

Corporatocratic Crimes against Workers' Health and Safety in Turkey

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Hazards Campaign 2018 Conference Hazards 2018 #Haz2018

Safety Reps @ 40:
Opening Plenary in Westminster Theatre
at Keele University

Louise Taggart- Families Against Corporate Killers

Aslı Odman- Health and Safety Labour Watch, Istanbul

Steve Tombs- Grenfell as social murder

links of this presentation through the
Hazards Campaign youtube channel:

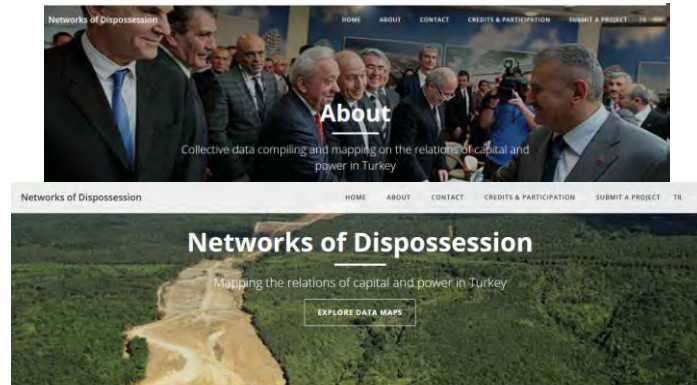
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yvEgRq9cZ6E> Part 1
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ACpp0HbCxOO> Part 2

**context: declared State of Emergency,
now institutionalized**

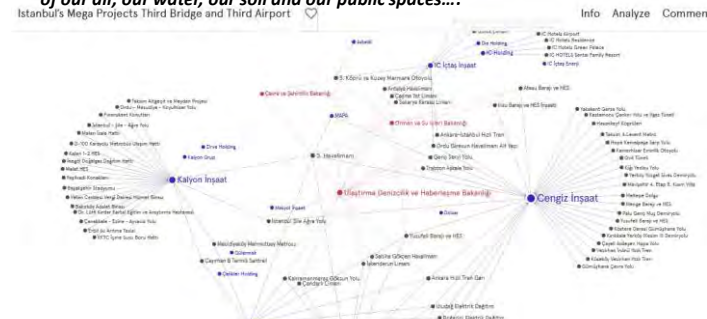
- system of presidency is introduced since 24th of June, 2018, by-passing the parliament and any type of checks and balances
- political islam + neoliberalism = corporatocracy and bonapartism
- following a period of declared 'State of Emergency' in July 2016, the restoration period after the 'failed coup d'état'...
- legitimizing a more securitarian, precarizing, militarist and market liberal drive

Corporatocracy and 'Networks of Dispossession'

<http://mulksuzlestirme.org/about/>

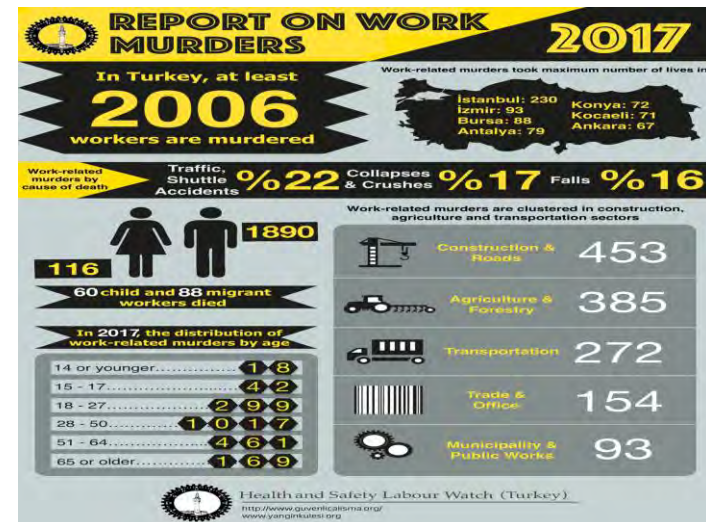


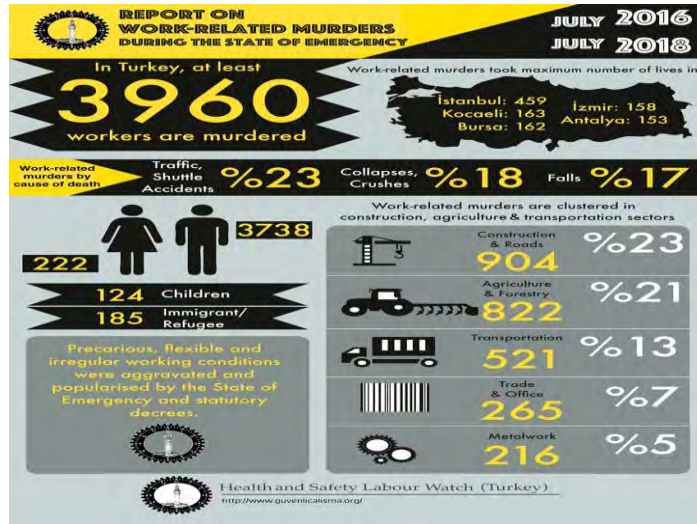
'Networks of Dispossession Version II, a collective data compiling and mapping project dedicated to pursue the relations between capital and power in Turkey has been released on July 14th, 2014. The first version of the project was published in September 2013 right after the Gezi resistance. The freedom of the media in Turkey is shrinking with each day. The press is being censored directly by the government. What's more, the partnerships that are established through legal concessions between media oligarchs and the governmental institutions render press a mere marketing tool and us uninformed about the processes, that in fact dispossess us of our air, our water, our soil and our public spaces...'



whereby OUR real
'State of Emergency' is naturalized / normalized

- every day at least 10 to 20 people die due to work-related reasons, mainly because of work, because of the way they work, the conditions under which they work (workplace accidents, occupational diseases or suicides) in a population around 80 million people, workforce of around 31 million (around %53), official rate of informality of 33% and unemployment of 11% beginning of 2018, whereby 99,9% of enterprises are SME's – 1 to 250 workers-, employing 76% of the workforce and responsible for around 80% of the workplace accidents, related to bigger holding companies through supply and commodity chains.
- only a minor fraction of those work-related deaths are officially registered!





	Number of Deadly Occupational Accidents (Annual Statistical Reports of Public Insurance Institution of Turkey, SGK)	Number of Deaths due to Occupational Diseases Accidents (Annual Statistical Reports of Public Insurance Institution of Turkey, SGK)	WHO (2004) ESTIMATE ON HOW MANY FATAL OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES SHOULD HAVE BEEN REGISTERED AT LEAST (AS A PERCENTAGE EXTRAPOLATION OF THE FIGURE OF DEADLY OCCUPATIONAL ACCIDENTS)*
2004	841	2	1.455
2005	1.072	24	1.855
2006	1.592	9	2.755
2007	1.043	1	1.805
2008	865	1	1.497
2009	1.171	0	2.026
2010	1.444	10	2.499
2011	1.700	10	2.942
2012	744	1	1.287
2013	1.360	0	2.353
TOPLAM	11.832	58	20.475*

*Source: WHO, Global Burden of Disease 2004, Fingerhout et.al. 2005, in: TELLİOĞLU/MÜEZZİNOĞLU, 2016; [<https://tinyurl.com/y73pkall>]

The coefficient fatal occupational accidents / diseases is bw. 2 (WHO 2004) and 10 (ILO 2013)

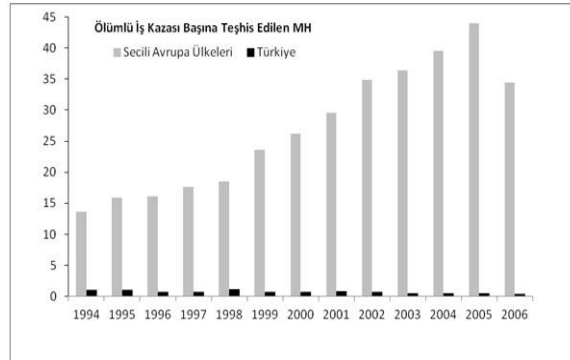
THOSE FIGURES ARE THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG:
OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES ARE (RENDERED) TOTALLY INVISIBLE IN TURKEY!

	Number of Deadly Occupational Accidents Number of Deadly Occupational Accidents (Annual Statistical Reports of Public Insurance Institution of Turkey, SGK)	Number of Deaths due to Occupational Diseases Accidents (Annual Statistical Reports of Public Insurance Institution of Turkey, SGK)	WHO (2004) ESTIMATE ON HOW MANY FATAL OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES SHOULD HAVE BEEN REGISTERED AT LEAST (AS A PERCENTAGE EXTRAPOLATION OF THE FIGURE OF DEADLY OCCUPATIONAL ACCIDENTS)*
2014	1626	0	2553
2015	1252	0	2195
2016	1405	0	2465

*Source: WHO, Global Burden of Disease 2004, Fingerhout et.al. 2005, in: TELLİOĞLU/MÜEZZİNOĞLU, 2016 [<https://tinyurl.com/y73pkall>];

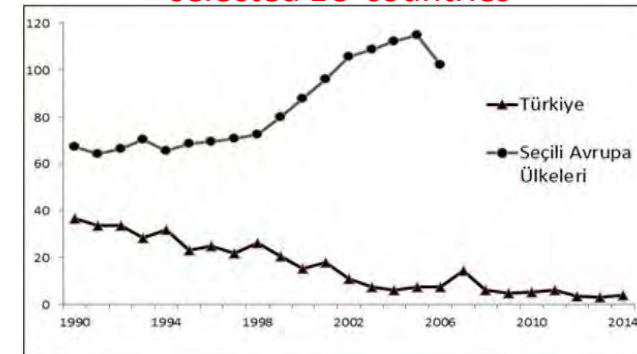
The coefficient fatal occupational accidents / diseases is bw. 2 (WHO 2004) and 10 (ILO 2013)

Diagnosis of new occupational diseases per fatal occupational accidents [Blue: Average Rate of GR, FR, BE, SP, SW, DM, IT, PR; Red: Turkey : TR: Around 1/30rd of European average



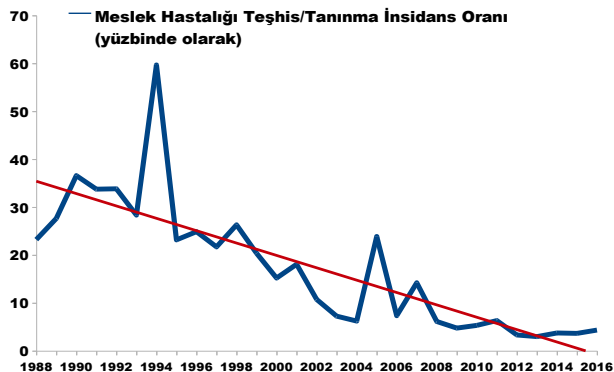
Source: TELLİOĞLU/MÜEZZİNOĞLU, 2016 [<https://tinyurl.com/y73pkall>]

Occupational diseases incidence rate per 100.000 workers, Turkey and selected EU-countries



Source: TELLİOĞLU/MÜEZZİNOĞLU, 2016 [<https://tinyurl.com/y73pkall>];

the incidence rate of diagnosis of occupational diseases per 100.000 workers is consistently descending in Turkey

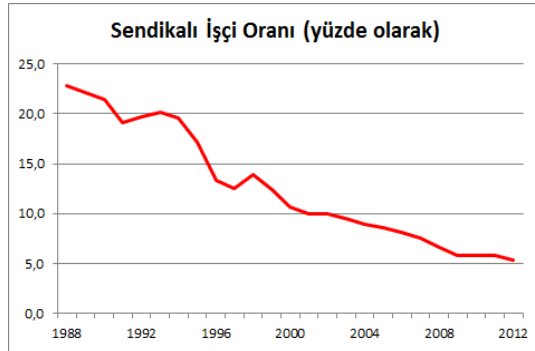


Source: Telliöğlu 2014, GLU Column, Nr 178: <https://tinyurl.com/ya52v4ym>

‘Development’ and Death:
a clear linear relationship...

- sectors of more, deeper and accelerated ‘capital accumulation’ --> more, repeated, accelerated deaths, urbanicide, environmental destruction... (‘second enclosure of nature, cities and working bodies’)
- i.e. **shipbuilding sector back in 2007
- **construction sector during the whole AKP-regime
- **tv/series (‘soap opera’ sector)
- **mining of low-quality Turkish lignite coal
- **seasonal migrant labor in the agricultural sector during harvest of cash-crops and other crops.

Percentage of unionized workers in Turkey



Source: TELLİOĞLU/MÜEZZİNOĞLU, 2016 [<https://tinyurl.com/y73pkall>];

For 2013 – 2017: between 9 and 12 % [<http://disk.org.tr/2017/08/disk-ar-sendikalasma-ve-toplu-is-sozlesmesi-raporu/>]

ACTORS IN THE FIELD OF WORKERS' HEALTH AND SAFETY

1. STATE

- legislation: de- and re-regulating the Labor Law towards more precarity, fragmentation and less rights/claims thru securitization, 'state of emergency' laws and manifold legal concessions to corporations that accelerates capital accumulation
- Judiciary: influence on the judiciary / criminal justice system 'impunity of the corporations and responsible higher ranking public officials'; not allowing public officials to be tried
- Executive: a privatizer, but still an employer of 4 million working people / civil servants...
- Health and Safety inspections: There are in total 873 h&s inspectors to inspect around 2 million enterprises, i.e. an inspector is supposed to inspect 2000 enterprises a year, but could a maximum of 70 enterprise inspections.

2. CORPORATIONS

- biggest ones are organized in form of holdings, conglomerates, which are prevalent in most lucrative sectors at the same time (energy, banking, construction, media, mining, health, education etc...)
- global commodity chains and national commodity chains with a lot of subcontracting companies, smaller companies working on putting-out/supply system, illegal workshops...(a SME-dominated enterprise landscape with 'invisible' monopoly powers)
- blurring the responsibility structure of corporate crimes

3. Trade Unions and Social Movements

- trade unions are weak in objective and subjective terms in the field of worker's health and safety --> nearly no proactive WHS policy, WHS is not seen/practicized as an organizing tool
- there is no legal basis for health and safety reps' at workplace BUT workers reps' (usually union rep's) are members of the Workplace Health and Safety Assembly (ISGK) according to the H&S Law from 2012 in enterprises > 50 workers: legal possibilities render no real H&S coverage: huge power asymmetry bw. employer and employee...
- so far nearly no health and safety experts/ employed within the administration of unions and federations
- blossoming positive examples in smaller, younger unions, overcoming the dominance of economically oriented unionism towards a 'life-protecting' unionism
- dynamism of non-formalized platforms, networks, professional chambers (of physicians i.e.)

İSTANBUL İŞÇİ SAĞLIĞI VE İŞ GÜVENLİĞİ MECLİSİ,
İSİG MECLİSİ

**HEALTH AND SAFETY LABOUR
WATCH, ISTANBUL/TURKEY**

www.guvenlicisma.org
<http://www.facebook.com/isigmeclisi/>
<http://twitter.com/isigmeclisi>



HEALTH AND SAFETY LABOUR WATCH, ISTANBUL/Turkey (ISIG Meclisi)

- monthly reports on 'work-related murders' since May 2011, a solid, labor-world oriented online database which was lacking, summing up to yearly reports...(by way of everyday scanning of local / national press + news from our members)
- re-definition of the scope of an 'occupational death', 'the workplace', and 'the worker': child labor, migrants / refugees, unregistered work-related accidents, population which does not count as 'economically active' but still die in workplace accidents / diseases, dying 'BECAUSE OF WORK' and the impunity of the responsible state officials and corporate directors... [work-related murders!]

HEALTH AND SAFETY LABOUR WATCH, ISTANBUL/Turkey (ISIG Meclisi)

- an active network of organizers, workers, trade unionists, physicians, engineers, solicitors, academics, investigative journalists, H&S professionals, labor inspectors...
- the special role that the Turkish Medical Chamber (TTB) and some progressive Chambers of Engineers play...
- independent (from the state and political parties, capital and corporations), intra-professional, based on voluntary work and funded by contributions of its volunteering members, with only one permanent coordinator...
- very active webpage, trustful source of reference in labor issues comprising all vital aspects.



HEALTH AND SAFETY LABOUR WATCH, ISTANBUL/Turkey (ISIG Meclisi)

- delivers expertise when needed for organizing or reporting on hazards or accidents, from the network
- campaign organizing and networking (child labor, refugee labor, mining, asbestos and urban transformation and interventionist data exposure on issues on the everyday agenda, related to the labor world...)
- encouraging formations of other labor watch networks in the provinces (Kocaeli, Tekirdağ, Ankara...)
- international relations (NGO Shipbreaking, Fondation Henry Pézerat, Ban Asbestos, HC...) and translations of world H&S literature into Turkish in form of books, guest panelists, articles, penal court verdicts with reasons, ETUC HESA monthly journals and AAWL weekly bulletins (www.aawl.org.au)

ADALET ARAYAN İŞÇİ AİLELERİ(NE) (DESTEK GRUBU)

WORKERS' FAMILIES SEEKING JUSTICE (2008 – 2018)



mourning and struggling together: **THE JUSTICE AND CONSCIENCE VIGIL**



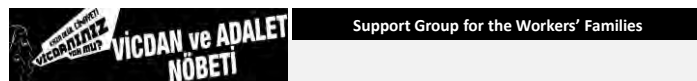
- workers' families who have lost their loved ones and their volunteering lawyers take the floor
- takes place in the well frequented public square of Istanbul, in the middle of the Istiklal Street
- calm, informative with the aim of delivering continuous, public and contemporary information on the monthly H&S agenda, criminal cases



Support Group for the Workers' Families



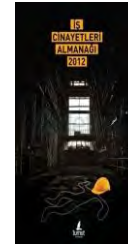
28 April in Turkey was introduced in Turkey by HSLW and WFSK



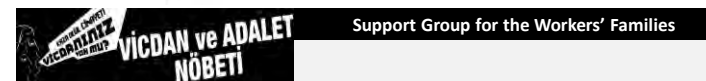
Support Group for the Workers' Families



Almanach of Work-Related Murders Series since '12



Support Group for the Workers' Families



Support Group for the Workers' Families

is cinayetlerini
UNUTmadık
turmayacağız

ALL BLACK DAYS...

VİCDAN ve ADALET NÖBETİ

Support Group for the Workers' Families

is cinayetlerini
UNUTmadık
turmayacağız

28 APRIL, TURKEY

Ölenleri an, kalanlar için mücadele et!

(Remember the Dead, Fight for the Living!)

Sign the Petition under:
www.iscinayetleriniunutma.org



VİCDAN ve ADALET NÖBETİ

Support Group for the Workers' Families