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MEDIA ADVISORY

TURKEY

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SEEKS INVESTIGATION INTO PRISON INCIDENTS

In the wake of the incidents in Ankara Central Closed Prison on 26 September 1999 which caused the deaths of at least 10 prisoners, Amnesty International has written to the Turkish Prime Minister asking for action to be taken by the Turkish authorities.

In particular the organization is urging the authorities to:

Allow the victims' lawyers to observe the autopsies.

Initiate a full, independent and impartial investigation into the circumstances of the 10 deaths, the result of which should be made public.

Suspend those alleged to be responsible from their duties pending the outcome of the investigation.

Ensure that the injured prisoners receive appropriate medical treatment under independent supervision and observation.

The organization is also calling on the Ministry of Justice to make a clear public statement on the incident and for all appropriate steps to be taken to prevent any further deterioration in the current situation.

Tension continues in prisons throughout Turkey where inmates are still holding guards hostage.

ENDS.../

