

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

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**UA 46/94 Health Concern**

**11 February 1994**

**TURKEY                      Francos Marcos, Kenyan citizen, aged 30**

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Amnesty International is concerned for the health of Francos Marcos, one of about 130 Africans held in Silopi refugee camp near the border with northern Iraq. On 4 January 1994 he was crushed and seriously injured by an armoured vehicle, and having received emergency hospital treatment, he is now threatened with return to the camp. The squalid and insanitary conditions there, and the total lack of post-operative care would put his recovery and ultimately his life at risk.

On 23 October 1993 a group of about 130 illegal immigrants from various African countries, detained in police operations in Istanbul, were taken to a UN Refugee Camp in Sivas province. Many escaped and on 20 November the remaining 70 were transferred to the former UN refugee camp for Iraqi Kurdish refugees in Silopi, province of \_\_rnak. They reportedly were told that they would be held until they arranged their own exit from Turkey by air - clearly impossible for most of them. Some escaped and others were brought in later, still leaving about 130 in the camp, living in tents without adequate heating or food.

On 4 January the camp administration told the Africans to move the tents to an area near the perimeter. This area of the camp is covered with rubbish, excrement and scrub, and with daily armed clashes between government troops and Kurdish guerrillas around the camp, the Africans were afraid to move there.

When they resisted, armed police fired into the air and armoured vehicles moved in and drove at the Africans assembled in the camp square. One vehicle ran over Francos Marcos, tearing his lower abdomen wide open. When he was taken to the state hospital in Diyarbak\_r, it was found that he had suffered bilateral fractures of the pubic bones and severe injuries to his urinary tract and genitals.

On 17 January, after emergency surgery Francos Marcos was certified fit for discharge although he had been fitted with a urethral catheter which has to be changed every three weeks and is to be removed only after two months. He was also prescribed bed rest for 30 days and orthopaedic supervision. It appears that his early discharge is due to the fact that the government refuses to pay for his treatment and the hospital is unwilling or unable to cover the cost. It is, however, holding Francos Marcos for the time being in its psychiatric ward as he is said to be experiencing emotional difficulties.

Amnesty International believes that the Turkish authorities should accept responsibility for his injury and should at least provide and pay for adequate treatment until such time as he can be returned to the camp in complete safety and without further risk to his recovery.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

In continuing police operations, which began in early October 1993, hundreds of foreign nationals, most from Africa or the West Indies, have been reportedly arrested on the streets of Istanbul for infringements of immigration law, and held incommunicado for long periods in inhuman and degrading conditions in various police stations throughout Istanbul. None of the detainees known to Amnesty International have been charged with any offence, nor given any access

to legal counsel. It appears that the principal consistent factor in these people's detention was the colour of their skin.

Amnesty International has urged the Turkish authorities to initiate urgent investigation of the circumstances of these detained foreign citizens, and to ensure that they are not subjected to conditions which amount to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, or conditions which could put their health in danger. The organization has also urged that regular inspections of criminal detention facilities be carried out, to ensure that criminal detainees are not being held in overcrowded or insanitary cells, that their rights, under Turkish law, of access to legal counsel and examination by a doctor of their own choice is being observed.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in English or in your own language:**

- expressing deep concern for the situation of Francos Marcos, recovering at Diyarbak\_r hospital from the severe injuries he sustained when run over by an armoured vehicle at Silopi refugee camp on 4 January 1994 and now threatened with immediate return to the camp where the necessary post-operative care is impossible;
- urging that the Turkish authorities provide and pay for the necessary medical treatment until Francos Marcos is fully recovered from his injuries;
- voicing disquiet about the situation of the African nationals held in totally unsatisfactory conditions at the former UN refugee camp in Silopi and about their treatment there;
- calling for immediate steps by the Turkish authorities to find an acceptable solution to their present situation.

**APPEALS TO**

1) Deputy Prime Minister:

Mr Murat Karayalç\_n  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Ba\_bakanl\_k  
06573 Ankara, Turkey

**Telegrams: Deputy Prime Minister, Ankara, Turkey**  
**Telexes: 44061/44062/44063 bbmt tr; 42099 basb tr**  
**Faxes: +90 312 417 0476 DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER**  
**+90 312 230 8896 (attn: Deputy Prime Minister)**  
**Salutation: Dear Deputy Prime Minister**

2) Minister of the Interior:

Mr Nahit Mente\_e  
Içi\_leri Bakanl\_\_\_\_  
Bakanl\_klar  
06644 Ankara, Turkey

**Telegrams: İcisleri Bakanligi, Ankara, Turkey**  
**Faxes: +90 312 418 1795**  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

3) Minister of Health and Social Welfare:

Mr Kaz\_m Dinç  
Sa\_l\_k ve Sosyal Yard\_m Bakanl\_\_\_\_  
06434 Ankara, Turkey

**Telegrams: Sağlık Bakanligi, Ankara, Turkey**  
**Faxes: +90 312 431 4879**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Mr Hikmet Çetin

D\_\_i\_\_leri Bakanl\_\_\_\_

06100 Ankara, Turkey

**Faxes: +90 312 287 3869**

and to diplomatic representatives of Turkey accredited to your country

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 25 March 1994.