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Imams against mobile phone relay antennas in mosques

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The religious authorities in Turkey are "at war" against the mobile phone networks because of their antennas installed on the minarets of hundreds of mosques that are also used for pornographic messages.

The Turkish phone companies now have the imams as a new enemy, perhaps more powerful than the environmental organisations that have been protesting for decades against the harmful effects on health of the radiation from relay antennas.

Lokman Ozdemir, president of the Direction of Religious Affairs in Turkey (DIVES), indicated today that he is "very disturbed" by the fact that pornographic mobile phone calls could be carried by the relay antennas installed in mosques.

"We see these antennas on buildings just 10 metres away. It's not good for the health. What's more, they have been installed in minarets without any regulation," he declared in a press conference. In total, there are about 700 minarets in Turkey with antennas, he added.

The four Turkish mobile phone companies pay an annual rent of \$5000 dollars (3,500€) on average for each antenna in the minarets of cities such as Ankara, Istanbul and Izmir.

In other mosques the rent is slightly less, about 3,500€.

"Apart from the risk for human health, they are contrary to the faith and are used for bad intentions. We shall follow through this matter until they are all removed from the mosques," declared Ozdemir.



Minaret with relay antennas (add. Next-up)



Minaret with relay antennas (add. Next-up)



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