

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 44/144/95

EXTRA 151/95 Death in custody / Torture / Fear of torture 27 November 1995

TURKEYMustafa Akbulut, died in detention

Emin Akbulut, Mustafa's son

Ismail Köplü

Kara Köplü

Hac\_ Ate\_

Mehmet Akbulut, Mustafa's son - released

Müslüm Akbulut, Mustafa's son - released

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Fears for the safety of Emin Akbulut, Ismail Köplü, Kara Köplü and Hac\_ Ate\_, held incommunicado at Gaziantep Police Headquarters since 23 November 1995, have been greatly heightened by the death in custody of Emin Akbulut's father, Mustafa Akbulut, and the reported torture of his two brothers, Mehmet and Müslüm Akbulut, now released.

On 23 November, Mustafa Akbulut, his son Emin Akbulut, Ismail Köplü, Kara Köplü and Hac\_ Ate\_ were detained in Hisar near Araban, in the province of Gaziantep. On 25 November, the brothers Mehmet and Müslüm Akbulut, sons of Mustafa Akbulut, were also detained. Both were released the next day and stated that they had been tortured in police custody. On the same day, 26 November, the family was informed that Mustafa Akbulut had died in detention and that the family should come to collect the body from the morgue of Gaziantep State Hospital. So far the cause of his death is not known or whether an autopsy has been carried out.

Emin Akbulut, Ismail Köplü, Kara Köplü and Hac\_ Ate\_ may be held for a maximum of 15 days.

#### 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 six in 1995 so far. Most reports of torture come from the major cities of Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir, 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 grave concern for the safety of Emin Akbulut, Ismail Köplü, Kara Köplü and Hac\_ Ate\_, held since 23 November 1995 in incommunicado detention at Gaziantep Police Headquarters;
- urging that they are not subjected to torture or any other form of ill-treatment;
- expressing deep concern about the death in custody of Mustafa Akbulut on or around 25 November, presumably at Gaziantep Police Headquarters, and asking to be informed about the cause of his death and the findings of any autopsy;
- calling for immediate, thorough and impartial investigations into allegations that Mehmet and Müslüm Akbulut were tortured in custody.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) Interior Minister

Mr Teoman Ünisan  
Ministry of Interior  
\_çi\_leri Bakanl\_\_\_\_  
06644 Ankara, Turkey

**Faxes: +90 312 418 1795**

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

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

2) Deputy Prime Minister

Mr Deniz Baykal  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Ba\_bakanl\_k  
06573 Ankara, Turkey

**Telexes: 44061/44062/44063 bbmt tr; 42099 basb tr**

**Faxes: +90 312 417 0476 +90 312 419 1547**

**Salutation: Dear Deputy Prime Minister**

3) Gaziantep Chief Prosecutor

Cumhuriyet Ba\_savc\_s\_  
Hükümet Kona\_\_\_\_  
Gaziantep, Turkey

**Telegrams: Cumhuriyet Bassavcisi, Gaziantep, Turkey**

**Salutation: Dear Sir**

**COPIES TO:**

State Minister with responsibility for Human Rights:

Mr Adnan Ekmen  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Ba\_bakanl\_k  
06573 Ankara, Turkey

**Faxes: +90 312 417 0476**

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 28 December 1995.