

**PUBLIC**

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To: Health professionals  
From: Medical office / East Adriatic & Aegean team  
Date: 23 June 2000

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

**Prosecution of doctors  
Prof Veli Lök  
Turkey**

(Update on AI index EUR 44/01/00)

**Key words** freedom of expression / harassment of human rights defenders

**Summary**

On 13 June 2000 Professor Veli Lök was sentenced to one month's imprisonment and a fine of TL. 60 million (approximately US\$ 97). The imprisonment term was commuted into a fine of TL. 60 million, bringing the total fine to TL. 120 million (approximately US\$194). This fine of TL. 120 million was suspended for five years under Article 6 of the Law on the Enforcement of Sentences. This effectively means that Prof Lök will be censored from commenting on certain political issues for five years or otherwise will have to pay the fine.

**Background information**

Prof Veli Lök, a retired orthopaedic surgeon, started to work on documentation of signs of torture and medical treatment of torture survivors in 1987 when the Human Rights Association in Turkey was founded. He also is a founding member of the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (HRFT) and became Izmir representative for the Foundation in 1991.

Prof Veli Lök was prosecuted for making a statement in connection with the case of Dr Alp Ayan and Günseli Kaya. Dr Ayan and Ms Kaya, both working for the HRFT, were imprisoned because they tried to attend the funeral on one of the prisoners killed in Ankara Closed Prison in September 1999. Prof Lök was accused of "publishing his opinion about the decisions taken by the court before the trial has been concluded with a final decision" under Article 30/2 of the Press Law.

**Recommended actions**

Please write letters to the addresses below:

- expressing concern that Prof Lök's right to freedom of speech has been curtailed, thereby violating international human rights standards, and urging the authorities to quash Prof Lök's conviction;
- asking the authorities to provide protection to health professionals in working for the protection of human rights.

**Addresses**

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

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

Mr Osman Durmu\_  
Minister of Health and Social Welfare  
Ministry of Health and Social Welfare  
Sagl\_k ve Sosyal Yard\_m Bakanl\_g\_  
06434 Ankara, Turkey  
Fax: +90 312 431 4879  
Salutation: Dear Minister

**If you can only write to one address, please send your appeal to the Minister of Justice.**

### **Copies**

Please send copies of your letters to the addresses below and to the diplomatic representatives of Turkey in your country or to the nearest Turkish embassy.

Dr Sema Piskinsut  
President of the Parliamentary  
Human Rights Commission  
Insan Haklar\_ Inceleme Komisyonu Baskan\_  
Turkiye Buyuk Millet Meclisi  
Ankara, Turkey  
Fax: +90 312 420 5394  
Salutation: Dear President

Human Rights Foundation [TIHV]  
Izmir Branch  
1432 Sokak No:5, Daire:10, 35230 Alsancak-IZMIR  
Phone: (232) 463 46 46  
Fax: (232) 463 46 46  
E-mail: tihvizm@turk.net

Rü\_tü Kaz\_m Yücelen  
State Minister with responsibility for Human Rights  
Devlet Bakani  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Ba\_bakanl\_k  
06573 Ankara, Turkey  
Fax: + 90 312 417 0476  
Salutation: Dear Minister

Human Rights Foundation [TIHV]

Menekse 2. sokak 16/6  
06440 Kizilay  
Ankara  
Turkey  
Fax: +90 312 425 4552  
E - <mailto:tihv@tr-net.net.tr>

Human Rights Association [IHD]  
Tunal\_hilmi Cad. 104/4  
Kavakl\_dere  
Ankara  
Turkey  
Fax: +90 312 4259547  
E- <mailto:ihd@tr-net.net.tr>

Turkish Medical Association  
Mithatpasa Cad. 62/15-17-18  
06420 Yenisehir  
Ankara  
Turkey  
Fax: +90 312 417 2672  
E - <mailto:ttb@ttb.org.tr>