

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 311/94 (EUR 17/13/94, 25 August 1994) - Conscientious objection

CYPRUS        Georgios Louka KARAMANOS, aged 29  
              Alvertos Louka KARAMANOS, aged 31  
              Georgios Costa ANTONIOU, aged 20  
              Andreas Ionathan CHARALAMBOUS, aged 20  
              Andreas Panayioti GEORGIOU, aged 18  
              Panayiotis Dimitris TALIA, aged 21  
              Savva Costa PERIKLI, aged 22  
              Dimosthenos Demetraki LOIZOU, aged 23  
              Theodoros Antoni CHARALAMBOUS, aged 53

new name:    Iosif KOURIDES, aged 29

The charges against Savva Costa Perikli have been dropped, and no further appeals are required on his behalf.

Panayiotis Dimitris Talia was sentenced to six months' imprisonment by Nicosia Military Court on 26 September. He is now serving his sentence in Nicosia Central Prison.

The trials of all the other conscientious objectors have been postponed. Dimosthenos Demetraki Loizou and Theodoros Antoni Charalambous' trials are now scheduled for 24 October. The trial of brothers Georgios and Alvertos Karamanos has been postponed until 3 November. Georgios Costa Antoniou will appear before Nicosia Military Court on 14 November. They face up to one year's imprisonment.

Amnesty International also received information that Iosif Kourides is due to appear in Court on 22 October for refusing to perform military service. If he is imprisoned, this will be his second term of imprisonment for the same offence as he already served 10 months of a 15 months' sentence in 1993.

As Jehovah's Witnesses, the defendants are opposed to performing any form of military service, as their religion does not permit them to serve in the armed forces in any capacity. Amnesty International believes that their imprisonment would be merely for exercising their right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters**

- calling for the immediate release of Panayiotis Dimitris Talia and all other conscientious objectors currently in prison in Cyprus;
- expressing concern that six conscientious objectors are facing trial and possible imprisonment solely for exercising their right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion;
- calling on the government to ensure that, in line with international recommendations, a wholly civilian service of non-punitive length is introduced for conscientious objectors to military service and that, in addition, reservists and serving conscripts have the opportunity to perform such a service during periods of emergency or general mobilization.

**APPEALS TO**

1) Mr Glafcos Klerides  
President of the Republic of Cyprus  
Presidential Palace  
Nicosia, Cyprus

**Faxes:** +357 2445016

**Telegrams:** President Klerides, Nicosia, Cyprus

**Salutation:** Dear President

2) Dr Konstandinos Iliadhis  
Minister of Defence  
Ministry of Defence  
Emmanouil Roidi 4  
Nicosia, Cyprus

**Telexes:** 6006 MOD CY

**Telegrams:** Defence Minister Iliadhis, Nicosia, Cyprus

**Salutation:** Dear Minister

3) Mr Alexandros Evangelou  
Minister of Justice  
Ministry of Justice  
1 Diogenes St  
Engonti, Cyprus

**Faxes:** +357 2461427

**Telexes:** 6116 MINJUST CY

**Telegrams:** Justice Minister Evangelou, Engonti, Cyprus

**Salutation:** Dear Minister

**COPIES TO:** diplomatic representative of Cyprus accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 14 November 1994