



TÜRK-İŞ

TÜRKİYE İŞÇİ SENDİKALARI KONFEDERASYONU

CONFEDERATION OF TURKISH TRADE UNIONS
CONFEDERATION DES SYNDICATS D'OUVRIERS DE TURQUIE
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To the Presidents and General Secretaries

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Our country has been faced with a coup attempt on July 15, which caused 250 citizens lost their life and more than 2500 injured. Among the people who were killed, 6 of them were the members of our Union. Moreover, 7 of our members were severely injured from the attacks of the enemies of democracy and civil society.

The coup attempt was planned by the terrorist organization which intended to capture the country by infiltrating the state institutions and was disrupted by the solidarity of our nation and all NGOs in Turkey. We, as TÜRK-İŞ believe that;

“Democracy is as important as bread, water and air. There has been only one loser of all the coups in Turkey, that is workers. Without democracy, there cannot be trade unions, mass organizations; without democracy there cannot be life. If the citizens of this country did not take to the streets, we could not speak today. We called all the political parties to take action against these traitors. All the political parties and NGOs joined our call and stood against the coup.

As a precaution to the coup attempt, state of emergency was declared upon the decision taken by the National Security Council and approved by the Parliament with the participation of opposition parties. The state of emergency, although being an undesirable situation for the NGOs, was applied by various countries which faced minor events than Turkey.

Our democratic institutions continue their normal functioning and the trade unions which did not take part in the coup attempt pursue their ordinary activities despite the state of emergency. Denoting the declaration of state of emergency as the suspension of democracy and freedoms would mean equating the legitimate government with the coup plotters. TÜRK-İŞ, as being the most representative trade union organization in Turkey and serving for 64 years, demands lifting the state of emergency as soon as possible. It takes into account the fact that under current conditions Turkey, with all its institutions, is in struggle with coup plotters and legal-looking illegal structures which aim to capture the country from inside by infiltrating the institutions.

As TÜRK-İŞ, we have been standing behind the supporters of democracy from the very beginning of the coup attempt. Meanwhile, we issued a call to distinguish innocent people from the ones involved to the crime in line with the principle of "rule of law". We called the heavily punishment of the ones involved to this crime and the protection of innocent ones. We repeat this call today.


While Turkey is struggling to pull through an extraordinary period by the glorious resistance of trade unions and NGOs, statements as Turkey is sliding to dictatorship does not reflect the real situation in Turkey. This terrorist organization infiltrated to the state institutions for many years has seized the rights of thousands of people who were expecting to be employed or promoted in those institutions. They employed and promoted their own followers. They made pressure and mobbing on the staff not supporting them and forced thousands of them to resign. They plotted and finished the future hopes of people. If they were successful in their coup attempt there would be a real dictatorship in Turkey. We would even not have the right to speak now.

We consider that what should be done is to condemn the coup attempt and coup plotters. In addition, we believe that the struggle of Turkish people and workers against the coup attempt and the victory of democracy should be highlighted.

Additionally, Turkish people believe that there is a dirty game against our country. Thus, it would be quite wrong to continue to make statements such as the ones made before, regarding Turkey's combat against PKK terrorism in the period of coup attempt of July 15. We expect all statements to take the public conscience in consideration.

We invite all the workers organizations to the democracy festivals that takes place in the squares of all our cities and attended by all of the sections of the society and to cooperate with Turkish Civil Society in order to contribute to stronger and healthier democracy in Turkey.

Sincerely Yours,



Ergün ATALAY
President