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Opinion And Authorities:  
Put An End To The Ongoing  
Unlawful Practices!

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anniversary of 15-16 June

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## DISK Calls Upon The Public Opinion And Authorities: PUT AN END TO THE ONGOING UNLAWFUL PRACTICES!

DISK made a public announcement to put an end the co-attempts of the AKP government and HAK IS labour confederation. In this public announcement the followings were declared:

One of the main principles of human rights is the trade union organisation and freedom of association within a union. However, the referred fundamental right has not been under guarantee in Turkey. The employees are still being fired because of their membership in a union and freedom of selecting a union for membership has been violated through the pressure of the employers and/or the public authority.

Recently, these kinds of practices have not been individual. On the contrary, these unlawful practices have been targeted against the entity of our confederation DISK. The most obvious example is the attacks upon the organised labor force of Genel-İş (General Services Workers Union) affiliated to DISK.

DISK/Genel-İş, has been one of the most organised union within the sector of general services and also has a widespread organised labor force among the workers of local administration and municipalities. After the 2004 local elections, a systematic pressure is being placed upon the members of DISK/Genel-İş by the Mayors from AKP. Through many practices of threatenings, our members are forced to resign from DISK/Genel-İş and to join Hizmet-İş union affiliated to Hak-İş.



### Birlesik Metal-Is

News from Turkey,  
The international bulletin of  
United Metalworkers' Union.

Head Quarters:  
Birlesik Metal-Is  
Tünel Yolu Cad. No.: 2  
34744 Bostanci  
Istanbul-TURKEY

Phone : +90 (216) 380 8590  
Fax : +90 (216) 373 6502

[www.birlesikmetal.org](http://www.birlesikmetal.org)  
[info@birlesikmetal.org](mailto:info@birlesikmetal.org)



Dismissed CocaCola workers gained support in the concert Barisarock (Rock for piece - an alternative festival against Rock&Coke)



Since the last local elections, in 21 Municipalities from AKP, the members of DİSK/Genel-İş have been made members of Hizmet-İş via enforcement, pressure and threatenings. (...)

From this point on, the exact picture is that; the workers who are members of DİSK/Genel-İş are being snapped off their union directly by The Mayors from AKP and their Accredited Executives through pressure, threatenings and enforcement. During these processes or practices, no representative of the other union has been present or involved in.

(...)This is not a coincidence; On the contrary, it corresponds to a systematic act and operation towards both Genel-İş and DİSK.

(...) Consequently, Our call is upon all the authorities, government and jurisdiction for service in order to take urgent action:

**STOP THE CRIME!**

We also address The Main Opposition Party, CHP, other opposition parties, democratic mass organisations, trade unions and the public all:

**SUPPORT US IN OUR STRUGGLE!**

Keep in mind that, all these practices are parts of a planned campaign against DİSK. Our claim is the matter to be intervened and the workers' choices of trade unions should be respected.

**WE STRONGLY BELIEVE AND ADVOCATE THE FREEDOM OF WORKERS IN CHOOSING A UNION TO JOIN ACCORDING TO THEIR OWN FREE WILL**

We have a suggestion! Let's put a ballot box in between and let all the workers vote for their union choices. Let's make a referendum on the principle of secret voting open census. Let the authorized union be determined according to the majority votes.

On this point we declare: Unless the campaign against DİSK and such practices are stopped, DİSK,

- With its all power, shall perform the task of protecting and guarding of its organized labor force.
- Shall go on struggling through any kinds of legal and lawful mechanisms.
- Shall take the issue into the international arena.
- Shall pend any kinds of its relations in all the social dialogue platforms in Turkey.

**DİSK EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

## **DISK marched on the 35th anniversary of 15-16 June**

DISK (Confederation of Revolutionary Workers' Unions) organized a long-march between Kocaeli and Istanbul in the 35th anniversary of 15-16 June, the big worker resistance in Turkey in 1970 against the attempts of the parliament of this period to increase the necessary level of organization to the 1/3 of the industrial sectors. At that time these attempts aimed the closure of DISK which has founded three years ago.



There were huge uprisings in Istanbul, Gebze and Kocaeli, clashes between workers and the security forces. 3 workers were killed with the bullets of military forces.

In the 35th anniversary, the executive committee of DISK with the aim of propagating the idea that the conditions for the workers and trade unions did not change in a positive manner decided to organize a long-march. The anti-democratic nature of labour and collective rights legislation is still living, there are brutal attacks on the workers rights especially on organizational attempts, social security rights and job security.

The march took 2 days time. It started from Kocaeli and ended in Kartal, Istanbul. On the way through the marchers met with the workers and made calls to them to join the struggle.

## Massive May Day Celebration in Istanbul

The international day of "Unity, Struggle, Solidarity" of the working class has been celebrated in Istanbul with the participation of over 100 000. The trade union confederations and affiliated unions, leftist political parties, democratic organizations, youth, pensioners, unemployed, intellectuals, artists participated in the demonstrations. This years May Day demonstrations was enthusiastic and colorful more than 100 thousands labourers said no to unemployment, poverty, injustice and oppression.



## 19 March: Global Action Day



**We are 82%. The rest is BUSH.**

A public opinion poll by BBC in Turkey indicated that the 82 % of Turkish population is against Bush administration. In the second anniversary of imperialist assaults and occupation in Iraq tens of thousands of the anti-imperialists, the peace activists, labour and the left protested the imperialist war and massacres. The mass demanded the adjudication of Bush and his other imperialist allies as war criminals and the withdrawal of imperialist troops from Iraq.

## First strike in Free Zones (FZ)

28 April 2005. It was the date of first strike in Free Zones. The name of the company was FTB (originally it is LISI Aerospace) and produces fastener equipments for aerospace industry.

Free Zones were the result of the attempts of Turkish capitalism to adapt itself to the new international division of labour in the years of 1980s. In order to attract foreign capital, these zones were purified from the social and trade union rights, from taxes and from infrastructural investments for the companies.



The workers in these zones for many years were deprived from the possibility to improve their living and working conditions. Until recent years they had no right to bargain collectively and to strike.

The headquarters of FTB is in France and here the minimum wage is 1.300 euros. In Izmir on the other hand the minimum wage was 300 euros. A French worker earns 4-9 times more than a Turkish worker.

In the collective bargaining rounds the employer of FTB did not show any approach to resolve the conflict and later made an unacceptable offer which includes demands that in none of the LISI sites around the world there are no such applications.

After a 28 days strike an agreement was reached and with this agreement an average of 15 % wage increase and bonus payments and new social rights were gained.

## A story of success in Gimas



The strike in Gimas Girgin Machinery, Izmir started in 22 April 2005 has been ended on 3rd Sept. 2005.

More than 100 strikers whose average hourly wage was 1.4 euros demanded wage increases for a decent living for 4.5 months.

In this period Gimas employer on the other hand continued its production by the subcontractors.

More than 90 days Gimas workers did their best to resist with the help of international solidarity attempts.



## **Attacks to DITAS workers repelled.**

On 17th of May, an organized attack against our members in Nigde DITAS factory was realized by the corporate efforts of management and yellow Turk Metal union.

In the morning the gangs of Turk Metal entered in the factory with the permission of the management; they also hired 4 buses for carrying workers to the public notary in Aksaray which is 200 kms away from Nigde. They also took the support of the police. But our members resisted and repelled this assault. They stopped the production and clashed with the Turk Metals' gangs. After this resistance they stopped their attempts but our members are still anxious about the new assaults.

As it can be recalled in 2002 there was a 8 months strike in this site and in this period the IMF has important influences in the solving of the dispute by using the International Framework Agreements. DITAS is a major sub-contractor of Daimler-Chrysler.

DITAS is at the same time is a part of Dogan Holding. The owner of this holding is Mr. Aydın Dogan. Dogan Holding is also active in the fields of media, financial services, energy, telecom, health and education.

The aim of this assault is to decrease our union's majority in the workplace before the collective bargaining rounds. The employer of DITAS is still continuing its efforts by forcing the white collar employees to join with the yellow union and by hiring new workers on the condition of being affiliated to yellow union.

## **Denso: Once More a Japan firm Once More Violation**

A Japanese firm employed more than 87 thousand over the world dismissed 26 workers because of their unionization activities. On June 3 the employer first dismissed 3 union activists without any compensation. On Monday the workers of the factory requested from the reasons of the dismissals and did not work. At that time a new 23 were dismissed.

Denso producing air conditioning and heating systems for automobiles and especially for Japanese firm Toyota Turkey. There are unions in the factories of Denso and Toyota in Japan but no one union in Japanese firms in Turkey. The previous unionization attempts were repelled by the employers brutally; by dismissals.

Birlesik, warn IMF Secretariat and IMF-JC and requested immediate action.

## **At last: Victory in Grammer**

Birlesik have continuously gave information to international metal workers unions about the problems and developments in Grammer, Bursa. Grammer is a German owned firm and producing seats for the automobiles. After Birlesik start its organizational attempts in the factory (it was 2 years ago), the management first dismissed 58 members and hired new workers on the condition of being affiliate to Turk Metal. Birlesik started to resist and with the invaluable solidarity of international trade union movement –especially the German one, IG Metall- succeeded to reinstate our members. But the management by increasing the number of total employees in the factory and by forcing the new recruit to be the member of yellow union, also succeeded to decrease our majority and on this illegal base the ministry of labor gave the competence to Turk Metal. We applied to the court.

And after a long period of trial the court decided that Birlesik has the right to represent the Grammer workers and the management made fraud against the law.

This victory is important in many senses: first of all it proves that international working class solidarity is working and alive. Second, despite the anti-democratic character of the labor legislation in Turkey and despite the organized efforts of capitalists, it has been proved that workers unity is the only solution for the problems of workers.

Birlesik are not drunk by the happiness of this victory. Because we know that there will be counter attacks from the employer and yellow union. Thus "show must go on".

## The economy grows not the wages

In 2004 Turkish economy realized an un-experienced growth of last 40 years. The growth figure of 2004 was 9,9 %. It had been 12 % in 1962. The official figures indicate that the most important factor determines this growth was the import taxes which constitutes a growth of 26.2 %. Because of the relative value of Turkish money was high in this period, the imports became cheaper which was also a factor to decrease the production costs.

Besides the 10% growth, the increase in employment stayed at 4 % and the unemployment ration in urban areas reached to 13%.

Especially in the large enterprises the production and productivity increases whereas it is not true for the workforce. These increases in productivity thus related not with the technological improvements but rather due to the over working times. In metal industry average weekly working weeks reached to 55 hours.

