

TURKEY Mahsum Dikenyol; Hanifi Biçak; Nevzat Tekin; Mehmet Demirkan; Filiz Salkan; Bilge Dilganta_; Necmettin Yaman; Ömer Çağr_c_; Metin Yalc_n; Hüseyin Ciftçi; Metin At_lgan Eren; Sevinç Çiçekli; Ayten Kaya; Hatice Sendul; Mithat Can; Ali Rıza Avdar; Zeyhat Zeyrek; Salih Altu_; Eylem Re_ito_lu; Yılmaz Ye_en; one unidentified person

Twenty-one students have been arrested and are feared to have been ill-treated. They are being held incommunicado at the Diyarbak_r police headquarters in southeastern Turkey, where they are at risk of torture and further ill-treatment.

The police arrested the 21 students named above, all of whom study tourism at a college in Termik, a district in Diyarbak_r, on the evening of 9 April. Most of the students were arrested at their homes. They were reportedly held in custody at the police headquarters in Termik for 24 hours. On the evening of 10 April, they were taken to Diyarbak_r in two buses. Eye-witnesses, who saw them being put on the buses, have reported that they were in a bad way, possibly because they had been tortured or ill-treated.

After they were moved, their lawyers tried to find out where they had been taken to. However, it was only when the lawyers visited the prosecutor in Diyarbak_r for the second time that he acknowledged their detention. When the lawyers asked the prosecutor whether the students would be brought before a prosecutor or a judge so it could be determined whether there was a legal ground for their detention, the prosecutor reportedly replied that the police might need more time to interrogate the students.

It is not known why the students have been detained. However, some of the students reportedly used to visit the new office of the legal pro-Kurdish party HADEP in Termik. The police reportedly found a HADEP flag and two issues of a political journal called *Özgür Halk*, Free People.

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 the 21 students might have been ill-treated in custody at Termik Police Headquarters;

- urging the authorities to guarantee that they 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;
- calling for the detainees to be brought promptly before a judge or another judicial official;
- asking to be informed of any charges that may be brought against them;
- 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**Diyarbak_r Chief of Police

Mr Atilla Ç_nar

Diyarbak_r Emniyet Müdürü

Diyarbak_r Emniyet Müdürlü_ü

Diyarbak_r, Turkey

Telegrams: Diyarbak_r Emniyet Müdürü, Diyarbak_r, Turkey**Salutation: Dear Chief of Police**Governor of the Provinces under Emergency Rule

Ola_anüstü Hal Valisi

Diyarbak_r, Turkey

Telegrams: Ola_anüstü 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

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06573 Ankara

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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 23 May 2001.