

Write for Rights
Make a difference

3-17 December 2011

Halil Savda
Turkey



ACT NOW

Write to the Prime Minister:

- Calling for Halil Savda to be free to continue publishing articles and making public speeches in support of conscientious objectors, without fear of prosecution or intimidation.
- Urging the authorities to immediately stop the prosecutions of conscientious objectors and to introduce an alternative civilian service for conscientious objectors, in line with European and international standards and recommendations.

Send appeals to:

Mr Recep Tayyip Erdoğan
Office of the Prime Minister
Başbakanlık
06573 Ankara
Turkey

Fax: +90 312 422 18 99
Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

Send a message of solidarity:

Non-religious cards and letters can be sent in solidarity to Halil Savda, at the following address:

Halil Savda
Kocapınar köyü
Cizre/ Şırnak
Turkey

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



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English

Amnesty International
International Secretariat
Peter Benenson House
1 Easton Street
London WC1X 0DW
United Kingdom

www.amnesty.org/individuals-at-risk

ACT NOW FOR Halil Savda



Halil Savda is a human rights defender and conscientious objector who faces an ongoing risk of imprisonment for freely expressing his support for conscientious objectors. He has been arrested on multiple occasions since 2004 for refusing to perform military service, and has been detained for around 17 months in total during that time.

He has written articles, given interviews in a number of newspapers and made speeches at protests and meetings against compulsory military service. He is also the registered owner of the Savaş Karşıtları (War Resisters) website in Turkey. These activities have seen him face charges under Article 318 of the Turkish Penal Code, which criminalizes “alienating the public from military service”. He currently faces three separate charges under Article 318. In 2008, Halil Savda was declared “unfit” for military service, so will not be personally called up again. However, he was recently sentenced to 100 days in prison for his peaceful activities, and may be forced to begin serving this sentence at any time.

Halil Savda told Amnesty International that while detained in 2007, he was ill-treated, including being kicked and hit by four officers, having a dirty cloth shoved in his mouth, kept naked for three days in a room without chairs or a bed and forced to sleep on a concrete floor without a blanket. These incidents have never been properly investigated.

Turkey is one of only two Council of Europe member states not to recognize the right to conscientious objection (the other being Azerbaijan). In Turkey, military service is compulsory for all male citizens between the ages of 20 and 41. No civilian alternative is available to compulsory military service and conscientious objectors continue to be prosecuted. They are often imprisoned each time they refuse to perform military service and then served with call-up papers on their release.

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