

**Either Ecosocialism
or
Barbarism!**

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Ecology Collective Association (EKD), established in 2007, is giving an eco-socialist fight against anti-ecologist policies in Turkey. Struggling together with the sufferers in order to give life a new meaning and change it is a personal and social responsibility that Ecology Collective takes. It has a strong stance against all kinds of nationalist, militarist, sexist and prohibitive tendencies in order to free water, air, earth and labor together and enable people to live in peace. With this stance, it comes together with other organizations in the fields and actions; develops fighting practices by organizing joint workshops, panels, forums, reading and movie days; theoretically produces knowledge thanks to its own publications, lawsuits it filed and tries to become a strong legal opposition for all people, institutions and businesses which are currently against nature and labor.

"No Genetically Modified Organisms Platform" (GDOHP) was established in 2004 after the release of "Life Can Not Be Patented" text on electronic environment. Ecology Collective is a component of this platform and the platform has over sixty components. It fights against international seed monopolies and tries to inform people about genetically modified plants, which are modified under laboratory conditions and released to nature by biotechnology companies. It also gives information about adverse effects of feed and food, made out of these plants, on health, ecology and biodiversity. As a part of this fight, GDOHP travelled to various cities with "Monster Corn" and "Monster Tomato" balloons in hand and came together with people, explained the harmful effects of GMO to people from every segment of society; with the policies and activities, it brought the GMO issue to the agenda of Turkey and raised the public awareness.

One issue related to GMO that needs significant attention is biodiversity in Turkey. Despite all the mistreatments and losses, Turkey is still rich in terms of biodiversity and number of species. In Turkey, about two thousand plant species out of eleven thousand are endemic species that cannot be found elsewhere.

In Turkey, especially during the liberalization process after 1980's and as a part of policies imposed by EU, importance placed on agriculture and stockbreeding has been decreasing. Liquidation process of villages and rural areas leads to excessive population increases, especially in big cities and accelerates the disappearance of rural area values. Urging young population of the rural areas to migrate to cities for reasons such as work or education and forcing rest of the rural population to sell their land are recent problems of Turkey. Since the rural population produces with its own means of production, it becomes a problem for the capital, which is looking forward to having rural sources with cheap methods, and that leads capital to policies that force rural population to migrate. Rural population encouraged to migrate sells its lands to the capital with low prices and becomes the object of the capital's search for cheap labor force in the city. Apart from that, workers travelling to other parts of Turkey for a seasonal job are transported under improper conditions and work for very low prices under bad conditions. These workers, especially women, who are trying to meet the need of shelter under unhealthy conditions, are getting serious diseases because of the conditions they endure in order to survive and sometimes even lose their lives.

City and rural areas complete each other and cannot be separated. Liquidation of the rural areas because of excuses such as EU harmonization process, development, industrialization, democratization causes ungovernable problems, massive losses, big destructions in ecological and social terms.

Lately Turkey, with its underdeveloped structure and bad governance, has been witnessing accelerated constructions of hydroelectric plants and dams, thermal and nuclear plants, mineral research and processing activities. For that purpose, local people are left deprived of their houses and villages; they are openly made feel that it is impossible to earn their lives with agriculture or traditional production methods. They are asked to work under bad conditions in the construction and operation of these plants and to be included in the wheel of capitalism. People who work and die in these plants or facilities are hidden from the public. Moreover, cyanide gold companies and cement factories are accelerating the exploitation of both nature and labor.

After enabling the construction of hydroelectric plants with the current law, especially East Black sea region of Turkey has been chosen and by changing the natural flow direction of streams, ecosystem is destroyed, trees are cut down, lives of all the organisms in that ecosystem are endangered.

Despite all the reactions of the local people against hydroelectric plants, more than 2000 hydroelectric plant projects are waiting to be implemented; companies are trying to gain sympathy by organizing meetings to inform people. In addition to forest ecosystems destroyed by hydro electronic plants, destruction of forest areas are continuing thanks to the law including regulations related to selling of the lands that are no longer forest, defined as 2B lands. Despite all the sorrowful consequences of the nuclear disaster which took place in Fukushima, Turkish government is not giving up on its love for nuclear. Nature destruction of AKP is known as "Crazy Project" by the public and the project includes a new city in Istanbul, a new strait and a new bridge. The target of these projects is the same with the efforts to take away our food sovereignty. Seizing the order of the nature; water, air, food of people; exploiting their labor, enslaving them and standardization of them are the common efforts of governments which are operating like businesses.

Ecology Collective, aware of all these, is a political movement and organization that always focuses on organized fight, believes in the need to raise our voices together. It organizes actions, festivals, congresses; tries to make its voice heard with original reaction methods and the most importantly tries to develop alternative thought systems together. For a world without exploitation in which we will live fraternally with all its beauty, all its organisms and all its values; long live our eco-socialist fight!