

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of Torture

30 November 1990

TURKEY: Zafer Alkoyun, aged 31
Cihan Kaya, tailor
Cumali Gökalp
Dr Cemal Parlak, psychiatrist

On 26 November 1990 Zafer Alkoyun was detained when selling clothes in a park in Istanbul. That same day, Cihan Kaya, a tailor who supplied Zafer Alkoyun with clothes, and Cumali Gökalp, an acquaintance, were also detained in Istanbul. On 29 November, Dr Cemal Parlak was detained. All four are said to be held incommunicado at the First (Political) Branch of Istanbul Police Headquarters and it is feared that they may be subject to torture. Zafer Alkoyun's health is fragile due to a bullet lodged in his back near the spine. He suffered the injury in a demonstration 13 years ago. A lawyer and his family applied to visit him but were refused access.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION (this is the same as the second paragraph of background information in UA 481/90)

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. Allegations of torture have continued since the transfer of power to a civilian government in 1983. 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. Under current legislation the maximum detention period 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. In August 1990, the Turkish government derogated from Articles 5, 6, 8, 10, 11 and 13 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- urging that Zafer Alkoyun, Cihan Kaya, Cumali Gökalp and Dr Cemal Parlak are given facilities to appoint a lawyer and that they are not ill-treated while in detention;
- requesting to be informed of any charges against them.

APPEALS TO

President Turgut Özal
Devlet Ba_kanli_i
06100 Ankara, Turkey

Teegrams; President Ozal, Ankara, Turkey
Telex: 42875 bbk tr

Istanbul Emniyet Müdürü
Mehmet A_ar
Istanbul Chief of Police
_stanbul, Turkey

Telegrams: Emniyet Muduru, Istanbul, Turkey
Telexes: 30811 IEHM TR or 30812 EMMH TR
Faxes: + 90 1 172 8182

COPIES TO: Diplomatic representatives of Turkey in your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 10 January 1991.