

EXTRA 22/01

Fear of t

TURKEYEmrullah Karagöz (m), student, aged 23
Saliha Ekinici (f), student, aged 22
Güllü Ekinici (f), sister of the above, aged 16

The Turkish authorities have arrested three students. They are being held at the Diyarbakir Police Headquarters, where it is thought that they are being tortured.

Plainclothes police officers arrested Emrullah Karagöz, Saliha Ekinici and her sister, Güllü Ekinici, on the streets of Diyarbakir, a town in southeastern Turkey, on 27 March. The same evening, the police brought Emrullah Karagöz to his home for a short while, presumably in order to search the house. He had apparently been tortured, and was reportedly unable to walk without the support of two plainclothes police officers.

During the past few weeks, the police have reportedly threatened Emrullah Karagöz on several occasions. Plainclothes police apparently raided his house several times shortly before Newroz, the Kurdish New Year which is celebrated on 21 March. Also, a detainee held at the Diyarbakir Police Headquarters between 17 and 23 March was reportedly questioned about Emrullah Karagöz, whom the police threatened indirectly.

Emrullah Karagöz was previously detained in June 1999 and November 2000 for political reasons. He was reportedly tortured in custody in 1999, and trial proceedings are currently under way in connection with the torture.

Emrullah Karagöz studies archeology, and Saliha Ekinici German language at the university in Diyarbakir.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Under Turkish law, people suspected of offences that fall under the jurisdiction of the State Security Courts can be held in police custody without access to family, friends or legal counsel for up to four days. They then have the right - often denied - to see a lawyer, and may then be held for a further six days in provinces under emergency rule, such as Diyarbak_r.

With no access to the outside world, detainees are at the mercy of their interrogators. Torture is regularly used to extract confessions, to elicit information about illegal organizations, to intimidate detainees into becoming police informers, or as unofficial punishment for presumed support of illegal organizations. Torture methods include severe beatings, being stripped naked and blindfolded, hosing with pressurized ice-cold water, suspension 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 German or your own language:

- expressing concern at reports that Emrullah Karagöz has been tortured in custody at Diyarbak_r Police Headquarters;
- urging the authorities to guarantee that he and Saliha and Güllü Ekinici are not subjected to further torture or ill-treatment;
- calling for the detainees to be given immediate access to lawyers, their families and any medical attention they require;

- asking to be informed of any charges that may be brought against them;
- calling for an immediate and impartial investigation into the allegations of torture, and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- reminding the Turkish government of its obligations under Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which states: "No one shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

APPEALS TO:

Minister of Interior

Mr Saadettin Tantan
_çi_leri Bakanl____
06644 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: + 90 312 418 17 95

Salutation: Dear Minister

Minister of Justice

Prof Hikmet Sami Türk
Ministry of Justice
Adalet Bakanl____

06659 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Justice Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: + 90 312 417 3954 / 418 5667

Salutation: Dear Minister

Diyarbakır Chief of Police

Mr Atilla Ç_nar
Diyarbakır Emniyet Müdürü
Diyarbakır Emniyet Müdürlü_ü
Diyarbakır, Turkey

Telegrams: Diyarbakır Emniyet Müdürü, Diyarbakır, Turkey

Salutation: Dear Chief of Police

Governor of the Provinces under Emergency Rule

Ola_anüstü Hal Valisi
Diyarbakır, Turkey

Telegrams: Olaganustu Hal Valisi, Diyarbakir, Turkey

Faxes: + 90 412 224 3572

Salutation: Dear Governor

COPIES TO:

State Minister with responsibility for Human Rights

Mr Rü_tü Kaz_m Yücelen
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 9 May 2001.