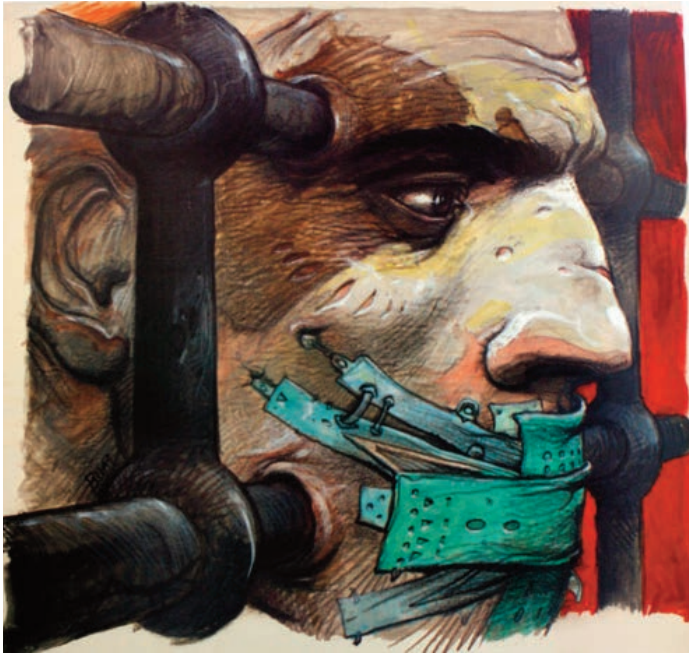# *Information Technology Workers Solidarity Network*

## We as IT Workers condemn Facebook's censorship

### IT Workers of Turkey will not be silenced!

Facebook blocked "IT Engineer" (Bilişimci Mühendis) account. Our friend who is a member of BİÇDA (IT Workers Solidarity Network) , had been sharing news about the IT sector, BİÇDA's announcements and activities with his coworkers for the last 3 years. He had  shared with us the plight of the  IT workers  in their workplaces  and he talked about the problems in their daily lives. Moreover, they shared information about other work sectors up until a week ago. Last week it was cancelled, when our friend wanted to access his facebook account, a warning was posted about the pictures that were shared by him in support of the Texim workers' resistance movement, which is now in its 69th day.  These pictures were deleted because they were believed to be damaging for the Texim company's reputation. Subsequently, a message was displayed on the screen stating that the account was disabled.



We all know the vast possibilities of the internet in its ability to bring information to everyone who would otherwise have to rely of either governmental sources or newspapers which are biased at best and often deny the truth to its readers, that is, they lie. With the internet we do not have to rely on these traditional sources of information but we can find out for ourselves what is actually occurring.  Thus, it is harder for the government and our bosses to keep us in the dark and it is easier to let people know about the struggles that are taking place either in our own country or around the world.  We can access news with photos and videos first hand, even while the events are taking place. We can express our reaction and support and we can show our solidarity quickly. What we also know is that throughout history the people who were afraid of the truth were the people who would be going after our freedoms. They acted to limit freedom of expression and to censor or to silence independent will. Now, Facebook is acting in the same way; that is to restrain our freedom of expression. The bosses were supported by the government in their effort to silence labour. What this means is: "We want to silence "Bilişimci Mühendis" who is supporting  workers' solidarity by sharing labour news". People, namely the employers, who are disturbed by the Texim workers' resistance  are trying to control us, and so they have pressured Facebook to drop us from their network.

### We as IT Workers condemn Facebook's censorship

Today information can not be fettered. Today's technology allows for amazing possibilities.  With its speed and its ability to gather a tremendous amount of information all governments, including our own are fearful of what this means so censorship has become the means by which the government has challenged this otherwise incredible technology that provides a way to help organize workers.  The internet itself is being challenged by the government to stem the flow of information that it was designed to disseminate.  The key to freedom of expression is the right to collect and spread news without being hindered by censorship.

Censorship, given the internet is much more difficult to attain but not impossible.  Facebook is attempting to censor us because of what we say.  We are trying to inform workers of their rights and of struggles of other workers who are also being denied their rights. In the past, repressive governments use to burn "controversial" books but with the rise of the internet they have taken that strategy a step further. They are now banning "controversial" sites from the internet. We cannot let that happen since that is a means by which the government attempts to keep us all ignorant of what the employers hope to accomplish; that is, the further exploitation of workers here and abroad. Therefore, we cannot allow this to go unanswered.  We need to share this amongst all workers and all of those people who oppose censorship

**15.10.2012**

# Who are we?

Some of us are programmers, some of us are network operators, some of us are system analyzers, some of us are testers and others work in heavy industry. The work is intensive. We often have to work a lot of overtime. Almost 24/7 we are working for the corporations.



Unfortunately, we were not very aware of what we were doing but employers knew that so they took advantage of our naiveté. They called us project managers or senior software developers or senior systems engineers while always telling us, "we are a family". We had hoped that the future would be better since we were told that there would be unlimited career opportunities. A bunch of us believed, some of us woke up, but the process has not changed.

All promises are lies; hardworking people were receiving either very little response or none at all. In addition, we do not have job guarantees, and our social security payments are given at the minimum wage. Moreover, we are loosing our pension rights. We have very few holidays. But there are always training projects and computer maintenance, while always looking after the computer systems. Many of us could not take any vacation for two weeks in a row. Our mobile phones were ringing even on holidays.Our rights have been taken away although we give our best to the companies which told us we are all like "family".

And the day came when we found ourselves talking about the same problems with other friends. Yes, the problems are the same, but what about the solution?

**Here's how to develop these solutions:**

In solidarity with each other, to be informed about our rights and related legislation; to educate each other; to share our work experience; to avoid being alone in this huge sector and then to be an address for the solidarity of IT workers. Thus, we set up Information Technology Workers Solidarity Network in Turkey (BİCDA). We came together to implement this program.

We decided to organize this community on a global level as well and we decided to create ITWSN, Information Technology Workers Solidarity Network Internationally.

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## We need your support and solidarity to spread the organization so we can begin to be known among IT workers.

## In this information age, unite in our solidarity network!

### CONTACTS

**Information Technology Workers Solidarity Network**

- http://itwsn.net/
- itwsn@googlegroups.com

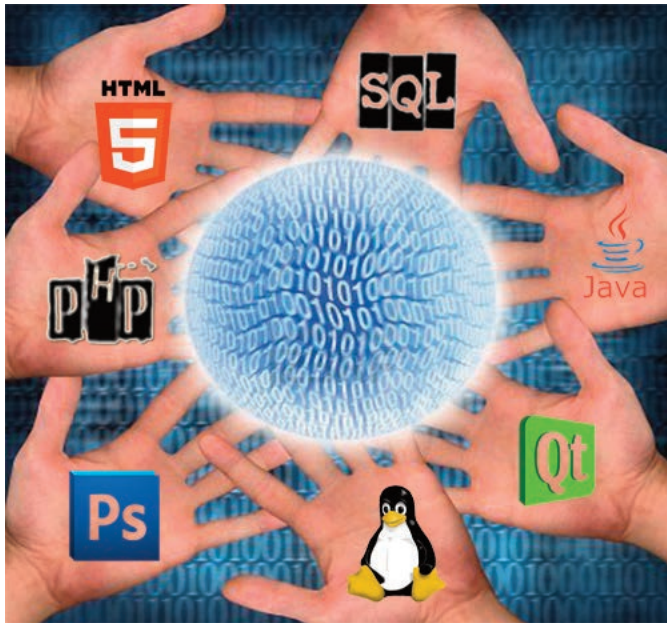**Bilişim ve İletişim Çalışanları Dayanışma Ağı**

- http://bilisimcalisanlari.net/
- bicda@googlegroups.com
- http://twitter.com/bilisimcalisan
- http://friendfeed.com/bilisimcalisanlari
- https://www.facebook.com/groups/157507940945561/

# What Do We Do? And What are we going to do?

**BİÇDA is giving free technical training.**

This training will be completely free of charge. There is a sector which is already set up by companies to give technical courses but the courses are not free for workers and the workers are forced to take this training.

IT employees are willing to share our knowledge, knowledge and experience gained in the workplace. We have already given the following training workshops:



Internet Programming (PHP, HTML, CSS), Logic of Object-Oriented Programming, Database Programming(SQL), Software Testing and Quality Management,

This training video footage of us at *www.bilisimcalisanlari.net* shared on the internet.

In the near future, we are planning to teach Qt Programming, Photoshop, 3DS Max, Erlang, Adobe Premierre, HTML5, CSS3, .NET, C, C + + ,C #, JAVA, Embedded System Design.

We plan to provide training according to the demands on other issues

**BİÇDA is teaching internet and social media usage to the workers that are in struggle.**

We are training workers who are resisting their bosses on how to use the internet and social media environments; promoting the use of technology in the struggle for workers.

**Every week on Wednesdays we come together and share our experiences and try to solve each others problems.**

At these meetings we discuss selected topics through reading articles and books. We are talking about how we can solve our problems in our workplaces and how we can have an impact on other employees. We believe that these studies are more informative than the ones the bosses propose. We also arrange movie nights to watch documentary films.

**We publish a bulletin periodically.**

In our bulletin we share our thoughts on working life and workers' news from various companies including live interviews with IT workers.

**We are supporting workers struggles in other sectors.**

We are a part of the working class and we have common problems! We think that there are no differences between us and workers in other sectors. We are visiting their resistence and share our experiences with the workers in struggle.

**We are setting up Internationally an IT Workers Solidarity Network - www.itwsn.net**

The IT industry has spread all over the world, we are all connected to each other's work. We are producing together, IT workers have the same problems and similar experiences even in different countries. Precarious working conditions are all over the world. We are working under the same conditions in different regions.

**If we are very tired of the stress, come to the meeting and organize Reggae night :)**