

PUBLIC

AI Index: EUR 44/27/99  
Distrib: PG/SC

To: Medical professionals  
From: Medical Office / Western Europe Team  
Date: 15 March 1999

***Further information on***  
***MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION***

**Dr Cumhur Akp\_nar**  
**TURKEY**

**[also see AI Index: EUR 44/07/99, 28 January 1999]**

Theme: POC / medical doctor / conditional release

**Summary**

Amnesty International has learned that Dr Cumhur Akp\_nar has been conditionally released on 5 March 1999 while his trial continues. The trial is scheduled to resume on 23 March 1999. The three other defendants who were charged together with Dr Akp\_nar remain in detention.

Amnesty International continues to call for the charges against Dr Akp\_nar to be dropped. The organization is not aware of any evidence to connect Dr Akp\_nar with an illegal armed organization, as suggested by the prosecution, and believes that his medical documentation of ill-treatment may be the real reason for his prosecution.

**Background**

Dr Cumhur Akp\_nar works at the Ankara branch of the State Forensic Medicine Institute and is a former executive member of the Ankara Medical Chamber. He was first arrested on 8 January 1999 and re-detained after having been conditionally released pending trial on 15 January. Dr Akp\_nar was subsequently charged under Article 169 of the Turkish Penal Code with aiding an illegal organisation "via preparing forensic reports", and produced in court on 4 March 1999.

His trial was observed by the president of the World Medical Association, Dr Anders Milton, a representative from Physicians for Human Rights, Dr Charles Clements, representatives from several embassies and around 100 Turkish physicians who had traveled to Ankara from different parts of Turkey. According to reports received by Amnesty International, the trial on 5 March was adjourned to 23 March after heated discussions between the judges presiding over it and the group of 45 defense lawyers. In court the prosecutor presented his case only in writing and each defendant spoke in his own defense.

The trial of Dr Akp\_nar might take up to a year and any appeal process could take an additional one to three years under the State Security Court system.

For further background information please refer to the original Medical Letter Writing Action.

Updates on the case of Dr Akp\_nar can be found on the following website:

<http://www.geocities.com/SoHo/Lofts/8653/cumhur/cumhur.html>

[This is **not** an Amnesty International website; AI has not undertaken independent verification of its contents and does not take any responsibility for these contents.]

### **Recommended Actions**

Letters are requested from medical professionals to the addresses given below:

- o introducing yourself as a member of Amnesty International's health professional network and referring to your earlier letters on the case of Dr Akp\_nar [if appropriate]
- o calling for all charges against Dr Akp\_nar to be dropped
- o urging that doctors in Turkey are permitted to exercise their profession impartially and independently

If you receive no reply from the government or other recipients within two months of dispatch of your letter, please send a follow-up letter seeking a response. Please send copies of any replies you do receive to the International Secretariat [attn: medical team] and check with your national coordinator or the medical team if you send appeals after 7 May 1999.

### **ADDRESSES**

Mr Bülent Ecevit  
Prime Minister  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Ba\_bakanl\_k  
06573 Ankara, Turkey  
Fax: +90 312 417 0476  
Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

Mustafa Güven Karahan  
Minister of Health and Social Welfare  
Ministry of Health and Social Welfare  
Sa\_l\_k ve Sosyal Yard\_m  
Bakanl\_\_\_\_  
06434 Ankara, Turkey  
Salutation: Dear Minister

Prof Selçuk Öztekin  
Minister of Justice

Ministry of Justice  
Adalet Bakanl\_\_\_\_  
06659 Ankara, Turkey  
Fax: +90 312 417 3954 or 418 5667  
Salutation: Dear Minister

**COPIES:**

Turkish Medical Association  
Mithatpasa Cad. N° 62/15-17-18  
06420 Yenisehir  
Ankara  
Turkey  
Tel: +90.312.418.3156 or 418.3963  
Fax: +90.312.417.2672  
Email: TTBO@Servis2.Net.TR

Adli Tip Kurumu Baskanl\_\_\_\_\_  
[Istanbul Headquarters of Forensic Medicine  
Institute]  
Esekapi-Cerrahpasa  
Istanbul  
Turkey  
President: Doc. Dr. Bilge Kirangil  
Tel: +90.212.585 06 60  
Fax: +90.212.530 74 38; 530 74 51

Adli Tip Brup Baskanl\_\_\_\_\_  
[Ankara Branch of the State Forensic Medicine  
Institute]  
Yargic Sokak No:10  
Iç Cebeci  
Ankara  
Turkey  
Director: Dr Esen Kaynak  
Tel/Fax: +90.312.319.1533/3116/3117

Human Rights Foundation of Turkey  
Istanbul Representative Office  
Inonu cad. Dumen sok. No:1/12  
Gumuspalas apt.  
Taksim 80060  
Istanbul  
Turkey  
Tel. +90-212-249.3092  
Fax +90-212-251.7129  
Email: ihvist@turk.net

**Please also send copies of your letters to diplomatic representatives of Turkey in your country or to the nearest Turkish embassy.**

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***“Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression”***

**Universal Declaration of Human Rights  
Article 19**