

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 44/52/96

UA 92/96

Fear of Torture / Fear of Disappearance

3 April 1996

TURKEYGevher Toprak (f) aged 16

Edibe Toprak (f), aged 47

Leyla \_a\_k\_n (f), aged 13

Vildan Umur (f), aged 14

Ay\_er Umur (f), aged 16

Sabriye (other name unknown) (f), aged 53

Çiçek Eren (f), aged 30

Abdullah \_a\_k\_n, aged 60

Fadil Eren, aged 57

\_eymus Nakçi, aged 23

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On 20 March 1996, 10 villagers - including four juveniles, all female - were detained at their homes in the village of Çukurkaynak by security forces of Silvan Gendarmerie.

The detention of Gevher Toprak and her mother Edibe Toprak at Silvan Gendarmerie was acknowledged by the authorities in Diyarbak\_r, but none of the others has yet been acknowledged.

Gevher Toprak was previously detained on 10 November 1995 together with two of her younger brothers - see EXTRA 139/95, EUR 44/130/95, and follow-ups. (Please note that Gevher Toprak's correct is 16, not 17 as stated in the earlier action.)

Amnesty believes those named above are at serious risk of being tortured in custody.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The persistence of torture is one of the major human rights problems in Turkey today. There were 29 reported deaths in custody due to torture in 1994, more than in any year since 1982, and at least six in 1995. Most reports of torture come from the major cities of Istanbul, Ankara, \_zmir, Adana and the 10 provinces in the east and southeast, currently under State of Emergency legislation due to the continuing conflict between the security forces and armed members of the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK). The victims of torture come from all sectors of Turkish society and range from political activists held under the Anti-Terror Law to those held on suspicion of ordinary criminal offences including children.

Torture is used mainly in police and gendarmerie stations during the first days or weeks following detention. It is often applied to extract confessions, to elicit information about illegal organizations, to intimidate detainees into becoming police informers or as informal punishment for assumed support of illegal organizations.

People suspected of offences under the Anti-Terror Law can be held without access to family, friends or legal counsel for up to 30 days in the 10 provinces under State of Emergency, and for 15 days in the rest of Turkey. When not being interrogated, detainees are held in cramped, airless and insanitary conditions. With no access to the outside world they are at the mercy of their interrogators. Torture methods include being stripped naked and blindfolded, hosing with pressurized ice-cold water, hanging 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/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in English or your own language:**

- expressing concern for the safety of Leyla \_a\_k\_n, aged 13 Vildan Umur, aged 14, Ay\_er Umur, aged 16, Sabriye ....., Çiçek Eren, Abdullah \_a\_k\_n, Fadil Eren and Seymus Nakçı; and urging that their whereabouts are established and that they are allowed access to their family;
- seeking assurances that none of the detainees are being subjected to torture or any other form of ill-treatment;
- asking to be informed of any charges brought against them.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) Interior Minister

Mr Ülkü Güney  
Ministry of Interior  
\_çi\_leri Bakanl\_\_\_\_  
06644 Ankara, Turkey

**Faxes: +90 312 418 1066/418 1795**

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

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

2) Chief Prosecutor at Diyarbakır State Security Court

Mr Bekir Selçuk  
DGM Ba\_savc\_s\_  
Devlet Güvenlik Mahkemesi  
Diyarbakır, Turkey

**Telegrams: DGM Bassavcısı, Diyarbakir, Turkey**

**Salutation: Dear Sir**

3) Diyarbakır Chief of Gendarmerie

General Altay Tokat  
Jandarma Komutan\_  
Jandarma Komutanl\_\_\_\_  
Diyarbakır, Turkey

**Telegrams: General Tokat, Jandarma Komutanlığı, Diyarbakir, Turkey**

**Salutation: Dear General**

**COPIES TO:**

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Emre Gönensay  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
D\_i\_leri Bakanl\_\_\_\_  
06100 Ankara

**Faxes: +90 312 419 1547**

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 15 May 1996.