

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: EUR 25/05/93
Distr: UA/SC

20 January 1993

Further information on EXTRA 03/93 (EUR 25/02/93, 6 January 1993) - Health Concern/Prisoner of Conscience

GREECE:Nikos MAZIOTIS

Nikos Maziotis a conscientious objector who was imprisoned for refusing to join the army and went on hunger-strike for more than six weeks has been released from prison.

Due to his poor health as a result of the hunger-strike, Nikos Maziotis' trial did not take place on 12 January 1993 as scheduled. The court refused his lawyer's request to release him on grounds of ill-health. However, based on the advice of his doctors Nikos Maziotis was later granted exemption from call-up for two years on grounds on ill-health. His release was finalized at a hearing held on the morning of 18 January in Thessaloniki and he was released the same day. Charges for desertion and insulting the Greek Armed Forces were not dropped and Nikos remains at risk of being tried and imprisoned for these charges at some time in the future. If he is imprisoned he will be considered a prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International. Nikos Maziotis' health is said to be poor although he is out of danger. It is not known whether he will suffer lasting damage as a result of his hunger-strike.

No more appeals are required for the time being on behalf of Nikos Maziotis. Many thanks to all those who sent appeals.