



NEWS & VIEWS

A perspective from CHP

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REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY
Foreign Relations Department

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Highlights from Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu's Speech to the CHP Group

30 June 2020



In his address to the CHP Group on Tuesday, 30 June 2020, Mr. Kılıçdaroğlu said that it was time for reconciliation and coexistence while embracing each other. "It is a common goal for all of us to soften politics, to widen empathy, to turn the language of politics into a way to embrace the whole society. However, there are severe problems that we are experiencing, and we have to list these problems. In other words, we have to express the difficulties experienced since we are the members of the essential party of the Parliament...a party having an historic identity and paying the price in defending democracy in this country" he said.

İstanbul Şehir University Closed Down – Why?

Mr. Kılıçdaroğlu also criticised the closing down of İstanbul Şehir University. He said it should be the common duty of all the governments, the opposition, the parliament and the society to protect universities and to solve their existing problems. He said İstanbul Şehir University was closed out of revenge against Mr. Ahmet Davutoğlu.

Z Generation

One of the most discussed topics in the past week was the Z generation. Mr. Kılıçdaroğlu said that the University entry exams were first

delayed due to the pandemic but after a while, this decision was reversed with the aim to revive tourism. For this reason, exams were organised at an earlier date. During the weekend 2 million 433 thousand 219 students took the exam.

Kılıçdaroğlu further continued and said that young people never wanted to live under an oppressive, dictating regime; they only wanted freedom. Addressing to Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, he said, "By playing with the exam date first, you showed them how you enforce. They don't trust you. Young people want justice and equal opportunities. Don't think of young people only for the future but also for today. They question today, too. Yes, they will build the future better than us. I have no worries because the future of this country is entrusted only to young people."

Kılıçdaroğlu further asserted that these young people have conscience and morality and that they would not vote for Erdoğan.

The Draft Law About the Bar Associations

Concerning the tension between the bar associations and the police in Ankara last week, Kılıçdaroğlu said: "if the state is not governed by knowledge, accumulation, morality, justice, if it is governed by a stick in hand and pressure, such a photo becomes a symbol in the world media. The photo is alone a symbol of the lack of democracy in Turkey. The state should not do this."

Kılıçdaroğlu continued to say that Bar associations were not foundations, that Lawyers had separate foundations. Bar associations were not political institutions either and according to Article 135 of the Constitution, they were public institutions under professional institutions. Therefore, they should not be divided.

CHP Municipalities

Kılıçdaroğlu informed the CHP Group members that as of June 29, CHP municipalities provided in-kind aid to 6 million 211 thousand 978 families as well as financial aid to 290 thousand 976 families; the rent for 21 thousand 147 municipal businesses had been postponed, 156 thousand 940 people had been given home care services, 47 million 788 thousand 539 - approximately 50 million disinfectants, masks, etc. were distributed, 9114 healthcare professionals were provided with accommodation, 2 million 406 thousand 942 buildings and vehicles were disinfected.

Journalists in Prison

Last week, out of six journalists, three were released: Barış Terkoğlu, Aydın Keser and Ferhat Çelik. Barış Pehlivan, Hülya Kılıç and Murat Ağirel are

still in prison. Kılıçdaroğlu said that they are imprisoned for reporting an incident that everyone knows, enlightening the public, not selling their pens, not leaning in front of someone, writing freely, doing real journalism.

CHP Spokesperson Öztrak: Multiple bar project is a project of making robes for lawyers!

3 July 2020

CHP Vice Chairman and Spokesperson Faik Öztrak said that the proposal of the multiple bars is "the project of making robes for lawyers according to their parties, ethnic identity and religious beliefs". He added that the 'multiple bar' proposal submitted by the AKP to the Parliament and started to be reviewed in the Justice Commission is a 'project to robe lawyers according to their parties, ethnic identity and religious beliefs' while arguing that the project is a 'FETÖ project'.



Öztrak also stated: *"It is not possible to pass without mentioning a shameful event that happened last night. At the time of the pandemic, the bar presidents were kept hungry at the entrance of Ankara for 27 hours. They*

were kept until the morning at the doors of the Parliament yesterday. Our heads of the bar associations, who are public officials, were not taken into the Parliament, which is the manifestation of the will of the sovereignty of our nation. The power and coalition partners who support it as well as the residents are partners in this shameful event. "

The highlights from the statement of CHP Vice Chair Muharrem Erkek

1 July 2020

At the press conference in TGNA, CHP Vice Chairman Muharrem Erkek gave a statement to the press on behalf of his party regarding the multiple bar proposal submitted by the AKP to the General Assembly. He argued that

there are two very important pillars of this proposal and indicated that one is to divide the bar associations in major cities.



delegates and similarly four delegates will represent a bar with four thousand nine hundred lawyers."

The second pillar of this proposal is to change the delegate structure of the Union of Turkish Bar Associations. According to the proposal, every bar association will be represented by four delegates. Muharrem Erkek said that "A bar with fifty members will be represented in Ankara with four

He also mentioned that "Our justice march continues today." He said that "If this proposal passes, the bar associations become political instruments. Partisan bar associations will be created in big cities. Erkek indicated that "If the bar associations are divided, they will no longer work for the public decision but other purposes." He said "If the bar associations are silent, citizens cannot breathe. This struggle is for it. This struggle is a struggle for justice. We, as the CHP, are continuing with determination Today. "

He stressed that "Today the palace (the ruling) wants to create bar associations that will obey to them. But the advocacy will never swear allegiance. As CHP, we will continue our struggle together with our colleagues as the main opposition and we will fight for rights, law, and justice in this country."

CHP Deputy Group Leader Özgür Özel: Embarrassing!

1 July 2020



Özgür Özel pointed out at the press conference held in the parliament that 24 bar associations could be established in Istanbul with the new draft law. Citizens will hire lawyers while they will turn to lawyers registered at bar associations close to the

government.

He used the following expressions regarding the particular subject: *"According to this draft law, lawyers will be able to establish 24 bar associations in Istanbul. What will happen? Ak Lawyers Bar Association, Nationalist Lawyers Bar Association, Social Democrat Lawyers Bar Association, Good Lawyers Bar Association ... Various bars. Rabia signs, wolves, birds, victory signs, six arrows in the bar's logos ... Then the citizen will hire a lawyer. The situation of judges and prosecutors is obvious. No decision without the order of the palace. What will the citizen do under those circumstances? Let me go to the 'Ak Law Office' they will say. If my lawyer is one of the 'Ak lawyers', the judge and the prosecutor will look at it favourably."*

Özel stated that the executive authority wanted to separate the lawyers according to their parties to ensure that the judges make their decisions accordingly. He noted that the government wants to ensure that the citizens go to the partisan lawyer while choosing a lawyer. He argued that *"They intervened everywhere in the system you call justice, now they are intervening in the defense"*.

Economy

CHP Vice-Chair Erdoğan: "One - digit inflation is a dream"

3 July 2020



CHP Vice Chair Aykut Erdoğan stated that even the official inflation figures announced by TurkStat (TÜİK) are above expectations. *"The latest data reveal that the one-digit inflation is now a dream."* In his assessment of inflation figures, Erdoğan stated that the increase in prices could not be concealed despite TurkStat (TÜİK)'s faceted figures: *"We are completely out of the path targeted by the Central Bank. It is no longer possible for inflation to fall to a single*

digit in the next year. Those who said, "Interest rates will decrease, inflation will decrease" saw that this is not possible. The low-interest policy caused demand despite the current situation. Despite the limiting effect of aggregate demand conditions, the money supply policy of the palace backfired and even the inflation announced by TurkStat (TÜİK) has increased."

Reminding that the government's revenues increased by the additional taxes and customs duties, Erdoğan pointed out that any tax increase creates a vicious circle in terms of cost and inflation increase. Emphasis on the Central Bank's interest rate that is not suitable for market conditions, has created some demand increase and this has also increased the prices. Erdoğan set as the most obvious example of this as the housing loans - reaching 19 billion TL in 3 weeks. Erdoğan said the loan utilization volume had increased due to loan interest rates which are the biggest credit expansion that has been experienced in the last 20 years. Erdoğan further expressed the following views: "The Central Bank, which appears to have emerged from the rate cut cycle, should continue this trend and act in a coordinated manner with the market. It is unclear how many the tourists, who will bring foreign currency to the country, will come this summer. Consequently, they cannot keep the interest rates lower when the inflation rises where the foreign exchange inflow is insufficient. The task of the Central Bank, such as ensuring price stability, lags far behind. The Central Bank should be very smart from now on and focus on changing the perception of foreign investors. The bank should start by revising its inflation target and setting a more realistic figure. "

Istanbul Convention

Istanbul Convention Response From CHP: This Understanding Prepares the Ground for Women's Murders

3 July 2020



Lale Karabıyık, CHP Vice Chair for Women Policies, responded to AKP Vice Chairperson Numan Kurtulmuş, regarding the Istanbul Convention.

AKP President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan also brought the Convention to the agenda in the

past months and said, "There are provisions in which the conservative community is disturbed. I hear criticisms," Karabiyik said: "This is the mentality that prepares the ground for women's murders! In our country, where we receive news of violence against women every day and where the perpetrators increase violence with the guarantee of impunity, the Istanbul Convention protecting women and women's rights cannot be touched. Terminating the Istanbul Convention means violence against women and the murder of women."

Karabiyik said, "The aim of the Convention, which is the first European agreement specifically targeting violence against women and girls, is to protect women against all kinds of domestic violence and to prevent, prosecute and eliminate acts of violence against women. The Convention contributes to the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and ensures de facto equality between women and men - including the empowerment of women. It was developing comprehensive frameworks, policies and measures to protect and assist all victims of domestic violence and victims of violence against women, to promote international cooperation to eliminate violence against women and domestic violence; To provide support and assistance for organizations and law enforcement units to cooperate effectively with each other to adopt a holistic approach to eliminate violence against women and domestic violence. Besides, in the foreword of the Convention, it is stated that the Convention aims to create Europe free from violence against women and domestic violence. It is unthinkable to take a step backwards from the Istanbul Convention, whose sole purpose is to protect women and end violence against women; because the Istanbul Convention keeps it alive!"

Media Freedom

In response to an announcement that Turkey's broadcast regulator, the Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK), would suspend the Halk TV and TELE1 pro-opposition television stations for five days, the Committee to Protect Journalists issued the following statement:

3 July 2020

"The Radio and Television Supreme Council should not function as a censorship tool for the government, and Turkey should learn to tolerate the existence of whatever critical voices are left in the broadcast media," said CPJ Europe and Central Asia Program Coordinator Gulnoza Said, in New York. "Halk TV and TELE1 are two remaining pro-opposition broadcast outlets in a media landscape that has become predominantly pro-government. Their presence is vital for media plurality in Turkey."

The suspensions were announced today in a statement tweeted by Radio and Television Supreme Council board member İlhan Taşçı. Taşçı, who is a member of the opposition Republican People's Party (CHP), wrote that the two outlets will lose their broadcast licenses entirely if they receive another penalty in the future. CPJ emailed the broadcast regulator for comment but did not receive any reply.

Opposition leaders respond to Erdoğan's threat to block Netflix: Let me at least watch Dark's last season

1 July 2020

Turkey's opposition leaders have criticized President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan with humorous posts on Twitter after the latter vowed to tighten government control over social media following insults directed at his daughter and son-in-law.

"I would feel really hurt if you would shut down Netflix without me watching the last season of Dark, Mr. Erdoğan," İYİ (Good) Party chairperson Mrs. Meral Akşener wrote on Twitter, referring to the German science fiction drama series aired on Netflix.

Akşener also shared the hashtag "SosyalMedyamaDokunma" in her post, which translates as "Don't touch my social media," which became trending topic on Twitter, soon after Erdoğan's remarks.

In response to Akşener's Tweet, main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu similarly voiced a humorous criticism of Erdoğan's remarks, writing: "Oh dear Ms. Meral, he [Erdoğan] would now give away a spoiler out of his anger :)"

CHP Leader Kılıçdaroğlu: "I Remember 33 Lives We Have Lost In The Sivas Massacre with Respect and Appreciation"

2 July 2020



Kılıçdaroğlu commemorated 33 people who lost their lives in the Madımak Hotel, which was burned during the Pir Sultan Abdal Festival held in Sivas on July 2, 1993. CHP Leader Kılıçdaroğlu said in his message published on his social media account: "27 years ago, today we have experienced the most painful example of what separation in society causes in the deep in our hearts. I commemorate the 33 lives we lost in the Sivas Massacre with respect and mercy.

#unutMADIMAKlımda"

Diplomacy

Press Statement by CHP Vice Chair Ünal Çeviköz on Israel's Efforts to Annex the West Bank

29 June 2020



Israel announced that it plans to proceed with the annexation of parts of the occupied West Bank on 1 July. The size of the areas to be annexed remains unclear and the option of a symbolic annexation is

on the table. However, based on the description made by President Trump and Prime Minister Netanyahu, who characterized the plan as the 'deal of the century', it is understood that 'the Middle East Peace Plan', which excluded the Palestinian Authority, will move forward with the annexation of the West Bank.

Israel's annexation plan, which violates international law, will strike an irreparable blow to the peace attempts between Palestine and Israel. This plan risks opening the door for a new wave of radicalization in the Middle East, a region which has been suffering from the consequences of wars and dire poverty for years and cause major tensions both in the region and globally. The announcement made by the Palestinian Authority that they had ended all previous agreements with the U.S.A and Israel as well as Hamas' perception of the annexation plan as a declaration of war must be treated as the initial signs of a new fire that could spread across the region.

Moreover, the areas which will be annexed will divide the Palestinian land once again and disrupt efforts to build an independent Palestinian state. This will accelerate the construction of illegal settlements and the people of Palestine will be condemned to living in an apartheid regime.

Israel must immediately abandon the idea of annexing parts of the West Bank. It must heed the calls made by the United Nations and the European Union and echoed across the world and cease all initiatives that exclude the Palestinian Authority.

As the Republican People's Party, we reiterate that Palestine-Israel relations are key for peace, prosperity and stability in our region. With this understanding, we oppose this annexation plan and renew our support for efforts to reach a just, lasting, two-state solution to the Palestinian issue. We stress that peace in our region is more important than the individual political survival of politicians who seek to use crises to overcome their own failures.

We publicly call for the AKP government, which through its blows to the fundamental tenets of Turkish Foreign Policy, has deepened divisions among Palestinians as well as destabilized the relationship between Ankara and Tel Aviv, to immediately initiate diplomatic efforts to dissuade Israel from its annexation plan.