

The Istanbul Health & Safety Labor Watch January 2012

The Istanbul Health & Safety Labor Watch has published the 'Occupational Deathfall' for January 2012. According to this report at least 62 workers have died while working in diverse sectors. **The first rank is again occupied by the construction sector, sometimes called 'the shining star of the Turkish economy'** with yearly growth rates approaching 10%. The mega private and public construction sectors driven by big construction tycoons trigger a development that doesn't take into consideration the cost to the labor of this accelerated growth. **Whereby many migrant workers in big towns still do live in shared squatter apartment buildings,** called 'bachelor rooms' or have to dwell in shopfloors lacking basic infrastructure.

In January and February of this year 7 migrant workers died in the shared 'bachelor rooms' or in the sub-standard shop floor where they were forced to dwell. **The Tuzla Shipbuilding Region witnessed another victim of an unsafe workplace, causing a tremendous explosion leaving many injured and one worker killed.** The energy sector, another 'ascending sector of the Turkish sector' witnesses both rise in precarious posts (subcontracting relations) and rise of occupational accidents.

Important lawsuits by workers' families exposed to severe losses of their beloved ones because of unsafe capital and state practices or by defendants of public health, the right to live and workplace safety are continuing: **Prof. Dr. Onur Hamzaoğlu** risk to be put to trial for having done a scientific survey on the human health consequences of **industrial waste** in a highly and privately industrialized zone called, Dilovası. He is accused of causing 'public disorder and unrest'. His case attracts a tremendous public support. **The lawcase of Fatıma Aldal, a cleaning worker** having lost her life while cleaning a private flat constitutes a precedent case where woman organizations defend that her death should be treated as 'occupational accident' having occurred in the workplace, called 'home'. **The migrant worker Festus Okey** who has been killed in a police station right in the center of Istanbul hasn't received justice yet. **Gülseren Yurttaş's family** has won the first stage of a longlasting set of lawsuits opened after the young engineer had lost her life in a public building site run by a subcontractor firm in the middle of the historical peninsula of Istanbul. Davutpaşa families' solidarity poses another example of collective and resistant 'watch' over all responsables of workplace accidents.

Istanbul HE&SA LABOR Watch