

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 450/94 (EUR 44/157/94, 22 December 1994) - 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

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**new name:** Melike Alp (f), board member of Diyarbak\_r branch of HRA

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Melike Alp, housewife and mother of three, was taken from her home on 30 December 1994 and committed to Diyarbak\_r Central Closed Prison. She is a board member of the Diyarbak\_r branch of the Turkish Human Rights Association (HRA), and as such is held responsible for the publication of the Diyarbak\_r HRA's recent report on human rights violations, like the three lawyers Mahmut \_akar, Nimetullah Gündüz and Abdullah Ça\_er. The report, which to Amnesty International's knowledge does not advocate violence, was banned by Diyarbak\_r State Security Court on 13 December 1994.

No trial has been opened yet against the four HRA officials whom Amnesty International considers to be prisoners of conscience. Their imprisonment is in violation of their right to freedom of expression, as safeguarded in Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights, to which Turkey is a State Party.

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

- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of the Turkish Human Rights Association officials Melike Alp, Mahmut \_akar, Nimetullah Gündüz, and Abdullah Ça\_er, who are currently held in Diyarbak\_r Central Closed Prison and in Diyarbak\_r E-type Prison;
- stating that these human rights defenders are imprisoned for expressing their non-violent opinions, and that they are therefore prisoners of conscience held in violation of Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which safeguards the right to freedom of expression;
- pointing out that Turkey is a State Party to the European Convention on Human Rights;
- expressing concern at the increasing number of human rights activists imprisoned (for example, Sedat Aslanta\_ and Mahmut Akkurt), or threatened with imprisonment (Yavuz Önen, Fevzi Argun, Ak\_n Birdal and Hüsnü Öndül);
- asking that 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 T\_rke\_, 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:**

T\_rkiye B\_y\_k 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.