

UA 57/99

Fear for

**TURKEY Bayram Namaz, 29, Istanbul, journalist,  
Süleyman Yeter, 33 (dead), journalist and trade unionist**

---

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Bayram Namaz, who has been threatened and harassed by police since 9 March 1999, when he said at a press conference that his fellow detainee Süleyman Yeter had died in custody after torture.

On 5 March at around 3pm, Bayram Namaz, Süleyman Yeter and three other people were taken from the offices of the newspaper *Dayan\_\_ma* and put in neighbouring cells at the Anti-Terror Branch of Istanbul Police Headquarters. When Süleyman Yeter was brought back from interrogation in the early hours of the following morning, he told Bayram Namaz that he had been stripped naked, severely beaten, sprayed with cold water and forced to lie on ice. He could not move his arms. On 6 March at around noon, Süleyman Yeter was taken to interrogation again and did not return to his cell. At midnight, the other detainees were brought upstairs. While waiting for interrogation, they heard sounds that from their previous experience of torture resembled preparations for torture. At around 2 am, they heard the cries of a person under torture. They were brought back to their cells without being interrogated.

On 7 March, the Human Rights Association (HRA) and Süleyman Yeter's trade union *LIMTER I\_* were told he had died in custody, and this was confirmed by Fatih State Prosecutor. On 8 March, his lawyers saw the body at the Forensic Institute morgue and saw marks on his body that they believed to be evidence of torture.

Bayram Namaz and the other detainees learned that Süleyman Yeter was dead when they were brought to the State Security Court (SSC) on 9 March and noticed that he was not there. Bayram Namaz was reportedly threatened by a policeman outside the prosecutor's room, after he said "You killed Süleyman Yeter".

Immediately after his release on 9 March, Bayram Namaz reported what he had observed to the HRA and repeated this at a press conference organized by them. On 18 March, he reported it to the Office of the Prosecutor in Fatih. Since the HRA's press conference, Bayram Namaz has been constantly pursued and harassed by police in three unmarked cars: a white Polo with the licence plate 34 UT 1778, and two Toyotas, one green and one white.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Süleyman Yeter and Bayram Namaz were among a group of 15 detainees who claimed they had been tortured between 21/22 February and 6 March 1997 at the Anti-Terror Branch of Istanbul Police Headquarter. The SSC Forensic Institute issued a report confirming they had been tortured during interrogation. Based on this report, eight policemen went on trial at Istanbul Criminal Court No. 7 under Art. 243 of the Turkish Penal Code (torture in order to elicit a confession). On 2 March 1999 the Court scheduled a hearing for 29 April 1999 for the complainants to identify the defendants. Süleyman Yeter was called to this hearing. He had reportedly been detained several times before and threatened because of this trial. In a press release on 24 March 1999, the Istanbul Bar Association expressed their fears that Süleyman Yeter's final detention might have been linked to this trial and intended to hamper the identification. They pointed out that the policemen in question are employed at the branch where Süleyman Yeter lost his life in custody.

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

- urging the Turkish authorities to ensure the safety of Bayram Namaz;
- urging a comprehensive and impartial investigation into the death of Süleyman Yeter, with the results made public and anyone identified as responsible brought to justice.

**APPEALS TO:**

President Süleyman Demirel  
Office of the President  
Cumhurba\_kanl\_\_\_\_  
06100 Ankara, Turkey

**Telegrams: President, Ankara, Turkey**

**Faxes: + 90 312 468 5026**

**Telexes: 42303 kosk tr**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

Minister of Interior (for Bayram Namaz)

Mr Cahit Bayar

\_çi\_leri Bakanl\_\_\_\_

06644 Ankara, Turkey

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

**Fax: +90 312 418 17 35 / 418 92 08**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

Istanbul Chief of Police (for Bayram Namaz)

Mr Hasan Özdemir

Istanbul Emniyet Müdürü

Istanbul, Turkey

**Telegrams: Emniyet Muduru, Istanbul, Turkey**

**Faxes: + 90 212 635 0000**

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

Justice Minister (for Süleyman Yeter)

Prof Selçuk Öztekin

Ministry of Justice

Adalet Bakanl\_\_\_\_

06659 Ankara, Turkey

**Telegrams: Justice Minister, Ankara, Turkey**

**Faxes: + 90 312 417 3954 / 418 5667**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES 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 30 April 1999.