

UA 164/01

Death thro**TURKEYErdal Bulut (m), 20, student**

Student Erdal Bulut is being followed and threatened, apparently by plainclothes police. He has been tortured by police before, and Amnesty International believes he is in grave danger. He has gone into hiding, in fear for his life.

When police reportedly detained and tortured Erdal Bulut in November 2000, they pressured him to inform on political organizations at Bo_aziçi University in Istanbul, where he is a student. Since then he has received threats and has been followed and harassed by police in an apparent effort to get him to act as an informer.

Erdal Bulut filed a complaint with Human Rights Association (_HD), alleging that he had been tortured. He believes that he could be arrested and tortured again in retaliation for filing the complaint.

In written testimony to the _HD, Erdal Bulut stated that in November 2000, three plainclothes police boarded the minibus he was riding in the Mecideyeköy district of Istanbul. They blindfolded him and started to beat him. They then threatened to kill him. The police forced the minibus to drive around for some time.

Because he was blindfolded, he did not know where he was when the police took him out of the bus. They kept him for two days in a room like "the inside of a septic tank," handcuffed and blindfolded at all times.

Erdal Bulut states that electric shocks were applied to his hands and feet, and he was severely beaten when he was taken out for interrogation. His interrogators wanted him to inform on political groups at his university. They apparently told him, "...from now on you will tell us all that happens at your school."

Two days later, he was driven into Istanbul and released.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English, French, German or your own language:

- expressing concern that Erdal Bulut is reportedly being harassed and threatened by plainclothes police officers;
- urging the authorities to ensure his safety and to investigate the death threats against him;
- asking the authorities to guarantee that he will not be tortured or ill-treated;
- expressing concern that Erdal Bulut was reportedly tortured in custody and reminding the 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";
- calling for an immediate and impartial investigation into the allegations of torture, and for those responsible to be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

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

Minister of the Interior
Mr Rü_tü Kaz_m Yücelen
Ministry of Interior
_çi_leri Bakanl____
06644 Ankara, Turkey
Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey
Fax: +90 312 418 17 95
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 14 August 2001.