

MEL LEVINE  
27TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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Congress of the United States  
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19 March 1984

Dear Colleague:

I am seeking co-signers on a letter to Turkish authorities concerning the arrest and imprisonment of 23 members of the Turkish Peace Association. Their treatment raises serious human rights and humanitarian questions.

The text of the letter follows and should answer your questions. In addition, on the reverse is a column on this subject by Colman McCarthy which appeared in the March 18 Washington Post.

If you need further information, or would like to co-sign this letter, please call my legislative assistant, Diane Stamm, at x56451 by the close of business Thursday, March 29.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Mel Levine*  
Mel Levine

Dear :

We are writing to urge the release from prison of 23 prominent  
members of the Turkish Peace Association who, after the election, were sentenced to between five and

NOT Ekteki mektubu 52 ABD Kongre üyesi  
imzaya 11. 4/84 günü EREN'e ve ÖZAL'a  
gönderdiler.  
Mektup Bülent Sel'deki gazeteci M. Ali Rıdvan  
tarafından yerli ve yabancı basın ve Radyoların  
duyurunu olacak.

Dear :

We are writing to urge the release from prison of 23 prominent Turks who, shortly after the election, were sentenced to between five and eight years hard labor for their involvement in the Turkish Peace Association (TPA).

The average age of the TPA's executive prisoners is over 50. They include former ambassador Mahmut Dikerdem, age 68 and suffering from cancer, Orhan Apaydin, age 56, president of the Istanbul Bar Association who has one functioning kidney and heart disease, the president of the Turkish Medical Association, professors, former social democratic members of the Turkish Parliament, journalists, and other equally prominent public figures.

We note with considerable concern that the appeals procedure in the TPA trial has been blocked by the military tribunal. We are especially concerned about the state of the health of Mr. Dikerdem and Mr. Apaydin. The verdicts can be regarded as de facto death sentences for these aging and ailing men.

In addition, we are troubled by the human rights questions which arise from the trial and imprisonment of these TPA members. It appears that Turkey is in violation of Articles 10 and 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights, to which Turkey is a party, which protect the right to the freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly, and association with others, and the exercise of these rights.

We urge the government of Turkey, on both humanitarian grounds and as evidence of its movement toward becoming a democratic society, to immediately and unconditionally release the 23 TPA prisoners.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and for your consideration. We respectfully look forward to your early reply.

Sincerely,

ML:ds

# CONGRESSIONAL FRIENDS OF HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORS

Contact: Martin Rendon, Office of Rep. Tony Hall, 1726 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 (202) 225-6465

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March 15, 1984

His Excellency General Kenan Evren  
President  
Republic of Turkey  
Ankara, Turkey

Dear Mr. President:

We write to express our concern about Mr. Orhan Apaydin, who is currently imprisoned in Metris Prison in Turkey.

The Congressional Friends of Human Rights Monitors is a group of 104 Members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives organized to support human rights monitors and their work around the world. It is our understanding that Mr. Apaydin, the President of the Istanbul Bar Association, was sentenced on November 14, 1983 to five years hard labor in prison along with other members of the Turkish Peace Association. It is our understanding that the Turkish Peace Association was a legal disarmament and human rights group formed in response to the 1975 Helsinki Final Act. We support Mr. Apaydin's past efforts to provide defense counsel to other Turkish political prisoners, and respect his right to monitor the Helsinki Final Act, which was guaranteed by the Turkish Government when it became a signatory to the Act.

We respectfully urge you to personally intervene in the case of Mr. Apaydin, and ask that he be released from prison without conditions. As Mr. Apaydin is in frail health, a humanitarian gesture on the part of the Turkish Government would be warmly welcomed by the Congressional Friends of Human Rights Monitors.

Respectfully,

  
Rep. Tony Hall

  
Sen. Dave Durenberger

  
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