
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE 107/93

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AI INDEX: NWS 11/107/93
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NEWS SERVICE ITEMS: EXTERNAL - TURKEY

NEWS INITIATIVES - INTERNAL

INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASES

Saudi Arabia - 14 September - SEE NEWS SERVICE 105

Yugoslavia/Kosovo - 23 September - SEE NEWS SERVICE 104

Sudan - 29 September - SEE NEWS SERVICE 88

TARGETED AND LIMITED NEWS RELEASES

Death Penalty - next week - SEE NEWS SERVICE 105

Yemen - 26 August - SEE NEWS SERVICE 95

Iraq - 8 September - SEE NEWS SERVICE 105

North Korea - 1 October - SEE NEWS SERVICE 88

FORTHCOMING NEWS INITIATIVES

Myanmar - 8 October (International).

EJEs and "Disappearances" - 20 October (International)

Venezuela - 10 November (International, linked to EJEs & Disappearances)

AI INDEX: EUR 44/WU 07/93
26 AUGUST 1993

TURKEY: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CONDEMNS HOSTAGE-TAKING BY PKK

Amnesty International is seriously concerned by the recent spate of hostage-taking of foreign tourists by the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) in southeast Turkey. The organization is appealing to the PKK to release all hostages who remain in their custody and to stop this practice immediately.

To Amnesty International's knowledge seven hostages are still held: one Italian and three Swiss, seized on 19 August in the Mount Agri (Ararat) area near the Iranian border; and two Germans and one New Zealander, captured on 15 August.

The PKK has reportedly abducted 27 foreign tourists since 1991 and all but the seven currently held have been released without being harmed. Amnesty International unreservedly condemns human rights abuses such as hostage-taking by armed opposition groups. The organization therefore urges the immediate and unconditional release of all the hostages.

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