

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

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**EXTRA 25/93**

**Fear of Torture**

**9 March 1993**

**TURKEY:**

**Mehmet Yaman, lycee student**

**Kadim Y\_ld\_z, lycee student**

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Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Mehmet Yaman and Kadim Y\_ld\_z who were detained in Ergani on or around 6 March 1993. It is thought that they are being held in incommunicado detention at Ergani Police Headquarters and it is feared that they are being subjected to torture.

A clash between Islamic fundamentalist and other lycee students occurred in Ergani, a town in the province of Diyarbak\_r, on around 1 March 1993. One student was killed in the clash and another wounded. The students began a school boycott to protest against this incident. In response to the boycott, the students Mehmet Yaman and Kadim Y\_ld\_z from Üçkarde\_ village were detained. They may be held for up to 30 days before being brought before a judge to be charged or released.

#### **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, including Diyarbak\_r.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of lycee students Mehmet Yaman and Kadim Y\_ld\_z who were detained on or around 6 March 1993 and are thought to be held incommunicado at Ergani Police Headquarters;
- urging that they are not subjected to torture or any other form of ill-treatment;
- urging that they be granted access to their parents and lawyers;

- asking to be informed of any charges which may be brought against them.

**APPEALS TO**

1) Ergani Police Chief:

Ergani Emniyet Müdürü

Emniyet Müdürlüğü

Ergani, Turkey

**Telegrams: Emniyet Muduru, Ergani, Turkey**

**Salutation: Dear Sir**

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2) Diyarbakır Regional Governor:

Mr. Brahim Şahin

Diyarbakır Valiliği

Diyarbakır, Turkey

**Telegrams: Diyarbakır Valisi, Diyarbakır, Turkey**

**Faxes: + 90 831 26 174**

**Salutation: Dear Governor**

3) Minister of the Interior:

Mr. Şmet Sezgin

Çiğler Bakanlık

06644 Ankara, Turkey

**Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey**

**Telexes: 46369 IC SL TR**

**Faxes: + 90 4 418 1795**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

President of the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission:

Mr. Sabri Yavuz

İnsan Hakları Araştırma Komisyonu Başkanı

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 3 April 1993.