



Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

11 Goodwin Street · London N4 3HQ

Tel: 01 - 263 0977 (4 Lines)



END
**EUROPEAN NUCLEAR
DISARMAMENT**
227 Seven Sisters Road,
London N4. (01) 272 1236

29.11.83.

Dear Sir,

We are writing to you to express our grave concern over the outcome of the trial of members of the Turkish Peace Association, which recently ended in Istanbul.

The trial has received little attention in the British press, but its history reveals a brutal disregard for civil and human rights in a member-state of NATO and the Council of Europe. Observers who attended the trial have testified that there was never any prospect of the defendants being found not guilty. The charges were of "subversion and "working against the national interest", but, as the thin evidence offered by the military prosecutor suggested, there was no basis for these charges. The TPA's activities were perfectly legal prior to the military coup of September 1980.

There can be no doubt that the sentences passed on 18 members of the TPA, ranging up to 8 years' imprisonment and 2 years' internal exile, amount to virtual death sentences. The average age of the defendants was 50, and several of them are already seriously ill, including 68-year old Mr. Mahmut Dikerdem, a former Turkish ambassador to India. The conditions of detention of the TPA and other Turkish prisoners are atrocious.

The savage sentences passed on the TPA, coming a week after the recent election, cast grave doubts on the Turkish military's claims to be returning the country to democracy. It is ironic that, in the same week as cruise missile deployment began in Britain, supposedly to protect the western alliance's democratic freedoms, these same freedoms were being so blatantly and brutally undermined in a country which prides itself on being part of the free world.

On behalf of the British peace movement, we urge the Turkish martial law authorities to reverse the sentence of judicial execution on these members of the Turkish Peace Association, and to restore to the TPA its right to campaign for peace. The British peace movement will continue to do all in its power to achieve these ends.

Yours Faithfully,

Meg Beresford (Secretary, E.N.D.)

Julian Harber (Chairperson, E.N.D.)

Mike Pentz (Vice-Chair, C.N.D.)

Joan Ruddock (Chairperson, C.N.D.)