

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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21 October 1993

Further information on EXTRA 87/93 (EUR 17/10/93, 8 October 1993) - Legal Concern/Prisoner of Conscience

NORTHERN CYPRUS:Salih Askero_ul

Martin Handke (Campaign against Military Service, Compulsory Services and the Military)

Andreas Rabl (Working Group on Transnational Co-operation of the Austrian Conscientious Objectors)

An Amnesty International delegate observed the 15 October hearing in the trial of Salih Askero_ul in Lefko_a Military Court. Salih Askero_ul was remanded in custody once again pending the next hearing on 25 October.

In addition to the charges mentioned previously, Salih Askero_ul has also been charged with insulting the security forces in Northern Cyprus (Article 26 of the Military Penal Code), which carries a sentence of ten years imprisonment.

The charges relate to statements he made in a press conference, in which he explained his reasons for refusing military service and his willingness to serve an equivalent term in alternative civilian service.

Andreas Rabl and Martin Handke, who had attended hearings in Salih Askero_ul's trial, were detained 18 October 1993 while distributing leaflets on the way to deliver a message to Mr Denkta_, leader of the Turkish Cypriots in Lefko_a. They are currently held in Lefko_a Police Headquarters and will appear in court on 22 October. Amnesty International considers them to be prisoners of conscience and will be monitoring their situation. The organization expects them to be released following their appearance in court.

Salih Askero_ul's Greek partner Yiota Nikolaoy and their newly born daughter Melissa who had been expelled to the southern part of the island are not permitted to cross the Green Line in order to visit him in prison, nor to speak to him by telephone.

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

- expressing regret that northern Cyprus should have responded to its first conscientious objector with imprisonment;
- expressing grave concern that for simply stating his peaceful beliefs, Salih Askero_ul faces additional charges of insulting the security forces;
- urging that all charges against Salih Askero_ul be dropped and that he be immediately and unconditionally released;
- urging that Salih Askero_ul be permitted to receive visits and telephone calls from his wife and daughter;

- expressing regret that Andreas Rabl and Martin Handke should have been detained for their peaceful activities;
- urging the authorities in northern Cyprus to establish a civilian alternative to military service.

APPEALS TO:

- 1) Mr Rauf Denkta_
Leader of the Turkish Cypriot Community
Cumhurba_kanl____
Lefko_a - KIBRIS
via Mersin 10, Turkey
Faxes: +90 520 72252
Telegrams: Mr Rauf Denkta_, Lefko_a - KIBRIS, via Mersin 10, Turkey
Salutation: Dear Mr Denkta_

- 2) Mr Kenan Atakol
Ministry for Defence and Foreign Affairs
Lefko_a - KIBRIS
via Mersin 10, Turkey
Faxes: +90 520 83241
Telegrams: Mr Kenan Atakol, Lefko_a - KIBRIS, via Mersin 10, Turkey
Salutation: Dear Minister

- 3) Tu_general Ya_ar Spor
KT Güvenlik Kuvvetleri Komutan_
Lefko_a - KIBRIS
via Mersin 10, Turkey
Telegrams: Tu_general Ya_ar Spor, Lefko_a - KIBRIS, via Mersin 10, Turkey
Salutation: Dear Sir

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Yenidüzen (New Order)
Yeni Sanayi Bölgesi
Lefko_a - KIBRIS
via Mersin 10, Turkey
Faxes: +90 520 75240

K_bris (Cyprus)
Dr Faz_l Küçük Bulvar_
Lefko_a - KIBRIS
via Mersin 10, Turkey
Faxes: +90 520 81934

Chief of the Turkish General Staff
General Do_an Güre_
Bakanl_klar
Ankara, Turkey
Faxes: +90 4 418 1795

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 2 December 1993.