

PUBLIC

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EXTRA 97/99

Fear of t

TURKEY Yüksel Yi_itdo_an

Amnesty International is concerned that Yüksel Yi_itdo_an, who is being held at Istanbul Police Headquarters Anti-Terror Branch, is at risk of being ill-treated or tortured.

According to reports received by Amnesty International, he was detained in Izmir on 26 July 1999 and taken to Izmir Police Headquarters Anti-Terror Branch. It is believed that he was transferred to Istanbul Police Headquarters Anti-Terror Branch on 28 July. On 29 July his detention was extended by Istanbul State Security Court by three days.

Yüksel Yi_itdo_an had apparently been wanted by the police for several years and had also received death threats.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

People suspected of offences under Turkey's Anti-Terror Law can be held in police custody without access to family, friends or legal counsel for up to four days. This period may be increased to seven days. During the extended detention period detainees have the right of access to a lawyer, under certain restricted conditions. In most cases this right is denied.

When not being interrogated, detainees are held in cramped, airless and insanitary conditions. With no access to the outside world they are at the mercy of their interrogators. Torture is regularly applied to extract confessions, to elicit information about illegal organizations, to intimidate detainees into becoming police informers or as informal punishment for presumed support of illegal organizations. Torture methods in Turkey documented by Amnesty International include severe beatings, being stripped naked and blindfolded, hosing with pressurized ice-cold water, hanging by the arms or wrists bound behind the victim's back, electro-shock torture, beating the soles of the feet, death threats and sexual assault.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in English or your own language:

- asking that Yüksel Yi_itdo_an, who is believed to be detained at Istanbul Police Headquarters Anti-Terror Branch, is not tortured or ill-treated in detention;
- asking to be informed of any charges that may be brought against him;
- reminding the government of its obligations under Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights, to which Turkey is a state party, which states: "No one shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment";

APPEALS TO:

Istanbul Chief of Police

Istanbul Emniyet Müdürü

Istanbul Emniyet Müdürlü_ü

Vatan Caddesi, Istanbul, Turkey

Telegrams: Istanbul Emniyet Müdürü, Istanbul, Turkey

Faxes: + 90 212 534 8571

Salutation: Dear Chief of Police

Minister of the Interior

Mr Saadettin Tantan

Içi_leri Bakan_

Içi_leri Bakanl___, 06644 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Içi_leri Bakan_, Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: + 90 312 418 9208

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

State Minister with responsibility for Human Rights

Mr Mehmet Ali Irtemçelik, 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 29 August 1999.