

Resolution Date: 10th November 2015

Resolution Title: Ankara Bomb Attack

The Unite Housing Workers Branch expresses its horror at and condemnation of the vicious attack on the trade union and community bodies' organised demonstration for peace in Ankara on October 10. We send our sincere condolences and solidarity to all those affected. We note the number of victims from the trade union movement including transport workers, teachers, metal workers and public sector workers. This bomb attack, killing at least 103 Turkish and Kurdish people and injuring over 200, is clearly by those who seek to sow division and hatred in order to exercise political power. What the situation in Turkey needs is peace and progressive actions.

Turkish trade unions have given their support for such calls. Two weeks after the bombing many injured have been forcibly discharged from the hospitals. Many people who have either had their legs or arms amputated were forced to continue with their treatment at home, or to pay excessive hospital bills. In addition many of the injured have been paralysed with no access to benefit and employment. The bombing takes place in the wake of attacks, as in Suruc in July which killed 33; and Reyhani in May 2013 killing over 50. There has also been the Turkish Government crack-down on the Kurdish community, including the siege of Cizre and killings in many other towns and villages. It is also within the context of the fragmented Middle Eastern situation post the invasion of Iraq and the development of reactionary forces attacking the democratic and progressive forces. This has led to the wave of refugees fleeing from the most serious concentrations of conflict. We stand in solidarity with the trade unions and other democratic and progressive voices in Turkey and support their calls for peace. We further call for a strengthening of ties between the British and Turkish trade unions and co-operation with the democratic and progressive organisations from the large Turkish & Kurdish-origin communities in our region. We ask our International Committee to discuss with those organisations the best means to develop support at this critical time. We also would like to make a donation of £200 to Day-mer (Turkish and Kurdish Community Centre)'s 'campaign titled 'We will wrap our wounds together' to assist those who have been injured during the Ankara bombing.

Day-mer Bank Details are as follows:

Account Name: Day-Mer Turkish and Kurdish Community Solidarity Centre

Account Number: 00283464

Sort Code: 30-98-14

Address: Day-mer, Former Library, Howard Road, N16 8PU