

NEWS FLASH

News Service: 125/99

AI Index: EUR 44/42/99

29 June 1999

Amnesty International calls for a retrial of PKK leader Abdullah Öcalan

Amnesty International calls for a full retrial of the leader of the armed opposition group Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), Abdullah Öcalan, who was sentenced to death on 29 June 1999.

The human rights organisation is urging the Turkish authorities not to execute Abdullah Öcalan. Amnesty International believes that the sentence was passed at the conclusion of a trial that violated both national law and international standards for fair trial.

“Abdullah Öcalan should be retried before a competent, independent and impartial tribunal and under conditions which ensure the strictest compliance with fair trial guarantees enshrined in national and international law,” Amnesty International said, adding that the organisation is “unconditionally opposed to the death penalty in all cases without exception”.

END.../