

# Press Information . . .

## MEDICAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST NUCLEAR WEAPONS

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### DOCTORS DEPUTATION TO TURKISH EMBASSY BRITISH DOCTORS CAMPAIGN FOR TURKISH PEACE PRISONERS

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The MEDICAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST NUCLEAR WEAPONS has, for the past two years, supported the Turkish peace prisoners.

The Turkish Peace Association (TPA) is the Turkish equivalent to the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. 23 members of the TPA are imprisoned under the Turkish panel code known as the "Mussolini Laws".

The include the former president of the Turkish Medical Association, DR ERDAL ATABEK, and a renowned psychiatrist, PROFESSOR METIN OZEK, laterly of Istanbul University. The President and founder of the TPA, MAHMUT DIKERDEM, a diplomat and academic, also given a savage sentence of 10 years 8 months, even though he has cancer.

The TPA were not charged with any criminal offences, but for making public statements about the presence of nuclear weapons on their soil.

Throughout Europe people have voiced their opposition to nuclear weapons, but those in Turkey have been imprisoned for stating their objections to cruise and Pershing II. Few people in Britain realise that Turkey is a member of NATO, nor that the Turkish government is violating the charter by imprisoning peace activists. Clearly, Turkey's academics are imprisoned as an example to the rest of the population.

The original 23 will appear for re-trial on 10th October; later, in November, 48 more founding members of the TPA will be tried - half of whom are lawyers.

The MEDICAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST NUCLEAR WEAPONS is organising a DEPUTATION TO THE TURKISH EMBASSY to voice its disquiet about the TPA's imprisonment. The deputation will be led by Professor John Humphrey, accompanied by a representative from the British Medical Association.

Deputation to:  
TURKISH EMBASSY  
43 Belgrave Square  
London W1

October 18th (provisional)  
a.m. / 1966

MAHMUT DIKERDEM is the first Turkish person to be nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize; his son, Dr Mehmet Ali Dikerdem, will appear on the Brass Tacks programme on the 17th October.

- ENDS -

7 Tenison Road, Cambridge CB1 2DG

UK Affiliate of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW)