

## **democracy behind prison bars**

Mostly disregarded by the public the political situation in Turkey concerning democratic standards has, especially during the past two years, taken a dramatic turn for the worse. After years of power struggles between the islamic orientated AKP-government and the kemalist orientated state apparatus, the AKP turned out to be the winner. Now Turkey is on its way towards a single-party-dictatorship. Almost all relevant positions are continuously taken by people of the AKP and their supporters – the Fethullah-Gülen-Order. Critical journalism is no longer accepted. The few brave journalists who couldn't be silenced are either fired, on trial or arrested.

Most dramatically the situation shows in the growing number of political prisoners, who got arrested because of expression of opinion or democratic engagement. Currently there are 4000 prisoners, growing tendency, more then ever since the military coup in 1980. Since 9/11 there has been no country in the world with more arrests due to so called „terrorist activities“. Most affected is the kurdish democracy movement, which since several years tries to transform the society democratically and ecologically. As a false excuse for the repression the state uses the general allegation of being part of the PKK- since the PKK also calls for democratic, ecologic and gender-free transformations.

Although Turkey still tends to become member of the EU, there is no criticism by official authorities within the EU concerning the rising undemocratic conditions. The geostrategical role of Turkey seems to be too important, especially now in the face of the changes in the Arabic world. Quite contrary: Turkey gets objectively supported by chancellor Merkel emphasizing that Germany is right by the side of Turkey fighting the PKK.

To bring attention to this situation, the campaign „democracy behind prison bars“ was initiated. The campaign is carried out by groups, who for a longer time have been working about the situation in Turkey/Kurdistan, as well as other initiatives and individuals, who fight for human rights and democracy.

The campaign´s demands:

Freedom for all political prisoners in Turkey!

Stop the repression against the engagement for communal self-organizing, women rights, human rights and an ecologic society!

For a political solution of the kurdish question!