

URGENT ACTION

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR RELEASED

Conscientious objector Haluk Selam Tufanlı was released from military prison on 12 December. He served eight days of a 10-day sentence because releases over the weekend are not possible in the territory of northern Cyprus.

Conscientious objector **Haluk Selam Tufanlı** was imprisoned for 10 days on 4 December after the military court in Lefkoşa/Nicosia (territory of northern Cyprus) found him guilty of 'noncompliance with the mobilization call' as a result of his refusal to take part in a one-day military training in 2011.

Haluk Selam Tufanlı's defence was based on his status as a conscientious objector. Reading out his verdict, the judge stated he could not take into account this defence as there is no legal basis for conscientious objection in the territory.

Speaking to Amnesty International over the phone, Haluk Selam Tufanlı thanked all those who took action for his release. Haluk Selam Tufanlı said: "The judge told me I have the right to a defence, which I used, stating my conscientious objection, and then disregarded my defence in his verdict. We will take this to the European Court of Human Rights."

"I am well, and confident in the fact that this struggle for recognition of conscientious objection as a right is taking place around the World and that one day, we will win."

Many thanks to those who sent appeals. No further action is required from the UA network.

This is the first update of UA 304/14. Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR44/022/2014/en>

Name: Haluk Selam Tufanlı

Gender m/f: male

Further information on UA: 304/14 Index: EUR 44/024/2014 Issue Date: 12 December 2014

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