

PUBLIC

AI Index: EUR 44/051/2001

10 August 2001

Further information on UA 203/01 (EUR 44/050/2001, 9 August 2001) - Torture and ill-treatment/ fear for safety/ prisoner of conscience

**TURKEY** Osman Baydemir (m), lawyer and leading human rights defender  
**Rasim A\_an (m), 18 years old (name corrected)**

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Osman Baydemir has been released, but Rasim A\_an has been remanded to prison, despite complaining that he was tortured in custody.

Rasim A\_an alleges that he was subjected to torture including electric shocks to his testicles and toes, death threats and hanging by the arms. He was apparently made to sign a statement, while blindfolded, that Osman Baydemir had given money to him in exchange for false testimony about human rights violations carried out by the military in nearby villages.

On the basis of this statement made under torture, and despite the fact that a doctor's report confirmed his torture allegations, the \_\_rnak prosecutor ordered that Rasim A\_an be transferred to prison to await trial for "insulting the military". Amnesty International believes that he has been indicted solely for complaining of torture and human rights violations by the Turkish military.

Osman Baydemir was taken to the Anti-Terror Branch of \_\_rnak Police Headquarters after he was rearrested on 9 August. He was released after spending two hours in an interrogation room, and told that he had been arrested because of a "mistake" in police records.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in English, German, or your own language:**

- expressing concern that Rasim A\_an was reportedly tortured in custody, and 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";
- calling for a full and impartial investigation into the torture allegations, with the results made public and those responsible brought to justice;
- urging the authorities to suspend any police or gendarmerie officer accused of torture and ill-treatment from duty while they are under investigation, and to dismiss them if they are convicted;
- asking for Rasim A\_an to be compensated for any psychological or physical damage resulting from the alleged torture, and urging that he is provided with appropriate treatment and rehabilitation;
- expressing concern that Rasim A\_an was reportedly made to sign statements whose contents he did not know, while blindfolded;
- urging the authorities to ensure that any statements made as a result of torture are excluded from evidence in any proceedings against him.

**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**

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**

Governor of the Provinces under Emergency Rule

Mr Gökhan Aydiner

Ola\_anüstü Hal Valisi

Diyarbak\_r, Turkey

**Telegrams:Olaganustu Hal Valisi, Diyarbakir, Turkey**

**Faxes:+ 90 412 224 3572**

**Salutation: Dear Governor**

**COPIES TO:**

State Minister with responsibility for Human Rights

E. Safter Gaydali,

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.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 22 September 2001.