**UNISON National Delegate Conference Fringe Meeting**

**SOLIDARITY WITH KURDS STOP THE ABUSES IN TURKEY**

*Hundreds killed by state forces-thousands made homeless-towns put under curfew-children shot-residents trapped in basements as buildings set on fire-whole towns razed to the ground-MPs jailed for condemning violence-journalists, academics and trade unionists jailed-hundreds of thousands of public servants sacked-opposition media and newspapers shut down-NGOs, charities, human rights and women’s organisations closed down by state decree-state of emergency powers used to suppress all opposition-presidential dictatorship and suppression of democracy*

**Speakers:**

**Simon Dubbins, Unite International Director and Freedom for Ocalan Campaign**

**Dr Salima Tasdemir, Co-Chair Kurdish People’s Assembly**

**Steve Sweeney, Morning Star and Solidarity with the People Of Turkey (SPOT)**

**Jo Magpie, Brighton Kurdish Solidarity**

**Wednesday 21 June 12.30-2.00 Sandringham Suite, Hilton Hotel**

**Organised by UNISON South Lanarkshire Branch**

**Demand Democratic Reform in Turkey**

In the run up to the Turkish general election of June 2015, negotiations between the AKP government and imprisoned PKK leader Abullah Ocalan produced proposals for a lasting and democratic peace. Ocalan called for an end to war and a turn to politics but President Erdogan cancelled the *peace process* and embarked on a *war process.* Since then violence has become the primary policy of the Turkish government – against the Kurdish opposition in parliament and the country, the academics and journalists who report on government actions, human rights and women activists.

Shocked by the success of the pro-Kurdish HDP in the election, and the Kurdish forces fighting Daesh in Syria, the Turkish government has embarked on a violent campaign against its own citizens, punishing anyone who opposes Erdogan’s drive for personal power.

Meanwhile Turkey remains a NATO member that the Tories are desperate to sell more and more arms to.

**Simon Dubbins** is Unite’s International Director and a regular visitor to Turkey witnessing the destruction of the Sur district of Diyarbakir/Amed. Helped set up the **Freedom for Ocalan Campaign**

**Dr Salima Tasdemir** works to build solidarity with the Kurds in Turkey and promote the ideas of a peaceful and democratic solution to the Kurdish Question

**Steve Sweeney** has reported from Turkey for the Morning Star and has witnessed scenes of destruction and spoken to victims of state violence.

**Jo Magpie** has visited the Kurdish regions of Syria and Turkey and has witnessed both the destruction and the hope of a new society in Rojava.

**UNISON South Lanarkshire** has initiated fund raising and solidarity campaigns for Kurdish refugees in Turkey and Syria. They are currently promoting a postcard solidarity campaign to support Kurdish women in prison in Turkey. Pick up ***Solidarity from UNISON*** postcard.

**Prioritise and support Composite E on Turkey**

**Stop arms sales to Turkey**

**Demand the release of political prisoners**

**Freedom for Abdullah Ocalan**

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