

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of Torture

10 November 1992

TURKEY:

Five students:

Ahmet Erkan

Zeki Gürbüz

Mustafa Peköz

Ufuk Tan

Hasan Polat

From Çamlıca district:

Celal Meral

Y\_ld\_z Meral (female), wife of Celal

Ziya Ulusoy

Duriye Sezgin (female)

Mehmet Üstünda\_

Meryem Temur (female)

From Bahçelievler district:

Ali Bolat

Hüseyin K\_l\_ç

Tülay Mercan (female)

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Güler Mercan (female), sister of Tülay

\_mam Hüseyin Demir

\_brahim \_\_k

Naci Uzun, reporter for Eme in Bayra (Flag of Labour)

Hülyay Uzun (female), wife of Nac\_ Uzun

Amnesty International is concerned about the safety of the people named above, who are being held in incommunicado detention in Istanbul.

On 4 November 1992, the five students Ahmet Erkan, Zeki Gürbüz, Mustafa Peköz, Ufuk Tan and Hasan Polat were detained in Istanbul after a house search by the police. They are suspected of involvement with an illegal political organization. Two days later, scores of people including the 14 named above, were detained after police operations in various quarters of Istanbul. The detainees are held incommunicado and reportedly in unacknowledged police custody, presumably at the Anti-Terror Branch of Istanbul Police Headquarters. It is feared that they are being interrogated under torture.

#### 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. In August 1990, the government derogated from Articles 5, 6, 8, 10, 11 and 13 of the European Convention on Human Rights, all of which contain important safeguards for human rights. Under current legislation the maximum period a detainee may be held before being formally charged or released is 24 hours; in cases involving three or more suspects or due to the 'nature of the crime' it may be extended to 15 days. This period may be extended to 30 days in areas under emergency legislation or martial law. Emergency legislation is currently in force in 10 provinces in the southeast of Turkey.

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters in English or your own language:**

- expressing concern that the people named above are being held in                      incommunicado detention;
- noting that reportedly the police deny holding them;
- urging that their families and lawyers are granted access to them;
- seeking assurances that they are not subjected to any form of ill-                      treatment or torture while in custody;
- requesting to be informed of any charges brought against them.

**APPEALS TO**

1) Minister of the Interior:

Mr \_smet Sezgin

\_çi\_leri Bakanl\_\_\_\_

06644 Ankara, Turkey

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

**Telexes: 46369 IC SL TR**

**Faxes: + 90 4 418 1795**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

2) Istanbul Chief of Police:

Mr Necdet Menzir

Istanbul Emniyet Müdürü

\_stanbul, Turkey

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

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

**Salutation: Dear Sir**

**COPIES TO:**

President of the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission:

\_nsan Haklar\_ Ara\_t\_rma Komisyonu Ba\_kan\_

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 20 November 1992.