8TH OF MARCH MESSAGE

The women of the world celebrated this International Women's Day, each under the different conditions of their countries, but all under the threat of a nuclear world war.

İKD President Beria Onger issued a message on occasion of 8th March. She stated in the message that in spite of all the unfavourable conditions in the world and in Turkey, the struggle of the forces for progress and peace are developing.

Speaking about the conditions in Turkey, the message points that the fascist junta has forbidden the celebration of 8th of March in the country and says, "in our country, hundreds of women will be spending 8th of March in prison for the fourth year. Ten thousands will spend this day in anxiety about the fate of their relatives in prison, like they do every day and every hour."

However, states the message, in spite of all repressions, ways will be found to celebrate 8th of March: "the woman in prison in Turkey will sing an 8th of March song, even though in whispers, and step up the resistance against the repressions and tortures. The woman living underground will put on a red carnation on her collar at a moment when
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

This year on 8th of March, women from Turkey organised or participated in many events all over Europe. Below we give information about some of them.

DENMARK

Representatives from our Office participated in two meetings held in different parts of Copenhagen, attended by Danish and Turkish women and women from other nationalities. The points stressed in the speeches they made were the importance of solidarity with Turkey in order to ensure the security of political prisoners, a general amnesty for all political prisoners except fascists. The importance of the joint struggle of Danish and Turkish women for peace, against unemployment and the cuts in social spending was also underlined.

The 8th of March meeting organised by IND-sam which unites many migrant organisations in Denmark was attended by women from Denmark, Turkey, Pakistan and Greece. The president of the Danish Democratic Women's Organisation made a speech at the meeting.

In Aarhus, the newly founded organisation of women from Turkey held an 8th of March meeting, where many Danish and Turkish women participated. There was also a cultural program.

FRANCE

PWO President participated at the 8th of March meeting organised by the Union of Turkish Workers in France (FTIB). The well-known actress Meral Taygun held a performance at the meeting which took place on March 11th in Paris. The meeting was attended by French and Turkish women. The French women expressed their solidarity with their Turkish sisters. After the speeches, poems and songs, the film "Mother" based on Gorky's famous novel was shown. The women's section of FTIB also distributed 500 copies of a leaflet issued for 8th of March and put up over 300 posters in various parts of Paris.

no one can see. Working women will come to their workplaces in their best dresses, friends will embrace each other. At these moments small leaflets will change hands, slogans will appear in the paper napkins in canteens. Visits will be made to those families who lost their members in the fascist terror or those whose relatives are in prison or exile. The hands of mothers who resist in spite of everything will be kissed. In short, 8th of March will be celebrated also in our country like all over the world." It is stated that the migrant workers and refugees in Europe will celebrate 8th of March fighting for peace, defending life against nuclear missiles, for jobs, for friendship between peoples, against racism.

Then the message stresses the importance of solidarity with our sisters in Turkey and says: "Each solidarity action by us will give a little more strength to our friends in the prisons of the fascist junta who live in longing to see even a small piece of the sky, will increase their determination."

The message ends with the following appeal:

"On 8th of March, the International Women's Day, let us strengthen our struggle,
- for freedom to all political prisoners in Turkey,
- to clear away the shadow of fascism that darkens our country,
- to end all discriminations and repressions,
- for the friendship and sistership of the women of the world,
- for peace and disarmament."
During her visit in France, Beria Onger had a meeting with the Union of French Women (UFF). She gave information about the situation in Turkey, women political prisoners, families of prisoners and the increasing repressions on political prisoners. UFF leaders stated that they would increase further their work for solidarity with Turkey and start a signature campaign for general amnesty.

Onger also had a talk with the Women's Section of CGT and representatives of "Antoinette" their monthly organ. The magazine will publish an interview with Onger next month.

HOLLAND

Representatives of all parties in Holland, outside the fascist party, and the women's sections of trade unions participated at the action organised on 8th of March by the Solidarity Committee for Freedom to Women in Turkey. The Union of Turkish Women in Holland also took an active part in the demonstration before the Turkish Embassy. However the demand of the women to come into the embassy building was refused. Therefore the demonstrators representing many parties, trade unions and the UTWH put in the embassy's post box their joint letter to the woman ambassador, asking her to work for the improvement of the conditions of women political prisoners. Ms. Jabal, Labour Party member of the parliament made a speech in the name of the demonstrating group expressing their regrets over the ambassadors refusal to see them, but said that this would in no way hinder their activities.

On March 11th, UTWH organised a massive meeting in Amsterdam for International Women's Day. In her speech, the president of the organisation stated that today it was more than ever urgent to increase solidarity with political prisoners in Turkey. Well-known singer Süleyra Çakır also gave a concert at the meeting.

FEDERAL GERMANY

Frankfurt: The women from Turkey living in this city participated massively in the IWD rally organised by DGB. The folk dance group and the choir of the Frankfurt Turkish Folk House were also among the performers. In her speech, Peace Committee executive Oya Baydar voiced the repression and terror going on in Turkey in the last 3 years and its causes and stressed that all achievements by the local and foreign workers in F. Germany in their struggle for peace and trade union rights would contribute to the fight of the progressive forces in Turkey. The women's section of the FTPH opened an information stand during the rally, sold solidarity cards and distributed leaflets. The money collected was sent to women prisoners. Also, on March 17th, the FTPH cooperated with the Kurdish Folk House and the Turkish Labourers Organisation in Frankfurt to organise a meeting to celebrate 8th of March. At the meeting, there were speeches telling about the problems of Turkish women in F. Germany and under the junta conditions and a message from PWO was read. The Turkish women also took an active part in the 8th of March celebration by DKP. They stressed the importance of the united struggle of all women for peace and trade union rights and distributed leaflets about women prisoners in Turkey and sold solidarity cards.

Münster: Within the week of activities prepared by the cooperation of the German Women's Initiative and other women organisations, the women's section of Münster Turkish Workers and Students' Union organised a meeting of solidarity with the women of Turkey. A PWO representative also participated at the meeting on March 7th and spoke about the situation and struggle of the women in Turkey. At the end of the meeting, all participants united in the necessity to increase solidarity activities with women of Turkey.

Kaiserslautern: Migrant workers from Turkey participated massively at the IWD rally organised by DGB on March 8th. A representative from PWO also spoke at the meeting. The
program included songs about the situation of women and solidarity and a short play about the conditions of women, with members of Kaiserslautern Turkish Workers' Organisation members taking active parts. Handmade articles were sold during the rally for solidarity with women prisoners in Turkey.

Bielefeld: Over 150 women from Turkey participated at the IWD meeting organised by the Social Department of Bielefeld. At the meeting, a PWO representative gave information about the IWD, its aims, and spoke about the importance of the struggle of women for their rights and for peace. The same evening, PWO representative also spoke at the cultural evening organised by the Türk Daması in Bielefeld about the IWD and asked the participants to increase their solidarity with the women political prisoners in Turkey.

Wiesbaden: The Turkish women workers organised this year on 8th of March a demonstration and a meeting together with many other trade union and women's organisations and political parties. The demands raised in both events were against the new American missiles, racism, for jobs, equal rights and opportunities and a shorter working week. The Turkish women in Wiesbaden also issued a leaflet telling about the situation of our women in F. Germany and Turkey and appealed for solidarity.

BRITAIN

On 8th of March the City Council of London entered into service a special bus named the "Peace Bus of Women". In April, the bus will be assigned for three days to the Solidarity Committee for Women's Rights in Turkey.

On occasion of 8th of March, British woman MP Margaret M. Beckett and the Deputy General Secretary of TASS (Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers Technical, Administrative and Supervisory Section), Barbara Switzer sent messages to Kenan Evren, protesting the arrests, tortures and repression being meted out to women in Turkey. On IWD, they asked for the release of all women political prisoners, for the charges against them to be dropped and that the ban on PWO and other women's organisations be lifted.

Messages

On occasion of IWD, we received a message from our sisters living in Wiesbaden, Federal Germany. They write that, "we, the progressive women working in the Wiesbaden Turkish Workers' Union keep alive the traditions of 8th of March. This year, as in the previous years, we shall celebrate IWD by organising information stands, a night march with torches, and rally in our city together with German women and women of other nationalities." The message ends with IWD greetings and wishes of success.

Another message came from the progressive women political refugees living in Greece. Sending their sincere and warm greetings for IWD, they continue as follows: "As progressive women political refugees forced to live abroad, we are well aware of our responsibilities. On this 8th of March, we shall strengthen our work to participate in the struggle for peace together with the women of the countries where we live and to raise higher the solidarity with the progressive women of our country who are fighting under extremely difficult conditions."
A LETTER

Our office received a letter on occasion of 8th March. We print below this letter which could reach us with many difficulties:

"Hello, dear friends,

Yet another 8th of March... Some of us are in prison, some underground, some abroad. But our hearts in all their warmth beat together. We are sure that like us you think on 8th of March the day we filled the Taksim square with our red scarves, the rallies at the Sports Hall in Istanbul where thousands participated, the actions with white scarves. We are also sure that none of us have lost even a fraction of the certainty that we shall celebrate much more massive and large 8th of Marches, our belief in those days when 8th of March will be a holiday.

This year we are in hunger strike on 8th of March. We believe you receive news from us. (Certainly not from the newspapers published in Turkey. They do not print even a single item about us). In these last months, every effort is spent to make the already miserable prison conditions even worse. The torture "experts" are busy to create new methods to break down the prisoners physically and morally. What do they achieve by using these methods? Of course they can be effective physically. After each action to obtain better conditions, the dose of torture increases. There are some among us whose health is failing. We have heard that they started to murder some of the prisoners in Diyarbakir.

However, we write you about these only because we think it is our duty to give you news from here. In fact no method can break us morally. All of us are resolute and determined. The hunger strikes and resistances are not only to improve our own conditions, but even more to contribute to that construction which we build together. Do not feel despair when you hear bad news or news of death. We from the inside and you from the outside, we shall certainly achieve this glorious construction. A happy 8th of March."