises itself. It creates tactics and strategies to make its exploitation permanent. Despite their huge problems and deep contradictions with each other, the imperialists recognise that it is in their interest to unite and organise themselves.

NO TO IMPERIALIST OCCUPATION

While the People's Front carried through many campaigns against the occupation of Iraq, Afghanistan and in solidarity with the Palestinian people, it has also organised numerous protests condemning imperialist attacks on the people of Libya and the peoples of the Middle East. The People's Front also plays a decisive role in unity against NATO and missile protection shields, consisting of progressive, revolutionary organisations.

In a comment on the NATO intervention in Libya, the People's Front said, *"Imperialists! Hands off the Middle East and Africa!"* ..

The words "protection of civilians" are a huge lie. Who can say that Afgha-

nistan is today more free and democratic than yesterday? Together with the attack, news of deaths came from Libya. And with every attack by the imperialists, it is the people who lose their lives. Imperialism is not about protecting civilians - the 10-year embargo of Iraq cost the lives of more than 500,000 children. Those who kill thousands of children are not protecting civilians. Imperialism, which in the name of overthrowing the Saddam dictatorship bombed a country from the air, reduced it to ashes and killed a million Iraqis, is not able to protect civilians! Imperialism, which leaves a billion, three hundred million people to go hungry, and is the cause of the death by hunger of about 15 million annually, cannot protect civilians!"

YANKEE GO HOME - THIS LAND BELONGS TO US!

The People's Front has conducted a long-term campaign with the motto "Yankee go home - this land belongs to us!" with numerous protest actions, petitions, Grup Yorum concerts, and actions with banners and posters. 200,000 signatures were collected demanding the closure of the US Incirlik base, and these were handed to parliament.



In November 2009, members of the Front marched to the US base at Incirlik from various cities in Turkey to demand its closure. They used the slogan "We will not allow ourselves to be the murderers of the Afghan people." The collaborationist AKP government was disturbed by this effective campaign and again and again members of the

Front were attacked by the police and arrested, and dozens were imprisoned, with civilian fascists cooperating with the police and carrying out lynch attacks on members of the People's Front.

CAMPAIGN FOR THE FREEDOM OF GULER ZERE AND FOR SICK PRISONERS



Guler Zere spent 14 years in prison and developed cancer of the mouth. Although the cancer spread rapidly and five doctors' certificates attested that treatment was impossible in prison conditions, the government refused for a long time to release her.

A campaign started by the People's Front and joined by numerous organisations, intellectuals and artists called for "freedom for Guler Zere", and she was released and treatment started. Guler Zere was so ill by then that she could not survive long, but her release was the result of resistance and the state had to make concessions. Guler Zere realised her wish of spending her last days with her comrades and family. The real cause of her death and that of 1,758 prisoners in the last 10 years is the policy of prison isolation, made systematic in the F-Type prisons. The struggle for ill prisoners and against isolation goes on.



STRUGGLE AGAINST ISOLATION

TAYAD, the voice of the prisoners, plays a leading part in combating the policy of isolation. The F-Type prisons were started in 2000 as a project of imperialism in an attempt to suffocate any resistance by the people to the regime.



TAYAD started an intensive campaign even before they were opened, exposing the reality of the F-Type prisons. The revolutionary prisoners began death fast resistance in October 2000. The government, determined to open the prisons, started a campaign of lies, calling the F-Types "5-star hotels" in order to deceive public opinion .

In a major military operation on December 19-22, 2000, in 20 prisons, 28 prisoners were murdered. With this deliberate massacre, the surviving prisoners were put in the isolation prisons and the state hoped it had broken the resistance. But the death fast went on, and every day there was news of deaths. In the course of the death fast resistance, in which prisoners from other political structures broke off their resistance and only prisoners from the DHKP-C (Revolutionary People's Liberation Party-Front) as well as members of TAYAD continued the action until 2007, a total of 122 people died.



Pressure on the government mounted in particular after the veteran revolutionary lawyer Behic Asci stated that all legal means were exhausted, and he himself joined the death fast to defend his clients. Besides artists, intellectuals and trade unions, progressive lawyers also joined the fight against isolation. After seven years of the death fast resistance, the

state had to make concessions to the daily protests and publicity both in and outside Turkey, and recognise the reality of isolation. Behic Asci interrupted the fast on the 293rd day, after the justice minister issued a circular giving the prisoners the right to dialogue with one another. This long-term struggle saw the victory of resistance by revolutionary prisoners to the will of the state. The struggle to lift isolation continues

RESISTANCE FOR WORKERS' RIGHTS

The People's Front is active in the working class and among workers in public service and has led and organised numerous strikes and acts of resistance. In 1987, after the September 12 military coup, it organised a major strike among MIGROS (note: a major department store) workers.

Starting with the resistance of Pasabahce workers and up to that of the local government workers, it has played a leading or a supporting role in resistance.



In 2010 it organised the resistance by the cleaning worker Turkan Albayrak, which was one of the best examples of successful resistance to dismissal.

Albayrak, a cleaning worker in the Istanbul Pasabahce hospital, campaigned against dismissal for 118 days, for reinstatement. She spent 118 days in a tent outside the hospital, with banners and cardboard signs with slogans protesting the injustice of her dismissal. She was supported from the start of her action by democratic mass organisations, artists, intellectuals, trade unions and the

more sensitive brand of journalist.

Turkan Albayrak's comment on the victory: "My 118 days of continuous resistance and seven days on hunger strike have ended because I got my job back. I spent 118 days and nights in the tent. The tent was the symbol of my resistance. I am taking the tent down, because I got my job back. Together we resisted and together we won."

The People's Front was a leading force in the trade union organisation of civil servants, which was banned in Turkey. After a long struggle starting in July 1990, it was important in setting up the first such unions of civil servants and public workers like KAM-SEN, BEM-SEN and Sağlık-Sen.



PEOPLE'S FRONT - HALK CEPHESİ

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