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8 MAY 1996

TURKEY: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL TOURS TURKEY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AWARENESS

Amnesty International will be conducting a speaker's tour in Turkey during May 1996 to support the domestic human rights movement in raising human rights awareness in this country.

The specific goals of the tour are to present the work carried out by Amnesty International worldwide and to promote the concept of the universality of human rights. A Turkish Amnesty International group which was recently established in Istanbul is helping to organize the tour and will be launching its activities in Turkey with this event.

The tour, entitled *Umudun Evrensel Yolculugu*, The Universal Journey of Hope, will start in Istanbul on 11 May and will continue in Ankara, on 13 May, and Mersin, on 15 May.

The Amnesty International delegation is composed of two International Secretariat staff members, Carsten Jurgensen and Heather McGill, and three guest speakers:

Mo Lihua, a former prisoner of conscience from China who was imprisoned for three years for her support for the pro-democracy movement in China. She fled China in 1993 and is now an active member of Amnesty International in Sweden.

El-Khadir Daoud, a Moroccan who was made to "disappear" by Moroccan security forces in 1976 and held in various secret detention centres for 16 years. He was adopted by a French group of Amnesty International and now lives in Paris.

Bryan Stevenson, a civil rights lawyer from Alabama, USA, whose work on behalf of death row prisoners and against the death penalty has gained international recognition.

Aicha Dhaouadi, a Tunisian, was imprisoned in 1995 on charges of belonging to a banned Islamist political association. She had previously been threatened that she would lose her job and face imprisonment unless she stopped wearing the hijab. She was adopted by Amnesty International as a prisoner of conscience and was released in January 1996. Aicha Dhaouadi was denied official permission to leave Tunisia and unfortunately cannot participate in the speaker's tour in person.

The meetings will take place:

11 May: 14.00, Hotel Marmara, Istanbul

13 May: 18.00, Hotel Dedeman, Ankara

15 May: 18.00, Chamber of Commerce, Mersin