



## RESPONSES TO INFORMATION REQUESTS (RIRs)

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The Board		10 September 2004
About the Board	<b>TUR42961.E</b>	
Biographies		
Organization Chart	Turkey: Military and societal treatment of homosexuals who have been deemed unfit to serve in the military and/or who have been discharged from the military due to their sexual orientation (January 2002 - September 2004)	
Employment	Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board, Ottawa	
Legal and Policy		
References		
Publications	<i>GLBTQ: An Encyclopedia of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Culture</i> describes Turkey as having a "restrictive" military policy on homosexuals (2004), which prohibits military service by homosexuals ( <i>GLBTQ</i> 2004; <i>Turkish Daily News</i> 17 July 2003). The Turkish military officially recognizes homosexuals as "threats to the armed forces and discharges them for indecency if [their sexual orientation is] discovered" ( <i>GLBTQ</i> 2004). Homosexuality is deemed to be an illness by the military, and those who are affected by it are exempt from serving ( <i>Turkish Daily News</i> 8 Sept. 2003; KAOS GL 31 Oct. 2002; <i>ibid.</i> 2002; <i>The Nonviolent Activist</i> July-August 2002). Homosexuals seeking exemption are required to provide the military with a photograph of themselves while on the receiving end of anal intercourse as proof of their sexual orientation ( <i>ibid.</i> ; see also KAOS GL 31 Oct. 2002; <i>ibid.</i> 2002). A photograph of oneself on the giving end of anal penetration will not result in military exemption ( <i>The Nonviolent Activist</i> July-August 2002). A medical examination of the anus may also be required by the military (KAOS GL 31 Oct. 2002). In 2002, KAOS GL, an advocacy group based in Turkey and aimed at combating discrimination against homosexuals (9 Sept. 2004), reported that in reality, very few conscripts apply to the military for exemption from military service on the basis of their sexual orientation because homosexuals who are exempted from military service on this basis face "repressive Islamic social pressures" ( <i>The Nonviolent Activist</i> July-Aug. 2002) and problems in respect of employment opportunities and social acceptance (KAOS GL 31 Oct. 2002).	
Tribunal		
Refugee Protection Division		
Immigration Division		
Immigration Appeal Division		
Decisions		
Forms		
Statistics		
Research		
Research Program		
National Documentation Packages		
Issue Papers and Country Fact Sheets		
Responses to Information Requests	Additional and more recent information on the military and societal treatment of homosexuals who have been deemed unfit to serve in the military and/or who have been discharged from the military due to their sexual orientation, could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.	
Recent Research		
Media Centre		
News	This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of additional sources consulted in researching this Information Request.	
Information Sheets		
Media Relations		
Proactive Disclosure		

[References](#)

*GLBTQ: An Encyclopedia of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer Culture*. 2004. "Military Culture: European." <[http://www.glbtc.com/social-sciences/military\\_culture\\_eur.html](http://www.glbtc.com/social-sciences/military_culture_eur.html)> [Accessed 9 Sept. 2004]

KAOS GL. 31 October 2002. "Press Statement for Ninth Meeting of Gays and Lesbians." <[http://www.kaosgl.com/english/9.meeting\\_press\\_statement.php](http://www.kaosgl.com/english/9.meeting_press_statement.php)> [Accessed 9 Sept. 2004]

\_\_\_\_\_. 2002. "GLBT Youth Situation in Turkey." <<http://www.kaosgl.com/english/iglyoreport.php>> [Accessed 9 Sept. 2004]

\_\_\_\_\_. 9 September 2004. "About KAOS GL ..." <<http://www.kaosgl.com/english/brochure.php>> [Accessed 9 Sept. 2004]

*Nonviolent Activist*. July-August 2002. War Resisters League. Greg Payton. "Conversations with Turkish Resisters." <<http://warresisters.org/nva0702-3.htm>> [Accessed 9 Sept. 2004]

*Turkish Daily News* [Ankara]. 8 September 2003. "Homosexuals, Transvestites, Transsexuals and Lesbians." <[http://www.turkishdailynews.com/old\\_editions/09\\_08\\_03/dom2.htm](http://www.turkishdailynews.com/old_editions/09_08_03/dom2.htm)> [Accessed 9 Sept. 2004]

\_\_\_\_\_. 17 July 2003. "Birch: US, Turkey Do Not Allow Homosexuality in Military." <[http://www.turkishdailynews.com/old\\_editions/07\\_17\\_03/for.htm](http://www.turkishdailynews.com/old_editions/07_17_03/for.htm)> [Accessed 9 Sept. 2004]

#### Additional Sources Consulted

**Internet sites, including:** Amnesty International (AI), BBC, Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military (CSSMM), *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2003*, European Country of Origin Information Network (ECOI), *Freedom in the World 2003*, Global Gayz, Human Rights Watch (HRW), International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights, International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA), Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), Lambda (Istanbul), TR Gay International, WNC.

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