

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 81/93 (EUR 25/08/93, 24 March 1993) - Fear of Ill-treatment/Legal Concern

GREECE:Charalambos (Babis) Andreopoulos

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Charalambos Andreopoulos, a Jehovah's Witness minister and conscientious objector who faced imprisonment in harsh jail conditions, has been given a two-month reprieve. Andreopoulos was facing imprisonment as a result of a policy of religious discrimination by the military authorities against Jehovah's Witnesses.

On 29 March his lawyers managed to obtain an emergency provisional ruling from the highest administrative court in Greece, the Council of State, that Charalambos Andreopoulos was a religious minister and entitled to exemption from military service. On the basis of this ruling they then appealed to the Ministry of National Defence which granted Charalambos Andreopoulos postponement from military service for two to three months. This meant he did not have to appear at the 536 Infantry Battalion in Nigrita on 29 March 1993 to perform military service. His lawyers are hoping that the Council of State will deliver an official ruling before this postponement expires and that on the basis of this ruling Charalambos Andreopoulos will be spared a term of imprisonment.

No further action is required from the Urgent Action Network. Thank you to all those who sent appeals on behalf of Charalambos Andreopoulos.