

Tuzla Shipyard & Worker Rights

Level: Int & Up

Objective: Raise awareness of workers' rights in Turkey
Read to comprehend
Summarize a passage
Listening to comprehend
Speaking – problem-solution, arguing a point-of-view

Plan: I often use this as a follow-up to the Triangle Fire lesson. Either refer back to that lesson or ask the students about their places of employment or future sector of work. Put students in small groups and have them come up with the 3 most dangerous occupations in Turkey. Discuss and ask for elaboration as needed.

Ask the students to explain anything they know about the shipyards in Tuzla. Write the title of the article on the board and ask students to guess what the article is about. Ask them why they think the word “killed” is used? Add the first sentence of the article to the board and get more ideas. Do auxiliary vocabulary.

Briefly show the entire story, then put the students in groups of 4 and hand out part of the reading to each. In case of odd groups just give the strongest student 2 parts or you can take a part as well. Tell the students you will give them 3 minutes to read and remember the passage, at which point you will take it away and then they will have to explain their part to the group. Make sure they realize there is an order and that #1 goes first, #2 2nd, etc.

Depending on the strength of the class you can either have the class try to answer the comprehension questions below or simply have someone(s) summarize the entire story to the class with others adding in missing information.

I usually then give the students the readings back and they then can answer the context or comprehension questions or both.

Finally, inform the students that, due to the recent violence and protests, a meeting between the two has been called and a local politician is being brought in to settle the dispute. Hand out role cards to groups of students and hold a meeting on the subject.

Follow-up:

The Evil Corporation lesson plan.

Other links:

<http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/detaylar.do?load=detay&link=144936>
<http://bianet.org/english/health/105132-tuzla-shipyard-workers-announce-strike>
<http://www.imfmetal.org/index.cfm?c=17846>
http://current.com/items/89199283_three-human-sandbags-die-in-tuzla.htm
<http://www.vimeo.com/2107099>
<http://www.laborrights.org>

Auxiliary Vocabulary – an occupation, a fatality, a union, a wage, a victim, an affiliate, social security, to cripple, to toil, to exploit, to remain, to operate, to represent, sub-standard, precarious, intense

Workers killed in Turkish shipyard

Within a two week period, five workers die due to unsafe working conditions.

TURKEY: Last month, five shipyard workers were killed due to unsafe working conditions at the Tuzla shipyard in Istanbul, where expensive ships and yachts are built. The recent deaths mark a dramatic increase in occupational fatalities at this busy shipyard, where workers toil long hours for sub-standard wages with little to no health and safety protections, and even less job security or social benefits.

Since 2000, there have been a total of 31 occupational fatalities at the Tuzla shipyard. In 2006 alone, six workers were killed. “They are all victims of occupational murder, not occupational accidents,” said Musa Çam, general secretary of the Confederation of Revolutionary Trade Unions of Turkey (DiSK), one of four national union centres in Turkey. “The list of the workers who were injured or crippled because of insufficient job security is much longer. Some of the workers have no social security so they couldn’t benefit from health service.”

Shipyard employers are some of the worst exploiters of precarious workers. The Union of Port, Dock, Ship Building and Repair Workers (Limter-İş), an affiliate of the International Metalworkers’ Federation, represents workers at the Tuzla shipyard and operates under intense difficulties. On May 31, 2006, police attacked workers protesting the company’s failure to pay wages for two months. Six workers were seriously injured and 16 were arrested, including Limter Is president Cem Dinç and union official Kamber Saygili, who remained in jail for 40 days.

“How many more men and women must die in vain, before shipyard workers win living wages, permanent employment, social security and basic worker protections that all workers are entitled to?” asked Marcello Malentacchi, IMF general secretary. “The IMF fully supports Limter-İş and their struggle to improve working conditions at the Tuzla shipyard

Sep 12, 2007 – Kristyne Peter

Understanding meaning from context.

1) To toil means

- A) To work B) To hardly work C) to work hard

2) Substandard means

- A) low B) high C) normal

3) Insufficient means

- A) Not enough B) Too much C) just the right amount

4) To remain means

- A) To stay B) to work C) to sleep

5) “In vain” means

- A) For an important reason B) happily C) for no reason

Comprehension Questions

1. Why are workers dying at the shipyards?
2. What problems do the workers face?
3. In paragraph 2, Musa Çam states that these deaths are “murders, not accidents.” Why?
4. Why do you think police attacked the protesting workers?
5. In your opinion, what should be done about this situation?

Workers:

You are very angry with the management and owners of the shipyards. You don't trust them at all. You want liveable wages, standard job benefits, and, most importantly, safe working conditions. You must try to convince local politicians to take your side and force the shipyard owners to make some changes. Come up with reasons why the politicians and the owners should support you.

Shipyard Owners:

You don't care about the workers. Most of them come from poor, uneducated families. They have no skills or training and don't deserve better conditions. Besides, unemployment is very high in Turkey. If they don't want to do their jobs, there are definitely other people that will. The workers have no power in this situation and you are not worried. The most important thing here is money. Of course you CAN'T say these things to the politicians. You must appear to care. Come up with reasons why you shouldn't have to improve job conditions or why it is very difficult to do so.

Local Politicians:

Many people in the community work at the local shipyards and, since only the man works, this money must support an entire household. You believe this is a big problem in the community. On the other hand, the shipyard owners are paying you lots of money to support them. You need their help to finance your political campaigns and luxury lifestyle (Do NOT tell the workers this). While you feel for the plight of the workers, you are very concerned about yourself. Listen to both sides and then try to find a solution that helps both sides. Prepare some questions to ask both sides.

Worker 1 TURKEY: Last month, five shipyard workers were killed due to unsafe working conditions at the Tuzla shipyard in Istanbul, where expensive ships and yachts are built. The recent deaths mark a dramatic increase in occupational fatalities at this busy shipyard, where workers toil long hours for sub-standard wages with little to no health and safety protections, and even less job security or social benefits.

Worker 2 Since 2000, there have been a total of 31 occupational fatalities at the Tuzla shipyard. In 2006 alone, six workers were killed. “They are all victims of occupational murder, not occupational accidents,” said Musa Çam, general secretary of the Confederation of Revolutionary Trade Unions of Turkey (DiSK), one of four national union centres in Turkey. “The list of the workers who were injured or crippled because of insufficient job security is much longer. Some of the workers have no social security so they couldn’t benefit from health service.”

Worker 3 Shipyard employers are some of the worst exploiters of precarious workers. The Union of Port, Dock, Ship Building and Repair Workers (Limter-İş), an affiliate of the International Metalworkers’ Federation, represents workers at the Tuzla shipyard and operates under intense difficulties. On May 31, 2006, police attacked workers protesting the company’s failure to pay wages for two months. Six workers were seriously injured and 16 were arrested, including Limter Is president Cem Dinç and union official Kamber Saygili, who remained in jail for 40 days.

Worker 4 “How many more men and women must die in vain, before shipyard workers win living wages, permanent employment, social security and basic worker protections that all workers are entitled to?” asked Marcello Malentacchi, IMF general secretary. “The IMF fully supports Limter-İş and their struggle to improve working conditions at the Tuzla shipyard
Sep 12, 2007 – Kristyne Peter

Politician 1 TURKEY: Last month, five shipyard workers were killed due to unsafe working conditions at the Tuzla shipyard in Istanbul, where expensive ships and yachts are built. The recent deaths mark a dramatic increase in occupational fatalities at this busy shipyard, where workers toil long hours for sub-standard wages with little to no health and safety protections, and even less job security or social benefits.

Politician 2 Since 2000, there have been a total of 31 occupational fatalities at the Tuzla shipyard. In 2006 alone, six workers were killed. “They are all victims of occupational murder, not occupational accidents,” said Musa Çam, general secretary of the Confederation of Revolutionary Trade Unions of Turkey (DiSK), one of four national union centres in Turkey. “The list of the workers who were injured or crippled because of insufficient job security is much longer. Some of the workers have no social security so they couldn’t benefit from health service.”

Politician 3 Shipyard employers are some of the worst exploiters of precarious workers. The Union of Port, Dock, Ship Building and Repair Workers (Limter-İş), an affiliate of the International Metalworkers’ Federation, represents workers at the Tuzla shipyard and operates under intense difficulties. On May 31, 2006, police attacked workers protesting the company’s failure to pay wages for two months. Six workers were seriously injured and 16 were arrested, including Limter Is president Cem Dinç and union official Kamber Saygili, who remained in jail for 40 days.

Politician 4 “How many more men and women must die in vain, before shipyard workers win living wages, permanent employment, social security and basic worker protections that all workers are entitled to?” asked Marcello Malentacchi, IMF general secretary. “The IMF fully supports Limter-İş and their struggle to improve working conditions at the Tuzla shipyard
Sep 12, 2007 – Kristyne Peter

Owner 1 TURKEY: Last month, five shipyard workers were killed due to unsafe working conditions at the Tuzla shipyard in Istanbul, where expensive ships and yachts are built. The recent deaths mark a dramatic increase in occupational fatalities at this busy shipyard, where workers toil long hours for sub-standard wages with little to no health and safety protections, and even less job security or social benefits.

Owner 2 Since 2000, there have been a total of 31 occupational fatalities at the Tuzla shipyard. In 2006 alone, six workers were killed. “They are all victims of occupational murder, not occupational accidents,” said Musa Çam, general secretary of the Confederation of Revolutionary Trade Unions of Turkey (DiSK), one of four national union centres in Turkey. “The list of the workers who were injured or crippled because of insufficient job security is much longer. Some of the workers have no social security so they couldn’t benefit from health service.”

Owner 3 Shipyard employers are some of the worst exploiters of precarious workers. The Union of Port, Dock, Ship Building and Repair Workers (Limter-İş), an affiliate of the International Metalworkers’ Federation, represents workers at the Tuzla shipyard and operates under intense difficulties. On May 31, 2006, police attacked workers protesting the company’s failure to pay wages for two months. Six workers were seriously injured and 16 were arrested, including Limter Is president Cem Dinç and union official Kamber Saygili, who remained in jail for 40 days.

Owner 4 “How many more men and women must die in vain, before shipyard workers win living wages, permanent employment, social security and basic worker protections that all workers are entitled to?” asked Marcello Malentacchi, IMF general secretary. “The IMF fully supports Limter-İş and their struggle to improve working conditions at the Tuzla shipyard
Sep 12, 2007 – Kristyne Peter

Protestor 1 TURKEY: Last month, five shipyard workers were killed due to unsafe working conditions at the Tuzla shipyard in Istanbul, where expensive ships and yachts are built. The recent deaths mark a dramatic increase in occupational fatalities at this busy shipyard, where workers toil long hours for sub-standard wages with little to no health and safety protections, and even less job security or social benefits.

Protestor 2 Since 2000, there have been a total of 31 occupational fatalities at the Tuzla shipyard. In 2006 alone, six workers were killed. “They are all victims of occupational murder, not occupational accidents,” said Musa Çam, general secretary of the Confederation of Revolutionary Trade Unions of Turkey (DiSK), one of four national union centres in Turkey. “The list of the workers who were injured or crippled because of insufficient job security is much longer. Some of the workers have no social security so they couldn’t benefit from health service.”

Protestor 3 Shipyard employers are some of the worst exploiters of precarious workers. The Union of Port, Dock, Ship Building and Repair Workers (Limter-İş), an affiliate of the International Metalworkers’ Federation, represents workers at the Tuzla shipyard and operates under intense difficulties. On May 31, 2006, police attacked workers protesting the company’s failure to pay wages for two months. Six workers were seriously injured and 16 were arrested, including Limter Is president Cem Dinç and union official Kamber Saygili, who remained in jail for 40 days.

Protestor 4 “How many more men and women must die in vain, before shipyard workers win living wages, permanent employment, social security and basic worker protections that all workers are entitled to?” asked Marcello Malentacchi, IMF general secretary. “The IMF fully supports Limter-İş and their struggle to improve working conditions at the Tuzla shipyard
Sep 12, 2007 – Kristyne Peter