

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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EXTRA 13/93

Fear of Torture

11 February 1993

TURKEY:

Adnan Alp, owner of MELSA Publishing House
Besra Eksen (female), member of People's Labour Party HEP
Salih Dindar, board member of Mesopotamia Culture Centre
Celal _ekero_lu, Mesopotamia Culture Centre
Saniye Akta_ (female), Mesopotamia Culture Centre
Mahmut Fakhani

Kemal _ahin

Haydar Demir

Güler from journal Özgür Halk (second name is not known to Amnesty International)

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of scores of people, including those named above, who have been detained during the past few days in an ongoing police operation in Istanbul.

On 9 February 1993, five people were detained at the office of the Kurdish owned newspaper Yeni Ülke and four were released the following day. However, one of them, Adnan Alp, was brought back to the newspaper office by the police on 10 February, where he was beaten by 15-20 plainclothes policemen who were armed with automatic weapons. They beat him in front of the staff who could see that he was in a very poor state of health and then took him back to the police headquarters. Police also searched the offices of Yeni Ülke and of the journal Welat which is located in the same building. The police searched through their archives and confiscated film negatives, causing considerable damage and disorder.

Adnan Alp and the other eight people named above, who were detained at various places in Istanbul on or around 9 February 1993, are held incommunicado at the Anti-Terror Branch of Istanbul Police Headquarters. Released detainees have reported that Besra Eksen was being badly tortured.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Turkey ratified the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture on 25 February 1988 and the UN Convention Against Torture on 2 August 1988. However, all information available to Amnesty International indicates that torture is still widespread and systematic in Turkey. Most allegations relate to ill-treatment of detainees in police custody during their initial interrogation when they are usually denied access to relatives or a lawyer. New legislation to shorten the maximum detention period came into force on 1 December 1992. Now the normal maximum period of 24 hours, for which a non-political detainee may be held before being formally charged or released, may be extended to eight

days in cases of ordinary crimes involving three or more suspects. Detainees held on suspicion of political offences to be tried in State Security Courts may be held without charge for 15 days. This period may be extended to 30 days in provinces under emergency legislation or martial law. Emergency legislation is currently in force in 10 provinces in the southeast.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in English or in your own language:

- expressing concern about the alleged beating of Adnan Alp by police officers at the office of Yeni Ülke on 10 February 1993;

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- urging that Adnan Alp and others detained in Istanbul on or around 9 February 1993 (including those named above) are not subjected to torture or ill-treatment;

- asking on what charges they have been detained.

APPEALS TO:

1) Istanbul Chief of Police:

Mr Necdet Menzir

Istanbul Emniyet Müdürü

Istanbul, Turkey

Telegrams: Emniyet Muduru, Istanbul, Turkey

**Telexes: 30811 IEHM TR, 30812 EMMH TR or
26177 IEMT TR**

Faxes: + 90 1 526 8100

Salutation: Dear Sir

2) Minister of the Interior:

Mr smet Sezgin

çi_leri Bakanl____

06644 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Telexes: 46369 ICSL TR

Faxes: + 90 4 418 1795

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

President of the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission:

Mr Sabri Yavuz

nsan Haklar_ Ara_t_rma Komisyonu Ba_kan_

TBMM

Ankara, Turkey

and to diplomatic representatives of Turkey accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 25 February 1993.