

TURKEY Yusuf Ba_bo_a (m)]
Ahmet Ökten (m)]
A. Kerim Koçhan]
Mikail Bülbül (m)]
Mahsun İlen]
Faruk K_l_ç (m)] members of *E_itim-Sen* teachers' union
Nurettin Demir]
Zübeyir Avc_]
Mahmut Kuzu (m)]
A. Aziz Yüceda_]
Lokman Koçhan]
ermin Erba]

(those marked 'm' are known to be male - the others are not known)

The 12 people named above are all members of the *E_itim-Sen* teachers' trade union. They were detained by police in southeast Turkey on 7 May, reportedly because they had been involved in a campaign for education in the Kurdish language. They are being held at the Anti-Terror Branch of Mardin Police Headquarters, where they are at risk of torture and ill-treatment.

They were detained in the town of K_z_ltepe, in the province of Mardin, at 10pm.

Since November 2001, hundreds of people have been arrested after they began campaigning by submitting petitions to their schools or universities, asking either for courses on the Kurdish language, or for their education to be delivered in Kurdish. Although a recent constitutional amendment guarantees the right to submit petitions like this, many have been detained by police or gendarmerie and arrested. Some have reportedly been tortured or ill-treated in detention, or been expelled from their schools or universities.

A woman from K_z_ltepe was reportedly detained on 5 May, and held for 3 days at Mardin Police Headquarters. She was allegedly tortured by five police officers. The Mardin Chief Prosecutor has opened an investigation into torture allegations against the five officers.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Torture is rarely reported from prisons, but in police stations it appears to be regularly used to extract confessions or information about illegal organizations. It is also used to intimidate detainees into becoming police informers or simply to punish people who are believed to support illegal organizations. Torture methods in Turkey documented by Amnesty International include severe beatings, being stripped naked and blindfolded, hosing with pressurized ice-cold water, suspending 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 appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English or your own language:

- expressing concern for the safety of the 12 members of the K_z_ltepe branch of *E_itim-Sen* (naming them), who are in detention at Mard_n Police Headquarters, and asking the authorities to ensure that they are not tortured or ill-treated while they are in police custody;

- urging them to ensure that all 12 are given immediate access to lawyers, brought promptly before a judge and either charged with a recognizably criminal offence or released immediately;
- reminding the government of its obligations as a state party to the European Convention on Human Rights, which says that "No one shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment".

APPEALS TO:

Minister of the Interior

Mr Rü_tü Kaz_m Yücelen

Ministry of Interior

_çi_leri Bakanl____

06644 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Fax: + 90 312 418 17 95

Salutation: Dear Minister

Mardin Police Headquarters

Mr Orhan Kaya

Mard_n Emniyet Müdürü

Mard_n Emniyet Müdürlü_ü

Mard_n, Turkey

Telegrams: Emniyet Müdürü, Mard_n, Turkey

Salutation: Dear Chief of Police

Faxes:+ 90 482 213 56 40

COPIES TO:

State Minister with responsibility for Human Rights

Nejat Arseven

Office of the Prime Minister,

Ba_bakanl_k,

06573 Ankara, Turkey

Fax: + 90 312 417 04 76

Salutation: Dear Minister

and to diplomatic representatives of Turkey accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.