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We will not allow Uniforms in Prisons of Turkey!

Those who oppose the ruling classes, struggling for a better world are declared as "terrorist" by the State and are put in prison to isolate from society. The rulers have started their first attacks from prisons where the most advanced members (political prisoners) of society are imprisoned, in every period in which they prepare for the collective attack policies. Because the surrender of political prisoners makes it easier for the outside society to be surrendered and for the aggression and exploitation policies to be passed on smoothly.

In line with this goal, since it was founded, Turkish prisons have known for sanctions, torture, harassment and encroachments that neglect human rights and dignity. Today, once again prisons are trying to force prisoners into wearing a prison uniform.

Ever expanding hunt down policies continue

Erdogan and AKP government, especially since the failed coup attempt (15th July 2016) has expanded its hunt down policies on all opposing forces. Thousands of academics, government officers, lecturers and journalists has been detained, most have been tortured. Dozens of academics who was sacked through emergency decree laws (KHK) has committed suicide. Mrs. Nuriye Gulmen and Mr. Semih Ozakca has been arrested and declared "terrorist" on 72nd day of their hunger strike, protesting emergency decree laws and demanding their jobs back. Semih and Nuriye has been released on 225th and 268th days respectively and now continue their hunger strike outside. Many Journalists, who live in Europe such as Mr. Deniz Yucel and Miss Mesale Tolu has also been arrested while they were in Turkey.

Turkish state is trying to break the resistance of the Kurdish nation through massacres, thousands of people detained and arrested. Ignoring the millions of people who have voted, People's Democratic Party (HDP) co-presidents Figen Yüksekdağ and Selahattin Demirtaş and many deputies, mayors and employees have been arrested and subjected to degrading treatment.

PKK leader Mr. Abdullah Ocalan has been in isolation on Imrali island (Bursa/Turkey) for the past 18 years, and for the past two years he has been in aggravated isolation and has been refused to see any one including his lawyers, has raised concerns for his life.

Political Prisoners face a vengeance policy

Although max capacity of 384 prisons in Turkey is around 207,000, according to latest figures, there are over 230,000 prisoners in the prisons. Many prisons are already populated twice its capacity. In many cases 2 or 3 prisoners share a bed or sleep in turns. According to a report by Human Rights Association (IHD), 357 out of 1025 sick prisoners are in near death condition and are denied treatment.

2800 Children Prisoners

According figures of Ministry of Justice released in 2017, 2800 children are imprisoned. It is stated in the official reports that the arrested children are attempting suicide because they cannot tolerate the harassment, rape, abuse, torture and ill-treatment. 8 children out of 17 who have died between 2009 and 2017 has committed suicide.

17000 women and 668 babies in prison

For the first time in Turkey, there are 668 babies and 17 thousand women in prisons. Particularly in women's prisons, bare search, harassment and rape against political prisoners, as well as sexist practices and attacks are remarkable. In Elazig T Type Closed Prison, women political prisoners denied sanitary pads and are not taken to hospital until the bruises and marks from torture and rape is healed. They are forced to carry ID at all times, cameras have been placed in toilets and shower rooms. Tarsus Women Prison is first prison to attempt imposing uniforms and recorded visitor sessions.

LGBTI+ Prisoners face homophobic attacks

Placed in prisons according to the colour of the identity cards (Blue for Male and Pink for Female), LGBTI + prisoners are constantly exposed to harassment and homophobic attacks. Those who are rejected by their families are experiencing serious economic problems, and when denied hormone therapy, face psychological problems. LGBT + prisoners who report mistreatments to the administration are subjected to situations with transphobic discourse and are also prevented from going to the doctor.

Especially with the State of Emergency (OHAL) implemented after the so-called coup attempt, torture and violations of human rights have intensified in prisons. Anyone who is arrested for suspicion of "Terror" activity could now be held in custody for 30 days (24 hours previously) are not allowed to see lawyers first five days and during this time lawyers are not given information on the case.

This is our call for solidarity

The uniform attack on prisoners is humiliating and a reporter of upcoming massacres. We urge European public to take possession of the prisoners and oppose Turkish state's degrading and hostile policy towards the prisoners. To prevent massacres and help prisoners get their demands met we call upon all progressive people to act, protest Turkish state and show solidarity with prisoners through letters and greeting cards. Please send protest expose the attacks by sending letters to responsible ministries, whose address we have attached.