

## PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

### Turkey: Reha Isvan

By Caroline Moorehead

A founder member of the Turkish Peace Association (TPA) and the Turkish women's rights movement, also once a Deputy Director of Education, is serving eight years, hard labour for "making statements against the national interest". Mrs Reha Isvan, who is 59, and the wife of a former mayor of Istanbul - is currently under indictment - is in Metris prison in Istanbul.

After taking a degree in agricultural science, Mrs Isvan took up farming. She became active locally, setting up literacy campaigns in villages, and nationally, founding an organization to conserve Turkey's architectural heritage and becoming the European executive member of the Soroptimists, a women's equivalent of the Rotary Club. In 1977 she joined the TPA executive.

In February, 1982, Mrs Isvan was arrested with other prominent TPA members. After being held in Metris prison for 10 months she was released on bail, but less than a year later she and 17 other prominent Turkish public figures were tried before a military tribunal on charges of trying to undermine Turkey's agreements with the United States and Nato.

Since the indictment consisted of speeches made by the TPA before the 1980 coup, the defendants are being held guilty for statements which were perfectly legal at the time. The accusation against them is "guilt by association of intention". Mrs Isvan's eight-year prison sentence will be followed by 32 months in internal exile.

● MR Guillermo Ovando, one of two Paraguayan prisoners of conscience featured in this column last month, has recently been released after a prolonged hunger strike.



Mrs Isvan addressing the military tribunal

*URGENT Action Required  
Please.*

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TARİH ARAŞTIRMA VAKFI  
SİYAL