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DOREEN FORBES

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2003 APR 11 PM 1:39

March 28 2003

Peter L. Woicke
Executive Vice-President, IFC
International Finance Corporation (IFC)
2121 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington DC 20433
USA

Dear Sir,

I am writing regarding the human rights violations, including arbitrary detentions and arrests, related to the implementation of the Azerbaijan-Georgia-Turkey pipeline project, which consists notably in the construction of the Baku-Tbilissi-Ceyhan (BTC) oil pipeline in Turkey. Apparently, arbitrary arrests and detentions in the northeastern region of Turkey have increased markedly over the last few months, along with a pattern of constant surveillance, evident human rights abuses, military harassment and intimidation along the pipeline route. It seems that the BTC pipeline is having a detrimental effect on the security and human rights situation in the northeastern region of the country. I urge the World Bank to:

1. Make sure, when considering its support to this project, that it complies with the World Bank's Operational Policy 4.01 on Environmental Assessment; Operational Policy 4.04 on Natural Habitats; Operational Policy 4.12 on Involuntary Resettlement; Operational Directive 4.20 on Indigenous Peoples; and the International Finance Corporation's (IFC) manual on Doing Better Business through Effective Public Consultation and Disclosure;
2. Guarantee that its involvement in the project does not have a negative impact on the enjoyment of human rights in Turkey.

Sincerely,

