

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 44/12/97

20 February 1997

Further information on EXTRA 162/96 (EUR 44/164/96, 23 October 1996) and follow-ups (EUR 44/179/96, 27 November; EUR 44/02/97, 7 January 1997; EUR 44/09/97, 3 February) - Prisoner of conscience

TURKEYOsman Murat Ülke, conscientious objector

The trial hearing at the Military Court in Eski_ehir on 30 January 1997 was conducted in Osman Murat Ülke's absence, while he was still being held at a military police station in Ankara. For this reason, the hearing was adjourned to 6 March for sentencing. Osman Murat Ülke who has been transferred meanwhile to the military prison in Eski_ehir could be sentenced to a maximum of two years' imprisonment under Article 87 of the Turkish Military Penal Code (TACK).

On 18 February 1997 the Military Court of the General Staff in Ankara opened a trial against 12 defendants - seven members of the Turkish Human Rights Association and five members of the banned Izmir War Resisters' Association, including Osman Murat Ülke. They are charged with "alienating the public from the institution of military service", under Article 155 of the Turkish Penal Code (TCK) and Article 58 of TACK. The reason is a book published by the Turkish Human Rights Association in July 1996 which included a declaration by the Izmir War Resisters' Association. The trial was adjourned to 1 April 1997.

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

- reiterating concern at the six-month sentence against Osman Murat Ülke (see previous update), the new trial against him and 11 other defendants at the Military Court of the General Staff in Ankara, and the ongoing trial at the Military Court in Eski_ehir;
- calling for his immediate and unconditional release as a prisoner of conscience, held because of his refusal to perform military service due to his conscientious objection to any form of military service;
- reiterating appeals for the provision of alternative civilian service for conscientious objectors, in line with resolutions and recommendations by the United Nations and the Council of Europe (see update of 27 November 1996).

APPEALS TO:

1. Prosecutor at Military Court of General Staff:

Ba_savc_
Genelkurmay Askeri Mahkemesi
Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Genelkurmay Askeri Mahkemesi Bassavcisi, Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: +90 312 41 85 341

Salutation: Dear Prosecutor

2. Prosecutor at Military Court in Eski_ehir:

Ba_savc_
Eski_ehir Askeri Mahkemesi
Eski_ehir, Turkey

Telegrams: Askeri Mahkemesi Bassavcisi, Eskisehir, Turkey

Salutation: Dear Prosecutor

3. Minister of Justice:

Mr _evket Kazan

Adalet Bakanl____
06659 Ankara, Turkey
Telegrams: Justice Minister, Ankara, Turkey
Faxes: +90 312 425 4066; 417 3954
Salutation: Dear Minister

4. Minister of Defence:
Mr Turhan Tayan
Ministry of Defence
Milli Savunma Bakanl____
06100 Ankara, Turkey
Telegrams: Defence Ministry, Ankara, Turkey
Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

State Minister with responsibility for Human Rights:
Mr Lütfü Esengün
Office of the Prime Minister
Ba_bakanl_k
06573 Ankara, Turkey
Faxes: +90 312 417 0476

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 5 March 1997.