

**EXTERNAL**

**AI Index: EUR 44/125/96**

**EXTRA 135/96**

**Fear of torture / Health concern**

**20 August 1996**

**TURKEYDr Münsif Çetin, aged 32, head of Da kap Health Centre in Diyarbak r**

On 16 August 1996 police from the Anti-Terror Branch came to the home of Dr Münsif Çetin in Diyarbak\_r. When they did not find him there, they occupied the house for five hours until Dr Çetin returned, and then detained him. His wife, a senior nurse, had given birth by caesarian section only three days earlier at Dicle University hospital and was therefore at home when the police arrived. Police sent relatives away who had come to assist Mrs Çetin, leaving mother and newborn baby without any support.

The reason for Dr Çetin's detention, which has been acknowledged after some delay, is not known to Amnesty International. Dr Çetin, who is suffering from a kidney complaint for which he is said to require medication, is believed to be held at Diyarbak\_r Police Headquarters.

Dr Çetin was previously detained twice, once as a medical student and once after he had qualified as a doctor. He reportedly was tortured in custody. Amnesty International fears that he may be facing torture during his current detention.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

People suspected of offences under the Anti-Terror Law can be held in police custody without access to family, friends or legal counsel for up to 30 days in the 10 provinces under State of Emergency such as Diyarbak\_r, 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 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. 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.

Procedures laid down in the Turkish Criminal Procedure Code for the prompt and proper registration of detainees, and for notification of their families, are almost universally ignored. Lack of prompt registration and notification is extremely distressing for the families of detainees, and creates the conditions in which "disappearances" and torture can occur.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Dr Münsif Çetin, detained in Diyarbak\_r on 16 August 1996, who is suffering from a kidney complaint for which he requires medication;
- seeking assurances that he is not subjected to torture or any other form of ill-treatment and that he is given the medication he requires;
- appealing that he is promptly brought before a judge to be charged or released;
- asking to be informed of any charges brought against Dr Çetin.

#### **APPEALS TO:**

1. Chief Prosecutor at Diyarbak r State Security Court:

Mr Bekir Selçuk  
DGM Ba\_savc\_s\_  
Devlet Güvenlik Mahkemesi  
Diyarbak\_r, Turkey  
**Telegrams: DGM Bassavcisi, Diyarbakir, Turkey**  
**Salutation: Dear Prosecutor**

2. Emergency Legislation Governor:

Mr Necati Bilican  
Ola\_anüstü Hal Valisi  
Diyarbak\_r, Turkey  
**Telegrams: Olaganustu Hal Valisi, Diyarbakir, Turkey**  
**Telexes: 72110 OHVT TR; 72084 DYVA TR "please forward to the Governor"; 72090 JASY TR**  
**Faxes: +90 412 224 3572**  
**Salutation: Dear Governor**

3. Diyarbak\_r Chief of Police:

Mr R\_dvan Güler  
Diyarbak\_r Emniyet Müdürü  
Diyarbak\_r, Turkey  
**Telegrams: Emniyet Muduru, Diyarbakir, Turkey**  
**Salutation: Dear Sir**

4. Minister of Health:

Mr Y\_ld\_r\_m Aktuna  
Sa\_l\_k ve Sosyal Yard\_m Bakanl\_\_\_\_  
06434 Ankara, Turkey  
**Telegrams: Mr Aktuna, Saglik Bakanligi, Ankara, Turkey**  
**Faxes: +90 312 418 0889**  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Mrs Tansu Çiller  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
D\_i\_leri Bakanl\_\_\_\_  
06100 Ankara  
**Fax: +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 20 September 1996.