

EXTERNAL

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FURTHER INFORMATION ON MEDICAL LETTER-WRITING ACTION

(See EUR 44/11/88 - 19 February 1988; EUR 44/08/90 - 19 January 1990)

Dr Nihat SARGIN and Nabi Yagci (known under the party name of Haydar Kutlu)

TURKEY

Theme: POCs/fair trial

Profession/association: doctor/surgeon

Dr Nihat Sargin and Nabi Yagci, adopted prisoners of conscience arrested in late 1987 have both now been conditionally released from prison. Dr Nihat Sargin, a 64-year-old former chest specialist and surgeon, and Nabi Yagci, aged 45 were arrested at Ankara airport on their return to Turkey from exile in November 1987. Their intention in returning was to attempt to legalize their political activities there after their respective political parties had merged in exile to form the Turkish United Communist Party. Nabi Yagci had formerly been Secretary General of the Turkish Communist Party (TKP) and Dr Sargin Secretary General of the Turkish Workers' Party (TIP). None of the parties advocates violence, but all are banned in Turkey.

Following their arrest, they were held incommunicado at Ankara Police Headquarters and interrogated for 19 days without access to their lawyers or to their families. Both allege that they were tortured during this period. On 6 April 1990 they began a hunger-strike in protest at Ankara State Security Court's decision to reject the latest application to release them. There had at that time been 31 unsuccessful applications for their release. They ended their hunger-strike 19 days later after President Turgut Ozal announced that provisions of the articles of the penal code under which they are charged were to be reviewed by Parliament. They were released shortly afterwards. They are mainly charged under Article 141 which proscribes leadership and membership of organizations "trying to establish the domination of one social class over the others", and under Article 142 which proscribes "making communist and separatist propaganda". Their trial continues.

No further action is requested at present. Thank you for having appealed.