

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 450/94 (EUR 44/157/94, 22 December 1994) and follow-up (EUR 44/04/95, 6 January 1995) - Prisoners of Conscience

TURKEY Mahmut _akar, lawyer, secretary of Diyarbakir branch of the
Turkish Human Rights Association (HRA)
Nimetullah Gündüz, lawyer, board member of Diyarbak_r HRA
Abdullah Ça_er, lawyer, board member of Diyarbak_r HRA
Sedat Aslanta_, lawyer, former president of Diyarbakir HRA
Mahmut Akkurt, lawyer, former president of Bal_kesir HRA
Yavuz Önen, President of Turkish Human Rights Foundation (TIHV)
Fevzi Argun, board member of TIHV
Ak_n Birdal, National President of the HRA
Hüsnü Öndül, lawyer, HRA General Secretary
Melike Alp (f), board member of Diyarbak_r branch of HRA

Amnesty International welcomes the acquittal on 11 January 1995 of Yavuz Önen, Fevzi Argun, Ak_n Birdal, Hüsnü Öndül and Sedat Aslanta_, who were being tried by Ankara State Security Court under Article 8 of the Anti-Terror Law for allegedly "separatist" statements in publications dealing with human rights. Article 8 carries a prison sentence of up to five years.

The hearings were observed by an Amnesty International delegate. Hüsnü Öndül asked that many thanks be passed to Urgent Action network members who sent appeals and helped to contribute to this very positive result.

Not all of those acquitted walked free, however. Sedat Aslanta_ remains in Ankara Closed Prison, where he is serving a three-year prison sentence imposed under Article 8 for a speech he made in October 1992 at the HRA's annual general meeting. His speech contained no advocacy of violence, and Amnesty International considers him a prisoner of conscience.

On 12 January a hearing in a separate trial against Ak_n Birdal at Ankara State Security Court was postponed.

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

- welcoming the acquittal on 11 January 1995 by Ankara State Security Court of Yavuz Önen, Fevzi Argun, Ak_n Birdal, Hüsnü Öndül and Sedat Aslanta_;
- reiterating calls for the immediate and unconditional release of human rights activists currently imprisoned as prisoners of conscience, namely Mahmut _akar, Nimetullah Gündüz, Abdullah Ça_er, Mahmut Akkurt and Melike Alp, and also Sedat Aslanta_, who remains in prison serving a three-year sentence;
- calling for Article 8 of the Anti-Terror be repealed or amended as soon as possible.

APPEALS TO

Please send appeals to one or more of the following, who are among those members of parliament who have opposed reform of the Anti-Terror Law which might have halted the imprisonment of prisoners of conscience:

1. Necmettin Erbakan, leader of Refah (Welfare Party)
2. Mesut Y_lmaz, leader of ANAP (Motherland Party)

3. Alparslan Türke_, leader, MHP (Nationalist Action Party)
4. Baki Tu_, True Path Party (DYP)
5. Co_kun K_rca, True Path Party (DYP)
6. Ya_ar Topçu, True Path Party
7. Oltan Sungurlu, ANAP

Parliament address:

Türkiye Büyük Millet Meclisi
Ankara
Turkey
Faxes: +90 312 420 5165 or +90 312 420 6941
Telegrams: (MP's name), TBMM, Ankara, Turkey
Salutation: Dear Minister

Minister of Justice:
Mr Mehmet Mo_ultay
Adalet Bakanl____
06659 Ankara, Turkey
Telegrams: Justice Minister, Ankara, Turkey
Faxes: +90 312 417 3954
Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Newspapers:
Hürriyet
Bab_ali Cad. 15/17
Posta Kodu 34360
Ca_alo_lu-_stanbul, Turkey

Sabah (Morning)
Medya Plaza, Bas_n Ekspres Yolu,
34540 Güne_li, Istanbul, Turkey.

and to diplomatic representatives of Turkey accredited to your country.

You may also send copies of your appeals, and best wishes to the prisoners:

Mrs Melike Alp
Diyarbak_r Merkez Kapal_ Cezaevi, Diyarbak_r, Turkey

Av Mahmut _akar, Av Nimetullah Gündüz, Av Abdullah Ça_er
Diyarbak_r E-tipi Cezaevi, 31. Ko_u_, Diyarbak_r, Turkey.

Av Sedat Aslanta_
Ankara Merkez Kapal_ Cezaevi, Ankara, Turkey

Av Mahmut Akkurt
Kepsut Cezaevi, Kepsut, Bal_kesir, Turkey

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your office, if sending appeals after 28 February 1995.