

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: EUR 44/126/90  
Distr: CO/GR

---

Amnesty International  
International Secretariat  
1 Easton Street  
London WC1X 8DJ  
United Kingdom

9 August 1990

TURKEY: Imprisonment of Do u Perinçek

Do\_u Perinçek, aged 48, married with three children, was arrested on 7 August 1990 when he was about to attend a trial in Diyarbakır State Security Court. He is charged with "disseminating separatist propaganda" during speeches he made in February and March 1990 in Siverek, Nusaybin, Batman, Van and Diyarbakır. Most of the speeches made reference to the Kurdish question, but according to Amnesty International's information Do\_u Perinçek did not advocate violence.

In the early 1980s Do\_u Perinçek was imprisoned twice in connection with his leadership in the Turkish Workers and Peasants' Party, TIKP. He was imprisoned between 17 November 1980 and 12 July 1982 and following his conviction under Article 141 of the Turkish Penal Code, which proscribes leadership of an organization "attempting to establish the domination of one social class over others", he was reimprisoned on 4 May 1983 and released on 26 February 1985. The TIKP was strongly opposed to the political violence of the late 1970s and Amnesty International adopted its leaders and other imprisoned members as prisoners of conscience.

Do\_u Perinçek has been the publishing director of the weekly magazine 2000e Dogru (Towards 2000) since it started publication in early 1987. Many issues of this journal have been confiscated, usually after publishing articles about the Kurdish question. Successive editors-in-chief have been put on trial. Fatma Yazici, the first editor-in-chief, was indicted on 46 different counts. In three cases she was convicted and received a total of eight years, seven months' imprisonment. Her successor Tunca Aslan was put on trial on some 22 different counts. In March 1990 he was imprisoned for 10 days in connection with an article published in 2000e Dogru on 4 March 1990 entitled "The Solution of the Kurdish Problem". The number of court cases pending against Adnan Akfirat, the editor-in-chief to follow Tunca Aslan, was eight in July 1990.

Turkey has a Kurdish ethnic minority estimated to be some 10 million people, which is not officially recognized by the authorities. Even the right to enjoy a separate cultural identity has been denied by successive governments, and the public use of the Kurdish language is prohibited. The Kurdish population lives mainly in southeastern Turkey.

As of June 1990 emergency legislation was in force in 10 provinces in southeastern Turkey. They and a further three provinces

are ruled by a regional governor with increased powers who was appointed by the Cabinet on 19 July 1987. The powers of the Emergency Legislation Regional Governor are laid down in a decree having the force of a law, based on Article 121 of the 1982 Constitution and Article 4 of Law No. 2935 of 25 October 1983 on the Competences of Governors. These increased powers include the right to command regular and special security forces, to change posts of civil servants including military personnel and to resettle or deport individuals and the population of whole villages.

These measures were the government response to activities by Kurdish guerrillas who, under the command of the illegal Kurdish Workers Party, PKK, started a guerrilla war on 15 August 1984 with attacks on gendarmerie stations in Erüh and Semdinli. Since then some 2,000 people have been killed on both sides and among the civilian population in southeastern Turkey as a result.

In April and May special decrees were issued in response to recent clashes between the local population and the security forces in March and April, which to some extent took on the form of a popular uprising and were termed by some inside and outside Turkey as the "Kurdish intifada". The decrees further increased the exceptional powers of the Emergency Legislation Regional Governor. On 28 June 2000e Dogru and another magazine, Halk Gerçegi (People's Reality), were closed down by the authorities under the provisions of Decree 413 of 9 April 1990, as amended by Decree 424 on 10 May. They provide that publications whose reporting on southeastern Turkey "could lead to public unrest" can be banned, penalized with high fines or, together with the printers, closed down altogether.

Amnesty International knows of no evidence that Do\_u Perinçek advocated the use of violence in any of his speeches. He is, therefore, considered to be a prisoner of conscience and his imprisonment to be in violation of his right to freedom of expression, as set out in Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights, to which Turkey is a State Party. Amnesty International is appealing for his immediate and unconditional release.