

PUBLIC

AI Index: EUR 44/39/99

Distrib: PG/SC

To: Medical professionals
From: Medical Office / Western Europe Subregional Team
Date: 24 August 1999

MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION

**Muzaffer Ç_nar
TURKEY**

Theme: torture / ill-health / investigation and prosecution

Summary

Amnesty International is deeply concerned that Muzaffer Ç_nar, aged 37, is suffering serious medical problems as a result of severe torture in Siirt police headquarters. According to Amnesty International's information, Muzaffer Ç_nar was apprehended in Baykan and detained in Siirt police headquarters between 21 and 29 July 1999. He states that he was beaten in detention, his testicles were squeezed with a rope, he was given electric shocks, suspended on a hanger, forced to lie on ice, hosed with cold water at high pressure and subjected to sexual assaults. After his release from detention he travelled to Istanbul where he reported his torture to the Human Rights Association (HRA). He was unable to make a statement in writing because he could not use his arms and reportedly had difficulty speaking because of the severe torture he had experienced. Medical evidence documenting numerous areas of trauma, including to the head, limbs and genitals, appears to support his story of torture. Amnesty International is calling on the Turkish authorities to fully investigate the torture of Muzaffer Ç_nar, to ensure his future security, and to provide all medical care and rehabilitation necessitated by his torture.

Recommended Actions

Please send appeals in your professional capacity without any mention of Amnesty International:

- o expressing concern at reports that Muzaffer Ç_nar was severely tortured while held at Siirt Police Station
- o referring to medical documentation of Muzaffer Ç_nar's injuries, including signs of trauma on the upper arms, neck, head, body, feet and genitals
- o urging that Muzaffer Ç_nar's allegations of torture be fully investigated and the findings made public
- o calling for those found responsible to be prosecuted in accordance with Turkish law
- o urging the authorities to take measures to assure the security and safety of Muzaffer Ç_nar
- o calling for the provision of all necessary medical care and rehabilitation to be guaranteed by the Turkish Government

If you receive no reply from the government or other recipients within two months of dispatch of your letter, please send a follow-up letter seeking a response. Please send copies of any replies you do receive to the International Secretariat [attn: medical team] and check with your national coordinator or the medical team if you send appeals after 31 October 1999.

ADDRESSES

Mr Bülent Ecevit
Prime Minister
Office of the Prime Minister
Ba_bakanl_k
06573 Ankara, Turkey
Fax: +90 312 417 0476
Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

Mr Osman Durmu_
Minister of Health and Social Welfare
Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
Sa_l_k ve Sosyal Yard_m Bakanl____
06434 Ankara, Turkey
Fax: +90 312 431 4879
Salutation: Dear Minister

Professor Hikmet Sami Türk
Minister of Justice

Ministry of Justice
Adalet Bakanl____
06659 Ankara, Turkey
Fax: +90 312 417 3954 or 418 5667
Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES

Dr Sema Pi_kinsüt
President of the Parliamentary
Human Rights Commission
Insan Haklar_ Inceleme Komisyonu Ba_kan_
Türkiye Büyük Millet Meclisi
Ankara, Turkey
Fax: +90 312 420 5394
Salutation: Dear President

Human Rights Association [IHD]
Tunal_hilmi Cad. 104/4
Kavakl_dere
Ankara
Turkey
Fax: +90 312 4259547
email: ihd@tr-net.net.tr

Mr Mehmet Ali İrtemçelik
State Minister with responsibility for Human
Rights
Devlet Bakan_
Office of the Prime Minister
Ba_bakanl_k
06573 Ankara, Turkey
Fax: + 90 312 417 0476
Salutation: Dear Minister

Turkish Medical Association
Mithatpasa Cad. 62/15-17-18
06420 Yenisehir
Ankara
Turkey
Fax: +90 312 417 2672
Email: TTBO@Servis2.Net.TR

Human Rights Foundation [TIHV]
Menekse 2. sokak 16/6
06440 Kizilay
Ankara
Turkey
Fax: +90 312 425 4552
Email: tihv@tr-net.net.tr

**Please send copies of your letters to diplomatic representatives of Turkey in your country
or to the nearest Turkish embassy.**

PUBLIC

AI Index: EUR 44/39/99
Distr : PG/SC

Date: 24 August 1999

MEDICAL CONCERN

**Muzaffer Ç_nar
TURKEY**

Amnesty International is deeply concerned that Muzaffer Ç_nar is suffering serious medical problems as a result of severe torture in Siirt police headquarters.

According to Amnesty International's information, Muzaffer Ç_nar, aged 37, was apprehended in Baykan/Siirt and detained in Siirt police headquarters in the southeast of Turkey between 21 and 29 July 1999. He states that he was beaten in detention, his testicles were squeezed with a rope, he was given electric shocks, suspended on a hanger, forced to lie on ice, hosed with cold water at high pressure and subjected to sexual assaults. On 29 July he was brought before a judge who released him and took notice of his torture allegation. Muzaffer Ç_nar then travelled to Istanbul where he reported his torture to the Human Rights Association (HRA). He was unable to make a statement in writing because he could not use his arms and reportedly had difficulty speaking because of the severe torture he had experienced. Medical evidence appears to support his story of torture.

On 30 July 1999 Muzaffer Ç_nar was given a first medical examination in Istanbul where he was found to have lesions with erythema on the upper arms, swelling and lesions on the right parietal area of the head, swelling of the neck, cyanosis of the sole of the right foot and numerous other signs of trauma to other parts of the body and to his genitals. Following the lodging of a formal complaint, a further examination carried out by the Forensic Institute in Istanbul on request of the prosecutor found similar evidence of trauma. The Institute recommended that Muzaffer Ç_nar should be "transferred to and examined in the neurology and general surgery of a fully equipped health institution" for a final medical report.

About a week after he was first examined, Muzaffer Ç_nar's condition suddenly deteriorated and he was taken to Cerrahpa_a Medical Faculty Hospital. According to the information given to the HRA he suffered a cardiac arrest, but was resuscitated in the hospital's intensive care unit. Around 13 August 1999 he was transferred from the intensive care unit to a unit providing dialysis as he had apparently suffered kidney failure.

Amnesty International calls upon the Turkish government

- to ensure an immediate comprehensive and impartial investigation into the torture allegations with the results made public
- to ensure that those responsible for the torture are brought to justice
- to ensure that Muzaffer Ç_nar has access to all necessary medical care and rehabilitation. Amnesty International believes that governments are responsible for ensuring the provision of any medical care and rehabilitation necessary as a result of torture.
- to protect Muzaffer Ç_nar from any further ill-treatment or torture.

Background

Muzaffer Ç_nar was a candidate for the office of mayor of Baykan in the province of Siirt from the list of the People's Democracy Party HADEP, a legal party with a predominantly Kurdish membership. He is said to have been detained because his name was in the telephone book of Cevat Soysal, an alleged PKK leader, abducted by the Turkish Secret Service from Moldova on 13 June 1999. Many HADEP members were detained around 21 July 1999 in relation to the seizure of Cevat Soysal, and Amnesty International has received a number of torture allegation from these detainees as well as from Cevat Soysal (see AI Urgent Action 180/99, AI Index: EUR 44/52/99, 26 July 1999 and AI Urgent Action 177/99, AI Index EUR/51/99, 23 July 1999).