

EXTRA 23/00

Fear for

TURKEYAli Gülmez (early thirties)
Ganimet Bozlu (f)
Erol Gültekin] husband and wife
Ismet Gültekin (f)]
Namik Yüksel] husband and wife
Hayriye Yüksel (f)]

Nazife Kaya (f)
Three other people (names unknown)

Amnesty International is concerned that all those named above are at risk of ill-treatment or torture in police custody.

All were arrested in the last few days and are now detained at the Anti-terror Branch of Police Headquarters in Istanbul except for Ali Gülmez and two others who are detained at the police headquarters in Tokat in Northern Turkey.

Nazife Kaya, a member of the health workers trade union Sa_l_k Emekçiler Sendikası, whose members have often been harassed by the authorities, was detained on 9 March 2000. Three others, one believed to be a doctor, were reportedly detained with her. Amnesty International is concerned for her safety in police detention as she is currently appealing against the acquittal of police officers tried for torturing her in police custody on a previous occasion.

In an unrelated incident, Ali Gülmez, Ganimet Bozlu, Erol and Ismet Gültekin, Namik and Hayriye Yüksel were all arrested in their homes in Istanbul on 8 March. The Anti-terror Branch of Police Headquarters confirmed to their lawyers that they had been arrested but initially said they did not know where they were detained. On 10 March, however, the prosecutor informed their lawyers where they were being detained.

After the attempted assassination of the governor of Çankiri Province, north of Ankara, in March 1999, of which the TKP/ML-TIKKO, a leftist armed organization, was held responsible, security officials reportedly claimed that Ali Gülmez was a leading member of this organization and that it was not possible to arrest him alive, thus implying that he might be extra-judicially executed.

In 1986 Ali Gülmez was sentenced to just over 13 years in prison after being found guilty in a trial against alleged members of TKP/ML-TIKKO at a military court in Istanbul. In February 1993, however, he escaped from Bayrampa_a prison in Istanbul.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Procedures laid down in the Turkish Criminal Procedure Code for the prompt and proper registration of detainees and for notification of their families are frequently ignored. This is extremely distressing for the families of detainees and creates conditions in which "disappearances" and torture can occur.

People suspected of offences that fall under the jurisdiction of the State Security Courts can be held in police custody without access to family, friends or legal counsel for up to four days. During the extended detention period detainees have the right of access to a lawyer, under certain conditions. In most cases this right is denied.

With no access to the outside world detainees are at the mercy of their interrogators. Torture is regularly used to extract confessions, to elicit information about illegal organizations, to intimidate detainees into becoming police informers or as informal punishment for presumed support of illegal organizations. Torture methods in Turkey documented by Amnesty International include severe beatings, being stripped naked and blindfolded, hosing with pressurized ice-cold water, suspending by the arms or wrists bound behind the victim's back, electric shocks, beating the soles of the feet, death threats and sexual assault.

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

- urging that all those named above, please write names in full, are not tortured or ill-treated in detention;
- urging that they be granted immediate access to their lawyers and family;
- asking to be informed of any charges that may be brought against them;
- reminding the Turkish government of its obligations under Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights, to which Turkey is a state party, which states: "No one shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

APPEALS TO:

Minister of Interior

Mr Saadettin Tantan

çi_leri Bakanl____

06644 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams:Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Faxes:+ 90 312 418 17 95

Salutation:Dear Minister

Minister of Justice

Prof Hikmet Sami Türk

Ministry of Justice

Adalet Bakanl____

06659 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Justice Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: + 90 312 417 3954 / 418 5667

Salutation: Dear Minister

Istanbul Chief of Police

Istanbul Emniyet Müdürü

Istanbul Emniyet Müdürlü_ü

Vatan Caddesi, Istanbul, Turkey

Telegrams:Istanbul Emniyet Müdürü, Istanbul, Turkey

Salutation:Dear Chief of Police

For Ali Gülmez:

Tokat Chief of Police

Tokat Emniyet Müdürü

Tokat Emniyet Müdürlü_ü

Tokat, Turkey

Telegrams:Tokat Emniyet Müdürü, Tokat, Turkey

Salutation:Dear Chief of Police

COPIES TO:

State Minister with responsibility for Human Rights

Mr Mehmet Ali Irtemçelik

Office of the Prime Minister

Ba_bakanl_k

06573 Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: + 90 312 417 0476

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 10 April 2000.