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# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE 55/94

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NEWS SERVICE ITEMS: EXTERNAL - TURKEY

**PLEASE NOTE:** See News Service 54/94 item on United Nations. The title was omitted from the version sent out. It should be UNITED NATIONS: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL DISAPPOINTED BY RESULTS OF THE LATEST MEETING OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

NEWS INITIATIVES - INTERNAL

INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASES

Burundi - 16 May - SEE NEWS SERVICES 53/94 and 36/94

Hong Kong - 21 April - SEE NEWS SERVICE 36/94

TARGETED AND LIMITED NEWS RELEASES

Jordan - 22 March - SEE NEWS SERVICES 53/94, 49/94 AND 37/94

China - 29 March - SEE NEWS SERVICE 54/94

Turkey - 30 March - SEE NEWS SERVICES 46/94 AND 26/94

Switzerland CAT - 19 April - SEE NEWS SERVICE 53/94

Israel & OT CAT - 25 April - SEE NEWS SERVICE 53/94

FORTHCOMING NEWS INITIATIVES

Saudi Arabia - 10 May - More details to follow

Annual Report - 7 July - SEE NEWS SERVICE 51/94

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**18 March 1994**

**TURKEY: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SENDS APPEAL TO PKK**

**Amnesty International is concerned that a call for an election boycott and threats reportedly made by the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) will lead to a further escalation of violence in Turkey by both the PKK and the state.**

**On 27 March communal elections will be held in Turkey. In the run-up to the elections numerous candidates of the pro-Kurdish Democracy Party (DEP) in the Kurdish areas in southeast Turkey have been arrested by the authorities, while others have become victims of killings by unidentified assassins. As a consequence, DEP decided not to participate in the elections.**

**The PKK then reportedly called for a boycott of the elections and threatened to "punish" whoever ignored their call. However, anyone who does boycott the elections would be at risk of reprisals by the state.**

**On 17 March, Amnesty International wrote to Abdullah Öcalan, General Secretary of the PKK, expressing the organization's concerns and appealed to the PKK to refrain from all use of force against the civilian population and to avoid putting civilians at risk by its actions.**

**ENDS/**