



Tobacco, Drink, Food and Allied Workers' Union of Turkey

TEKGIDA-İŞ SENDİKASI

PRESS RELEASE

20.01.2010

**DEAR FANS OF FOOTBALL,
WHAT ABOUT RAISING THE VOICE OF LABOUR IN STADIUMS?**

For 37 days TEKEL workers are keeping on being the voice of oppressed and exploited working class in Turkey and resisting their struggle at very cold weather without food and water. 12.000 workers are victims of the privatization process which is accelerated on the way to Europe and these workers are fighting against the closure of their workplaces and their employment in temporary worker status by cutting down of their salaries in half and losing all their health and social benefits and unionization rights. As of January 19 afternoon 100 TEKEL workers started to hunger strike. The support both from Turkey and abroad to our rightful struggle is snowballing. Although all the negative conditions, together with the support and solidarity they receive, TEKEL workers are trying to make their voice heard by the government.

Please come and join our struggle and let us all together increase the power of this voice and together with the voice of workers filling the stadiums let us make our demands and rightful struggle reach to larger masses.

We witnessed the support of football fans via the banner they unfurled during the mass meeting of Turk-Is confederation on January 17 in Ankara.

Forza Livorno group which is known with its attitude against industrial football made a call to support Tekel workers too and declared that from now on they will sing "The Internationale" attributing to TEKEL workers. The group also called on all tribunes to unfurl their banners of support to TEKEL workers during the matches. This initiative is a support for our voice heard far and wide. Particularly Forza Livorno, Halkın Takımı, Karakızıl, we would like to thank and express our gratitude to all the fans for being the voice of TEKEL workers in tribunes by showing the sensitiveness on this issue which befits their dignity.

On behalf of the labour, we're sending our compliments to Alerta Network which carried the struggle of TEKEL workers into the agenda of Europe for being in international solidarity on the most difficult days of struggle.

We call on all the football fans who believe in the dignity of labour into raising their voices of solidarity in the tribunes for TEKEL workers. Come on football fans, we invite you to support us with your backbone. Let all the workers filling the stadiums unite in the world against injustice and exploitation and let the stadiums resound with the rightful voice of workers. As long as you are with us, TEKEL workers are not alone and will not stay alone.

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TEKGIDA-İŞ trade union is affiliated to IUF and EFFAT.