

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 311/94 (EUR 17/13/94, 25 August 1994) - and follow-up:
EUR 17/19/94, 18 October 1994 - Conscientious objection

CYPRUS:Georgios Louka KARAMANOS, aged 29
Alvertos Louka KARAMANOS, aged 31
Georgios Costa ANTONIOU, aged 20
Andreas Ionathan CHARALAMBOUS, aged 20
Andreas Panayioti GEORGIOU, aged 18
Dimosthenos Demetraki LOIZOU, aged 23
Theodoros Antoni CHARALAMBOUS, aged 53
Iosif KOURIDES, aged 29

Andreas Ionathan Charalambous and Andreas Panayioti Georgiou have been sentenced to five and eight months' imprisonment by Nicosia Military Court on 17 October and 14 November respectively. They are now serving their sentences in Nicosia Central Prison. Please stop sending appeals on their behalf.

Theodoros Antoni Charalambous has received a fine. He is not facing imprisonment. Please stop sending appeals on his behalf.

The trials of all the other conscientious objectors have been postponed. Dimosthenos Demetraki Loizou's trial is now scheduled for 15 December. The trials of brothers Georgios and Alvertos Karamanos have been postponed until 8 and 10 December respectively. Georgios Costa Antoniou will appear before Nicosia Military Court on 5 December. Iosif Kourides' trial has been postponed until 8 December. They face up to one year's imprisonment.

13 conscientious objectors are now in prison in Cyprus. Their religion does not permit them to serve in the armed forces in any capacity. As Jehovah's Witnesses, they are opposed to performing any form of military service. Amnesty International believes that their imprisonment would be merely for exercising their right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters

- calling for the immediate release of all other conscientious objectors currently in prison in Cyprus;
- expressing concern that five conscientious objectors are facing trial and possible imprisonment solely for exercising their right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion;
- calling on the government to ensure that, in line with international recommendations, a civilian service of non-punitive length is introduced for conscientious objectors to military service and that, in addition, reservists and serving conscripts have the opportunity to perform such a service during periods of emergency or general mobilization.

APPEALS TO

1) Mr Glafcos Klerides
President of the Republic of Cyprus
Presidential Palace
Nicosia, Cyprus

Faxes: +357 2445016
Telegrams: President Klerides, Nicosia, Cyprus
Salutation: Dear President

2) Dr Konstandinos Iliadhis
Minister of Defence
Ministry of Defence
Emmanouil Roidi 4
Nicosia, Cyprus
Telexes: 6006 MOD CY
Telegrams: Defence Minister Iliadhis, Nicosia, Cyprus
Salutation: Dear Minister

3) Mr Alexandros Evangelou
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
1 Diogenes St
Engonti, Cyprus
Faxes: +357 2461427
Telexes: 6116 MINJUST CY
Telegrams: Justice Minister Evangelou, Engonti, Cyprus
Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO: diplomatic representative of Cyprus accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 8 January 1994
