

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 44/115/96

30 July 1996

Further information (1) on EXTRA 116/96 (EUR 44/112/96, 25 July 1996) -
Hunger-strike

TURKEY Political prisoners in some 41 Turkish prisons

The "fast to death" and hunger-strike in Turkish prisons ended on the 69th day after 12 prisoners had died:

Aygün U_ur, aged 25	21 July
Altan Berdan Kerimgiller, 28	23 July
Ilginç Özkeskin, 35	24 July
Hüseyin Demircio_lu, 36	25 July
Ali Ayata, 32	25 July
Müjdat Yanat, 32	25 July
Tahsin Y_lmaz, 35	26 July
Ayçe Idil Erkmn (f), 26	26 July
Ula_Hicabi Küçük, 24	27 July
Yemliha Kaya (f), 28	27 July
Osman Akgün, 32	27 July
Hayati Can, 25	28 July (in hospital)

Shortly before midnight on 27 July 1996, following a nine-hour meeting between the authorities and prisoners' representatives at Bayrampa_a Prison in Istanbul, the hunger-strike was called off. Justice Minister _evket Kazan, who earlier had stated, "*I don't give a damn about foreign press reports and letters from Amnesty International*", finally accepted the prisoners' key demands. These included that prisoners should not be ill-treated during transfers to and from court or hospital; that relatives who visited political prisoners should not be ill-treated; that remand prisoners should not be dispersed to prisons far away from the place of trial where they would have been cut off from each other, their lawyers and their families. As a result, 102 political prisoners who had been transferred to Eski_ehir Prison will be sent back to prisons in and around Istanbul. It is reported that the writer Ya_ar Kemal was instrumental in negotiating a final agreement between the hunger-strikers and the authorities.

By 26 July, according to data provided by the Ministry of Health, 2,174 political prisoners were on hunger-strike and 355 were on a "fast to death" in 43 prisons in 38 cities. At the end of the hunger-strike, 170 hunger-strikers were taken into medical care. The condition of 18 was reported as serious and seven were said to be in intensive care. Several of the hunger-strikers had suffered damage to internal organs, particularly the brain, and had metabolic problems.

No further action is required of the Urgent Action Network. Thank you to all who sent appeals.