

PUBLIC

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Fear of torture and ill-treatment 19 November 1998

**TURKEY**

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According to reports received by Amnesty International today, the Turkish police have raided offices of the People's Democratic Party (HADEP), a legally authorized parliamentary political party, throughout the country. During these raids, the police allegedly destroyed office archives - tearing-up files and scattering them into the street.

At two HADEP offices in Istanbul (Fatih and Eminönü) persons detained in the raids were allegedly handed over by police to members of a right-wing group, the "Grey Wolves," who were waiting outside the offices. The detainees were then reportedly beaten by the "Grey Wolves" - fifteen of them so severely that they were subsequently taken to hospital.

In Ankara, 57 persons were reportedly detained after the raid there - including the party leader. In Urfa, police have allegedly detained 50 persons.

Staff of other opposition political and non-governmental organizations reportedly fear a further wave of such raids in the wake of the raids on HADEP offices.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Procedures laid down in the Turkish Criminal Procedure Code (CMUK), for the prompt and proper registration of detainees and for notification to their families, are frequently ignored. This facilitates the "disappearance" and torture of detainees and causes great distress to their families.

Since March 1997, people suspected of offences under Turkey's 1991 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 10 days in the six provinces currently under State of Emergency, and to seven days in the rest of Turkey. However, detainees are supposed to be granted access to a lawyer during extended periods of detention. This does not, however, often happen in practice.

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

- urging that the authorities investigate thoroughly and impartially the allegations of ill-treatment of those detained in the course of police raids on the two Istanbul HADEP offices (Fatih and Eminönü);
- expressing concern at the apparent collusion of the police with a right-wing group in the course of police raids on the HADEP offices in Istanbul (Fatih and Eminönü);
- urging that those detained in the wake of police raids on HADEP offices throughout Turkey are not subjected to any form of torture or ill-treatment, and that they are guaranteed access to lawyers.

**APPEALS TO:**

Minister of the Interior:

Mr Kutlu Akta  
İçişleri Bakanl  
Ankara, Turkey

**Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey**

**Faxes: + 90 312 418 9208**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

Minister of Justice:Mr Hasan Denizkurdu  
Adalet Bakanl  
06659 Ankara, Turkey

**Telegrams: Justice Minister, Ankara, Turkey**

**Faxes: + 90 312 418 5667**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

State Minister with responsibility for Human Rights

Mr Hikmet Sami Türk

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, your section office, if sending appeals after 31 December 1998.

**"No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."**

**Article 5, Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

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