

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 44/154/95

EXTRA 162/95

Fear of "disappearance" / Fear of torture 19 December 1995

TURKEY Masallah Yalçın, Kurdish worker, aged 24

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On 13 December 1995, several police officers - some in uniform, some in plain clothes - came to the home of Masallah Yalçın in the Gündoğdu district of Mersin and detained him in the presence of his parents. Neighbours also witnessed him being forced into a car and driven away.

Masallah Yalçın's parents then went to several police stations and to Mersin Police Headquarters inquiring of their son's whereabouts. They were told that he was not there and that there was no information to give.

This is the first time that Masallah Yalçın has been detained. It is feared that he is being interrogated under torture and that he may "disappear" in unacknowledged police custody.

#### 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 in the southeast and for up to 15 days in the rest of Turkey. With no access to the outside world they are at the mercy of their interrogators.

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.

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.

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 Masallah Yalçın, held in unacknowledged detention since 13 December 1995;
- calling for an immediate investigation into his present whereabouts;
- appealing that his parents and lawyer be informed of the results of such an investigation without further delay;
- requesting to be informed of the results of the investigation.

#### APPEALS TO:

1) Mersin State Prosecutor:  
Cumhuriyet Ba\_savc\_s\_  
Mr Osman Homurlu

Hükümet Kona\_\_  
Mersin, Turkey

**Telegrams: Cumhuriyet Bassavcısı, Mersin, Turkey**  
**Salutation: Dear Sir**

2) Interior Minister:

Mr Teoman Ünüsan (note spelling)  
Ministry of Interior

\_çi\_leri Bakanl\_\_\_\_  
06644 Ankara, Turkey

**Telegrams: İçisleri Bakanligi, Ankara, Turkey**  
**Faxes: +90 312 418 1795**  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**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; +90 312 420 5394**

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 31 January 1996.