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TURKEY: FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE CASE OF DR ISMAIL BESİKÇİ (see earlier documents of 13 March 1990 - AI Index EUR 44/74/90; 17 May 1990 - AI Index: 44/88/90 and of 21 June 1990 - AI Index: 44/102/90)

On 25 July Ismail Besikçi was released from prison having spent over four months in pre-trial detention. On 11 July a hearing was held in Istanbul State Security Court concerning a third book Dr Ismail Besikçi had published this year. The court decided to lift the arrest warrant in this case, but the defendant was not released because of arrest warrants concerning his first two books.

The hearing in connection with the first two books took place on 25 July in Istanbul State Security Court. The court combined the charges relating to the first two books into one case and recommended that the charges relating to the third book should be combined into this case as well. The court also ordered the release of Dr Ismail Besikçi ruling that the defendant had no intention of evading prosecution, had a permanent address and had presented himself to the prosecution. The next hearings in Dr Ismail Besikçi's case will be held on 11 and 12 September respectively.

The Turkish sociologist and writer Ismail Besikçi has now been adopted four times by Amnesty International as a prisoner of conscience because of his writing on the Kurds in Turkey. His latest imprisonment started on 12 March 1990. He was charged under Article 142/3 of the Turkish Penal Code, which proscribes making "separatist propaganda", for each of his three most recent books: Kurdistan: The Colony between the States, Science Versus Official Ideology, State Versus Democracy and the Kurdish Question and the third book An Intellectual, An Organization and the Kurdish Question.

13 people who were arrested outside the court room after the hearing of 19 June were released on 2 July following an appeal by their lawyers (see document of 21 June 1990 - AI Index: EUR 44/102/90)